ABSTUDY Travel

It can cost a lot to travel for school, especially if students need to live away from home to study.

ABSTUDY helps support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students going to high school or doing higher education.

If you’re eligible for ABSTUDY, you can get help with your travel costs.

Watch this video to find out what ABSTUDY covers.

Choose which option fits your situation:

* [Student at high school](#studentathighschool)
* [Student at TAFE, uni or another higher education provider](#unistudent)
* [Masters or doctorate student](#masters).

Student at high school

Welcome to high school!

Before we start there’s a few things you’ll need to know.

It’s important to claim ABSTUDY for students starting high school well before the new school year starts – as early as October.

You need to claim ABSTUDY before we can book travel for you to get to school. Your school or boarding provider usually helps with this, but if you’re boarding privately, you’ll need to call us to book.

When you travel with ABSTUDY you need a Safe Travel Plan.

A Safe Travel Plan is a list of contacts and details in case anything goes wrong during the trip.

Make sure you’re prepared for travel. Have some food for the trip, or some money to buy food. Carry your Safe Travel Plan, proof of identity and your itinerary. If you’re flying, make sure you know how to get around the airport.

Traveling with someone else can make the trip safer. Students are encouraged to travel with an adult supervisor, who could be family, a community member or someone else known to you or the school.

Choose which type of travel you’d like to learn more about:

* [Orientation](#HSorientation)
* [Start and end of term](#HSstartend)
* [Emergency & compassionate](#Hsemergency)
* [Special purpose (homesick)](#HShomesick)
* [Special purpose (school event).](#HSspecialevent)

Orientation travel

ABSTUDY can help you travel to an orientation activity at your new school if you need to live away from home to study.

ABSTUDY can also cover the travel cost of your parent or guardian visiting the school with you.

It can even pay for you and your parent or guardian to stay for a few days.

Orientation travel can also happen when you’re still in primary school, so you can visit high school before enrolling.Schools can help you book this travel.

You can find more information about orientation travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.

Start and end of term travel

ABSTUDY can pay for you to travel to school at the start of term and home again for the holidays, if there’s a reason you can’t live at home.

This might be because the school you’ve got a scholarship from is in another town, or the local school has limited courses.Your high school or boarding provider can book travel for you at the start and end of the term. You can also book and pay for your travel yourself and then ask for reimbursement after your travel.

Sometimes, ABSTUDY also covers the travel and accommodation costs of a parent or supervisor. For example a parent could travel with their child to school to help them settle in, or collect them for the holidays.

Schools usually book travel at least seven weeks in advance. If your travel dates need to change or you need a bigger baggage limit let your school know as soon as possible.

You can find more information about school holiday travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.

Emergency & compassionate travel

If there’s an important event like Sorry Business, a cultural event or a family emergency, you can ask for help from ABSTUDY to travel home.

Ask your school to book travel for you.You may need to provide the school with documents explaining the travel.

If you can, you need to provide about 10 days’ notice to book travel.In an emergency situation we’ll book travel as quickly as we can, depending on availability.

You can find more information about compassionate travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.

Special purpose travel (homesick)

It can be hard for a student of any age to be away from their family, community and culture.

ABSTUDY can help if a student in high school is feeling like they want to leave school.

ABSTUDY can cover the cost of a visit from the student’s parent or guardian if the student is at risk of dropping out or being expelled.

Parents should speak to the school about booking travel.

You can find more information about special purpose travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.

Special purpose travel (school event)

Parents don’t need to miss out on the big events in their child’s life, just because they’re away from home.

ABSTUDY can help pay for travel if a parent (or guardian) is visiting for an important occasion like a sporting event or graduation.

Parents should speak to the school about booking travel.

You can find more information about special purpose travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.

Student at TAFE, uni or another higher education provider

Support from ABSTUDY doesn’t stop when you leave high school. If you need to live away from home for higher education, such as TAFE or uni study, ABSTUDY can help. This includes if you’re studying part time.

For help booking travel, you’ll need to call the ABSTUDY line on 1800 132 317.

Choose which type of travel you’d like to learn more about.

* [Orientation](#uniorientation)
* [Start and end of studies](#unistartend)
* [Emergency & compassionate](#uniemergency)
* [Placement & residential](#uniplacement)
* [Graduation](#uniexams)

Orientation travel

If your higher education provider, such as a university or TAFE is out of town, ABSTUDY can help you visit for an interview or audition before you enrol. This includes the cost of travel and accommodation.

You’ll need to call us to request travel and send us evidence of the invitation to attend the interview or assessment. We usually need at least 10 days’ notice to book travel.

You can find more information about the testing or assessment type of travel for Away from Base Assistance on our website.

Start and end of studies travel

ABSTUDY can help if you need to live away from home to study. ABSTUDY can pay for travel to start your course and return home at the end of the year, and one trip in the middle of the year.

You’ll need to call us directly to request travel - we usually need at least 10 days’ notice.

You can find more information about ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website

Emergency & compassionate travel

If there’s an important event like Sorry Business, a cultural event or a family emergency, you can request help from ABSTUDY to travel home.We usually ask for 10 days’ notice to book travel.

In an emergency situation contact us directly to arrange this.

Placement & residential travel

You may need to travel as part of your course. This could be for a practical placement that requires you to stay in another town for a short period.

ABSTUDY can usually pay the education provider to organise travel. You can also book and pay for your travel yourself and then ask for a reimbursement afterwards.

You can find more information about ABSTUDY Away from Base Assistance on our website.

Travel for graduation or exams

ABSTUDY can help you travel to and from your graduation ceremony.It can also help you travel to sit an exam.

You’ll need to call us directly to book travel - we usually need at least 10 days’ notice.

You can find more information about graduation travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.

Masters or doctorate student

You can get ABSTUDY support to travel as a Masters or Doctorate student as well.

You can either get help to relocate, or to travel home for the holidays, but not both.

For help booking travel, you’ll need to call the ABSTUDY line on 1800 132 317. If you’re relocating, you’ll need to send us a form.

Choose which type of travel you’d like to learn more about:

* [Relocation Allowance](#mastersrelocation)
* [Start and end of studies.](#HSstartend)

Relocation Allowance

If you’re a Masters or Doctorate student and are getting ABSTUDY Living Allowance, you can get help with some of your travel costs.

ABSTUDY can help cover the costs if you, your partner and dependent children need to move to another place for study.

You can claim this either before or after moving to the new location. You can find the details of ABSTUDY Relocation Allowance on our website.

Start and end of studies

ABSTUDY can help if you need to live away from home to study.

ABSTUDY can pay for travel to start your course and return home at the end of the year.

You’ll need to call us directly to request travel - we usually need at least 10 days’ notice.

You can also ask for a reimbursement if you have booked and paid for the travel yourself.

We will ask for evidence of the trip and costs.

You can find more information about start and end of studies travel as part of ABSTUDY Fares Allowance on our website.