The Queensland government has allocated $2.2 million to helping international students. The package covers access to professional support counsellors, isolation care-packs, pre-prepared meals and other living expense payments to students.

Financial support

Financial support is available for international students experiencing hardship as a result of being adversely impacted by the economic effects of COVID-19. Student support officers will make decisions in relation to support requirements for each student. In order to obtain financial support, students may be required to present the below documentation:

**Identification**: driver's license, Medicare card or passport, valid student ID or confirmation of enrolment, a copy of their OSHC, a copy of their current student visa, a copy of their rental agreement, proof of utility bills: internet, electricity, mobile phone etc, bank account statements, proof of employment, evidence of being unemployed or a reduction of usual work hours due to COVID-19, any other documents that evidence students requiring support

Employment and Financial Support

Jobs for Canberrans Fund - The ACT Government is providing work opportunities for people in the casual or semi-skilled workforce who have lost their jobs or have been significantly impacted due to COVID-19. Jobs will be available for people who have relied on casual work and are not eligible for the Australian Government’s wage subsidy scheme or other support.

Community Support Package - The ACT Government is working with non-government organisation partners to develop a $7 million Community Support Package to meet increased service demand for emergency relief. This package will provide food relief and support for vulnerable members of our community, including $2 million to support further mental health and community support.

Rental support - In line with Australian Government announcements, the ACT Government is making changes to help private tenants who have lost their job or have had their income significantly reduced due to COVID-19.

JobSeeker - If you’re a student who currently receives payments from the Australian Government, such as Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY, the Government will provide you with a temporary payment of $550 per fortnight, known as the Coronavirus Supplement, from 27 April 2020. This payment is in addition to your usual payment.

JobKeeper - The Australian Government’s JobKeeper program provides $1,500 per fortnight per employee to help eligible businesses cover the costs of wages for 6 months from 30 March 2020. Employees need to be an Australian citizen, resident, or holder of a special category visa and have been employed full time, part time or causally for greater than 12 months to meet current eligibility criteria.

Access to superannuation - If you are an international student who has held a student visa for 12 months or more and you are unable to meet immediate living expenses you may be eligible to access your Australian superannuation.

International student workers - For international students employed by a major supermarket or working in aged care, the Australian Government has announced special working arrangements to extend your working hours. Student visa holders who are enrolled in nursing can also undertake additional work to help and support the health effort against COVID-19 as directed by health officials. Please contact your employer for more information.


The ACT government has also pledged a financial support package for temporary visa holders, including international students.

The territory has committed $450,000 for emergency relief services to support those who have lost their income because of business shutdowns.
The Victorian Government announced a $45 million International Student Emergency Relief Fund for international students facing financial hardship as a result of coronavirus.

The International Student Emergency Relief Fund will provide a payment of up to $1,100 for vulnerable international students who have lost their job or had a significant reduction to their employment and are facing financial hardship as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For information visit: https://www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/help-and-support/support-for-students-coronavirus#StudyMelbourne%20#InTheTogether%20#StrongerTogether

WA students

APPLY FOR CRISIS RELIEF

This application is for individual international students in Western Australia who are in immediate, emergency need of food or shelter.

Before reaching out to StudyPerth, you must advise your education provider of your situation and enquire about support they may have available to students. We will not be able to provide assistance to you until this information is confirmed with us. Students who have not had access to support through their institution will be prioritised.

If your education provider confirms they are not able to provide the assistance you require, please let us know and we will guide you through the next steps in the protocol (below). Where appropriate, we will refer you to our network of consulates, business councils and associations to find the support you need. If after exploring all these options, you still need help, we will advise you to apply for SPCR.

Please note that applications to StudyPerth Crisis Relief are not assessed until the last stage of the protocol, when all other avenues of support from the education provider, and from the relevant consulate, business council or association have been considered.

To lodge an application, please read the Application Instructions, and then complete this Application Form. Email your completed application and required documentation to reachout@studyperth.com.au.

