

STARTUP-HELP Policy

Table of Contents

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Definitions
4. Policy statement
 - 4.1. STARTUP-HELP
 - 4.2. Eligibility and Selection
 - 4.2.1. Eligibility
 - 4.2.2. Selection
 - 4.3. Receiving STARTUP-HELP assistance
 - 4.4. Withdrawal from study
5. Supporting documents

1. Purpose

This policy sets out:

- a. the University's requirements for administering and receiving STARTUP-HELP assistance to ensure compliance with relevant Australian Government legislation, regulations and guidelines.
- b. the eligibility criteria and how students are selected for a STARTUP-HELP place in an approved accelerator program course at Flinders University.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- a. staff administering accelerator program courses and STARTUP-HELP places at Flinders University.
- b. students applying for and receiving STARTUP-HELP assistance to pay for their studies in an approved Flinders University accelerator program course.

3. Definitions

accelerator program course	<p>courses that meet the requirements for an accelerator program course as set out in the Higher Education Support (STARTUP-HELP) Guidelines 2023 and have been approved at Flinders University as an accelerator program, or Startup Year, course in accordance with the Award Courses Policy.</p> <p>Accelerator program or Startup Year courses cannot be delivered to students who receive FEE-HELP assistance for the course.</p>
STARTUP-HELP assistance	<p>a loan from the Australian Government available to eligible students to pay for their studies in an approved accelerator course program at Flinders University.</p> <p>STARTUP-HELP cannot be used to cover costs such as accommodation, laptops, textbooks, or capital for startup businesses.</p>

4. Policy statement

4.1. STARTUP-HELP

- a. Places in accelerator program courses are not subsidised by the Commonwealth Government, but eligible students may access STARTUP-HELP assistance to pay for their accelerator program course fees.
- b. The number of STARTUP-HELP places in an accelerator program course must not exceed the number of places allocated to Flinders University by the Commonwealth Government.
- c. Accelerator program course fees must not exceed, for a course that is 1 EFTSL, the maximum student contribution amount set out in [Section 128C-10 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003](#), and the amount approved by the Commonwealth Government for Flinders University (\$11,800 in 2024).
- d. Students receiving STARTUP-HELP assistance must repay their loan to the Commonwealth Government once they earn enough income to make repayments (the income threshold). Further information is available on the [Australian Tax Office website](#).
- e. Students may access STARTUP-HELP assistance no more than two times. If they are enrolled in two accelerator program courses at the same time, they can only access STARTUP-HELP assistance for one course.
- f. Accessing STARTUP-HELP does not affect a student's 'HELP loan limit' and is not dependent on their 'available HELP balance'.

4.2. Eligibility and Selection

4.2.1. Eligibility

- a. Eligibility for STARTUP-HELP assistance will be according to the criteria set out in the Higher Education Support Act 2003 and described on the Australian Government's [STARTUP-HELP loan](#) information page
- b. To be eligible for a STARTUP-HELP loan students must:
 - i. meet one of the following citizenship or residency requirements:
 - an Australian citizen, or
 - a permanent humanitarian visa holder (or eligible former permanent humanitarian visa holder) who will live in Australia for the entire accelerator program course, or
 - a New Zealand citizen who will be residing in Australia for the duration of the accelerator program course and meets the requirements set out in [128B-30 of the Higher Education Support Act 2003](#)
 - ii. be either:
 - a student in the final year of an undergraduate course of study, or
 - enrolled in a postgraduate course of study, or
 - a recent student who completed a bachelor degree (or higher level qualification) no more than 36 months before commencing the accelerator program course

- iii. be enrolled in an approved accelerator program course at Flinders University on or before the census date¹ for the course, and remain enrolled at the end of the census date
- iv. be primarily studying on a Flinders University onshore campus
- v. not have received a STARTUP-HELP loan more than once before.

4.2.2. Selection

- a. Students will be selected for a place in an approved accelerator program course with a STARTUP-HELP loan based on the admission criteria set in accordance with the [Admissions Policy](#).
- b. The University may apply quotas or sub-quotas for admission to STARTUP-HELP places in accordance with the [Admissions Policy](#) and [Admission Management Procedures](#) in order to facilitate participation of groups that are underrepresented in the startup ecosystem including, but not limited to:
 - i. First Nations Australians
 - ii. people with a disability
 - iii. women.

4.3. Receiving STARTUP-HELP assistance

To receive STARTUP-HELP assistance students must:

- a. complete the STARTUP-HELP eCAF on or before the census date
- b. provide their tax file number
- c. provide a valid Unique Student Identifier (USI)
- d. be assessed as a genuine student and as academically suitable for the approved accelerator course.

4.4. Withdrawal from study

- a. To withdraw from an accelerator program course without incurring a STARTUP-HELP debt or losing an upfront payment, students must withdraw from the course on or before the relevant census date.
- b. If a student withdraws from the course after the census date they may apply for a reversal of their STARTUP-HELP assistance and/or remission of any STARTUP-HELP debt if special circumstances can be established in accordance with the [Refund of Student Contribution Amounts and Tuition Fees, and Remission of Higher Education Loan Program \(HELP\) Debts Policy](#).
- c. In accordance with the [Refund of Student Contribution Amounts and Tuition Fees, and Remission of Higher Education Loan Program \(HELP\) Debts Policy](#), applications for reversal or remission of STARTUP- HELP assistance must be made within 12 months from the day the student withdrew from the course.

¹ The 2024 for the course is the Friday after 20% of the combined teaching and assessment period has elapsed.

5. Supporting documents

The following requirements and supporting documents are part of this policy and provide additional detail to give practical effect to the policy principles.

[Higher Education Support Act 2003](#)

[Higher Education Support \(STARTUP-HELP\) Guidelines 2023](#)

[Refund of Student Contribution Amounts and Tuition Fees, and Remission of Higher Education Loan Program \(HELP\) Debts Policy](#)

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