Finding Financial Assistance

Making the commitment to tertiary study can sometimes cause financial difficulties for students and their families. Fortunately the majority of graduates find that the benefits of study and achieving a professional qualification far outweigh the temporary sacrifices made while studying.

There are various sources of financial assistance that can potentially allow students to optimise their participation at University.

HELP loans
Australian citizens can pay their tuition fees with HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP, and the Services and Amenities fee with SA-HELP. Undergraduate students travelling overseas may be eligible for OS-HELP. These loans are repayable through the tax system after graduation. 


Centrelink payments
Government benefits such as Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY are often the cornerstone of many students’ finances. Non-study payments such as Newstart and the Disability Support and Aged pensions are may also be accessed, particularly for part time students. Test your eligibility by applying to Centrelink for a payment.

www.centrelink.gov.au

University of Melbourne grants and bursaries
A number of grants administered by the University are offered on the basis of financial need, such as the Housing Grant and a range of Trust Fund grants and bursaries. Most of these grants can be found via the Student Financial Aid site

www.services.unimelb.edu.au/finaid/

It is also worth checking your own faculty web site for possible funds. Most faculties maintain a web page concerning scholarship and bursary opportunities.

Loans from the University
The University of Melbourne has loans for enrolled students who are in financial difficulties, or who are facing barriers to their participation in their course. These loans are interest-free. Loans are generally not provided for tuition fees. Further information can be found on the Financial Aid website.

www.services.unimelb.edu.au/finaid/loans/uni

Scholarships
The Scholarships office web site is a good starting point for finding other funds offered by the University. Most of these funds (but not all) have academic merit as a condition of eligibility.

www.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/

Access Scholarships
Access Melbourne scholarships are available for local and New Zealand students who may have financial barriers to study or be from under-represented schools or communities. Applications are made through VTAC.

www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/applications/other-applications/access-melbourne

There are also Access scholarships for graduate students, which are usually handled via the respective faculty.

www.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/grad/local/access

External grants and scholarships
There are many grants and scholarships that are offered outside the University. A good starting point to finding these is the My Future scholarship database.

www.myfuture.edu.au/

Residential Colleges
Many of the colleges on campus have grants and bursaries available for their residents. These can be found on the University website:

www.colleges.unimelb.edu.au/information/scholarships.html
Victorian Government scholarships and incentives
Many students are not aware that there are government incentives to enter certain professions, particularly certain streams of Teaching, Early Childhood Development and Nursing. Contact the Equity Officer in your faculty for more information.
Teaching student can find further information here: www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/teaching/incentives/default.htm

Travelling grants and scholarships
Some University courses require overseas and interstate travel, which can obviously lead to added expenses. The University’s Global Mobility website has a page where different possible sources of funding are collated. Local undergraduate students should also consider OS-HELP.
www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/outbound/funding/

Students with children
Students with children are encouraged to discuss their government support options with Centrelink. International students who do not have access to Australian government support may in some cases receive assistance for child care fees from the University. More information can be found on the University’s child care site.
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/childcare/ourservices/fees/help

Indigenous students
There are a number of scholarships provided to assist indigenous Australians, including Commonwealth Scholarships. Student Financial Aid also maintains a site with links to a number of grants, scholarships and other resources. Murrup Barak (at Parkville) and the Wilin Centre (at VCA) are two specialist campus services that assist indigenous students.
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/ugrad/future/commonwealth
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/finaid/directory/indigenous
http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/
www.vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/wilin

Students with a Disability
Student Financial Aid maintains a web page with links to a number of grants, scholarships and other resources for students with disabilities.
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/finaid/directory/disability

Graduate Students
Student Financial Aid maintains a web page with links to a number of grants, scholarships and other resources for graduate students
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/finaid/directory/graduate

Graduate students should also visit the JASON postgraduate scholarship database www.jason.edu.au

Bond Loan Scheme
The Victorian government can provide Australian low-income earners a loan for the bond when starting a tenancy. Applications can be made to the Department of Human Services.

Health Care Cards
Apart from reducing medical expenses, card holders are also entitled to concessional public transport (including graduate students) and reduced energy and electricity bills. Australian students are encouraged to apply for a Health Care Card, even if they have no other Centrelink entitlement.

Student Housing Service
Most students find that rental costs can be their biggest expense while studying. While not necessarily a source of financial assistance, the Housing Service site may offer some good tips about finding suitable and affordable accommodation. The site also includes the housing vacancy database.
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/housing

University of Melbourne Student Financial Aid
Financial Aid provides advice and information on the cost of living in Melbourne, student loans and grants, government student assistance, budgeting, tax, and on a range of other matters related to student finances. The Financial Aid service is open to all University of Melbourne students for general advice and information.

Student Financial Aid
Ground Floor, Baldwin Spencer Building
University of Melbourne
www.services.unimelb.edu.au/finaid

The information provided was correct at time of printing (October 2012).