Application Form:
https://www.studyperth.com.au/storage/app/media/Emergency%20Aid%20and%20Crisis%20Relief/SPCR_Individuals_Application%20Form%20V0.1.pdf
Attention: Adelaide International Students

The South Australian Government has demonstrated its commitment to our international student community, by announcing a new $13.8 million International Student Support Package.

Private Adelaide University Students can apply for the below grant:

- A $500 emergency cash grant will be available for students who are currently enrolled in a course, living in Adelaide and who meet the criteria.

Further information: [https://studyadelaide.com/issp](https://studyadelaide.com/issp)

Register your details here: [https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/5e9ce01dad9c5d0a64c7936a/app/5e9e82294d433155081ab9ba](https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/5e9ce01dad9c5d0a64c7936a/app/5e9e82294d433155081ab9ba)

To all Adelaide staff have you heard the fantastic news?

The South Australian Government has demonstrated its commitment to our international student community, by announcing a new $13.8 million International Student Support Package.

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We will be including this information in the next student newsletter however if you have any students with questions they can register there details here: [https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/5e9ce01dad9c5d0a64c7936a/app/5e9e82294d433155081ab9ba](https://forms.sa.gov.au/#/form/5e9ce01dad9c5d0a64c7936a/app/5e9e82294d433155081ab9ba)
Red Cross Help for international students

Red Cross has been named by the Department of Social Services as the charity to assist international students and other Temporary Visa Holders. Red Cross is receiving funding from the Australian Government for the next six months to deliver emergency relief and casework support.

The funds have not arrived and not sure of how much is available for the 100,000s of stranded visa holders. Assistance will include food, medicine, and crisis accommodation costs. Visa holders may be eligible for Red Cross Safety Net support if they: are in Australia on a temporary visa are in urgent financial hardship cannot access Centrelink, Medicare or similar services have no income, savings or other financial support (including from family overseas).

Eligible visa holders are requested to contact the Red Cross by email in the first instance so that can be advised when the funds and arrangements are in place.

- These funds are for people on temporary visas who have no way to support themselves and who have urgent needs. This includes food, medicine and crisis accommodation costs.
- We have not yet received these funds but hope to increase our existing Emergency Relief and Safety Net program in the coming weeks.
- Because of COVID-19, we will not distribute funds from our offices, but we will provide assistance by phone and email during business hours.

We will work as quickly as possible with the Department of Social Services to finalise the details of the funding and expand assistance to people who are experiencing significant vulnerability.

Who is eligible?

- are in Australia on a temporary visa
- are in urgent financial hardship
- cannot access Centrelink, Medicare or similar services
- have no income, savings or other financial support (including from family overseas).

Please know that we provide assistance based on need. We have to prioritise people with urgent needs, such as families with young children, people with a disability, people who are experiencing harm, people who are vulnerable to COVID-19, and people with physical or mental health issues.

International Students,

If you are struggling financially due to Covid-19, ensure you have applied for our bursary by calling Student Services on 1300 575 803 and please reach out to your Agent.

Some Agents are offering support in the following ways:

- Up to 2 years OSHC
- Mix of free visa-fees and/or OSHC
- Food and fruit hampers
- Hardship funds
- Food baskets and free daily lunches
- Waiving consulting and migration fees

The Australian Homestay Network (AHN) urgently needs compassionate and caring locals, Australia wide to help support vulnerable international students experiencing hardship due to the global COVID-19 crisis.

- Do you have a spare room available?
- Short term or long term accommodation required

For more details: https://www.homestaynetwork.org/issn/
If you are an international student in Australia experiencing financial hardship you may be eligible to participate in the International Student Support Network (ISSN) homestay program.

Students whose education providers identify them as being financially vulnerable as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and needing support can be referred to the ISSN to apply for a heavily discounted homestay placement.

ISSN homestays include a private room, meals, utilities and support from one of our committed AHN host families.

For more information: https://www.homestaynetwork.org/issn/#students