

# HELP Loan Quiz

The HELP Loan Quiz will highlight some of those key points you need to be aware of when considering a HELP loan and while you study. Please answer all questions for the following 5 topics.

V2

## 1. HELP debts and future financial decisions

*It is important to understand your level of debt, especially when you are making big life decisions.*

### Question 1: When should you consider your HELP debt?

**When you are:**

Options	Answer
Buying a car or taking out a home loan - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - It is likely that compulsory repayment amounts on your HELP debt will be taken into consideration if you were to apply for a car loan or a home loan.
Getting a pay rise at work - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) calculates your compulsory repayment based on your repayment income. The more you earn, the higher your repayment will be.
Working overseas - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - If you live or work overseas, your debt will still be indexed each year. While you're overseas, you are required to make a repayment on your debt just as if you were working in Australia. The repayment is based on worldwide income, which is calculated into an Australian Dollar amount.

**Go to Question 2 on next page.**

## 2. Choosing the right course for you

Every course is different. For example, the number of years it takes to complete, the cost, the location and if there is face to face or online learning.

### Question 2: What can you do to make sure you are choosing the right course for you?

Options	Answer
Compare courses and costs on the Course Seeker website - Yes/No? ( <a href="http://www.courseseeeker.edu.au">www.courseseeeker.edu.au</a> )	<b>Yes</b> - On Course Seeker [ <a href="http://www.courseseeeker.edu.au">www.courseseeeker.edu.au</a> ]( <a href="https://www.courseseeeker.edu.au/">https://www.courseseeeker.edu.au/</a> ), you can compare the details of up to 6 courses side-by-side such as cost, location, study mode, course length, admission requirements, and employment outcomes. Search from more than 9,000 courses and 150 providers.
Check if a Commonwealth supported place (CSP) is offered for your course i.e. a Government subsidised enrolment - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - A CSP is a Government subsidised enrolment where the Commonwealth pays for part of your enrolment directly to your provider. Students are not required to pay this subsidy amount back. CSP enrolments will always be cheaper than a full fee-paying place in the same course.
Enrol at a university where your friends are going - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - Enrolling at a university so that you can attend with your friends should not be your sole focus, there are other practical factors to consider. Ask yourself, will completing this course get me the qualification I need for my chosen career? Is the course affordable and value for money? Is the campus easy to travel to? What will I do when I finish the course?
Get a HELP loan and worry about the cost later on - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - Before you start, it is up to you to find out the cost of your course. Would you get a home loan and start repaying a mortgage without knowing the cost of the house? Having a HELP debt can affect your financial decisions in the future so it is important to know how much HELP debt you will expect to have from this course.
Find out what subjects you will study as part of the course - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - As some jobs can require completion of specific units as a pre-requisite to employment, it is important to know what units of study (sometimes known as subjects) you will do. Comparing the subjects of a course at one higher education provider to another might help you decide the right course for you
Use the ComparED website ( <a href="http://www.comparED.edu.au">www.comparED.edu.au</a> ) to compare the job prospects, starting salary and previous student experiences of other real students - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - On ComparED [ <a href="http://www.comparED.edu.au">www.comparED.edu.au</a> ]( <a href="https://www.compared.edu.au/">https://www.compared.edu.au/</a> ), you can explore and compare the quality of higher education providers and study areas you are interested in, based on the experiences of two million current students and recent graduates. For example, compare the 'student satisfaction' and 'employment outcomes' from the different providers or study areas you are choosing between.

Go to Question 3 on next page.

### 3. The census date

#### Question 3: What is a census date and why is it important when getting a HELP loan?

Options	Answer
The census date is the last day you can apply for a CSP or HELP loan for your course - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - Your request for a CSP or a HELP loan must be submitted to your higher education provider before or on the published census date of your enrolled units of study. Extensions and late applications cannot be considered.
The census date is when you need to repay your HELP debt - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - The census date is when you become liable for the debt. Repayment happens through the tax system when you start to earn over the minimum repayment threshold.
The census date is the last day you can withdraw from your units without incurring a HELP debt for your enrolled units - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - Withdrawals made prior to the census date will not incur any financial or academic penalty.
Once the census date passes, you will become liable for the HELP debt for your enrolled units - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - Once the census date for your enrolled unit of study passes, you incur a HELP debt and you are liable for the loan amount you requested.
The census date is a reminder to organise your HELP loan or tuition payment before the end of your enrolled units - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - The census date happens near the start of the study period, not at the end. Also, the census date is not a reminder, it is a hard deadline for payment of fees. Payment might be by upfront payment or deferring the fees to a HELP loan that you will repay to the Government later.

Go to Question 4 on next page.

## 4. Indexation

### Question 4: What is indexation and how does it impact your HELP debt?

Options	Answer
Indexation is when your HELP debt is adjusted to reflect the changes in the cost of living - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - Indexation is applied each year on 1 June and is calculated from annual figures provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics relating to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
Indexation means your debt is likely to grow - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - Indexation is added to HELP debts, which means the amount you repay in total will be more than the original amount of the loan.
Indexation is only applied when you start earning enough to make compulsory repayments on your HELP debt - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - Indexation is applied regardless of how much you earn. Under legislation, indexation is applied to the portion of your HELP debt that is more than 11 months old on 1 June each year
Indexation only applies to units that you have completed and passed - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - Indexation is applied to the relevant portion of your debt, regardless of your academic outcomes from the study or if you completed the course.

Go to Question 5 on next page.

## 5. HELP debt repayment

**Question 5: When do you have to start repaying your HELP debt and how much will you have to repay each year?**

Options	Answer
You are required to start repaying your HELP debt when you earn over the minimum repayment threshold – Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - When you earn over the minimum repayment threshold, the ATO will calculate a compulsory repayment. The amount is based on your income for the income year. The higher you earn, the more you will repay.
Your repayment amount is based on the size of your debt - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - Your compulsory repayment amount is calculated based on your repayment income. The size of your debt does not determine the amount of your repayment. The more you earn, the more your repayment will be.
You are not required to make any repayments to your debt if you don't finish your course - Yes/No?	<b>No</b> - The HELP debt that a student is required to pay is for the units of study in which they were still enrolled in after the census date. Repaying a HELP debt is not contingent on completing the course, becoming qualified or getting a job in that field.
When you earn over the threshold, your employer will withhold amounts from your pay to help you to manage your compulsory repayment - Yes/No?	<b>Yes</b> - When you get a HELP debt you will need to tell your employer you have one, so that they can withhold amounts from your pay. When you complete your tax return and your compulsory repayment is calculated, these 'withheld amounts' will be used to meet your compulsory repayment obligation.

***You are complete!***

Visit the [Study Assist website](#) for any further information.