

Macquarie University

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

FY2023 Allocation Report

The *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* require higher education providers to provide a publicly available report on student services and amenities fee (SSAF) allocations and actual expenditure for the year as part of their annual reporting and in the form approved by the Minister. This *SSAF Allocation Report* is the form approved by the Minister.

Additional reporting was introduced to allow for greater transparency and consistency in SSAF allocations and expenditure.

Please note, the information provided in this *SSAF Allocation Report* does **not** require auditing by a financial accountant. The SSAF expenditure reporting remains unchanged, more information can be found in the [Financial Statements Guidelines](#) for Table A and B providers, and in the [Financial Viability Instructions: Applicants and Providers of FEE-HELP \(FVI\)](#) for all other approved providers.

SSAF Consultation and Achievements

In early 2023, the SSAF survey was sent to 41,200 students enrolled at Macquarie University as part of the consultation process. This survey enables the University to obtain direct comment and feedback from across all student cohorts and study modes, at a comprehensive level, to inform decision making on service delivery and provision of non-academic amenity for students.

A total of 6,309 (15.4%) completed responses, representing an effective response rate and valid sample.

Ongoing engagement with the Student Representative Council continues to ensure that priorities are aligned with both the University’s objectives and the student community.

The following table identifies the student’s priority spend preferences from the survey sample:

| Rank | SSAF Allowable Category of Expenditure | Count | % |
|--------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers | 1,274 | 20% |
| 2 | Helping students with their financial affairs | 775 | 12% |
| 3 | Promoting the health or welfare of students | 738 | 12% |
| 4 | Providing food or drink to students on campus | 735 | 12% |
| 5 | Helping students develop study skills | 628 | 10% |
| 6 | Supporting overseas students with welfare, accommodation and employment services | 517 | 8% |
| 7 | Supporting student clubs and groups | 275 | 4% |
| 8 | Providing student libraries and reading rooms for non- academic purposes | 228 | 4% |
| 9 | Advocating students' interests in relation to rules, policies and procedures | 225 | 4% |
| 10 | Advising students about university rules, policies and procedures | 217 | 3% |
| 11 | Helping students secure accommodation | 198 | 3% |
| 12 | Caring for children of students | 131 | 2% |
| 13 | Supporting student sport or other recreational activities | 129 | 2% |
| 14 | Giving students information about orientation | 64 | 1% |
| 15 | Supporting the student media and content | 39 | 1% |
| 16 | Supporting an artistic activity by students | 39 | 1% |
| 17 | Providing legal services to students | 39 | 1% |
| 18 | Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents | 31 | 0% |
| 19 | Supporting debating by students | 26 | 0% |
| Total | | 6,308 | 100% |

SSAF 2023

The **top three** services identified by the students in each of the three themes:

| Student Support Services: | Student Celebration, Social and Cultural Activities: | Student Recreation and Sport Activities: |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic support and skills development (90% of all preferences) 2. Careers counselling and advice (79% of all preferences) 3. Emergency welfare support for students (73% of all preferences) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-campus food events and services (85% of all preferences) 2. Social and cultural on-campus events (80% of all preferences) 3. Student celebrations, recognition and awards (69% of all preferences) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-campus student gyms (80% of all preferences) 2. Social sport, health and fitness (78% of all preferences) 3. Participation in inter-university sports events (61% of all preferences) |

Highlights from the work undertaken in 2023 is summarised below:

Student Support Services

- Careers and employability services is one of the top priorities for students in SSAF spending. The Student Representative Committee (SRC) is committed to identifying opportunities to support students with that goal.
 - The SRC continues to subsidise grants which enable postgraduate students to attend academic and industry conferences in their area of study. These grants enable students the opportunity to develop strong networks and access to others within their field.
 - The SRC partnered with the Macquarie University Incubator once again to contribute \$20,000 towards the development of a design thinking course and rollout of design thinking training as well as a supplementary pitch program and competition. The communication and ideation skills are highly valued by employers and this opportunity was in high demand with the design thinking program running at full capacity.
- Jobs Happy Hour events were held in Sessions 1 and 2, providing students with career and employment support.
- The introduction of Medibank Scholars and associated networking events created valuable opportunities for students to connect and thrive, creating a community for scholars to learn more about employment opportunities and making the most of their scholarship.
- Macquarie Kickstart successfully hosted over 5,000 students across two intakes fostering a vibrant and engaging campus environment and a soft landing for students.
- The implementation of the “Stay on Course” program provided essential academic support to students facing academic challenges.
- Several calling campaigns were launched in 2023, reaching out to 8,972 students, addressing concerns related to the start of their studies, leave of absence, fail grades, and academic progression.

- A redesign of the student mentor program resulted in an impressive increase to 71 mentors, collectively contributing 1,336 volunteer hours to support their peers.
- The University enhanced its commitment to student support by hosting an accommodation pop-up, providing a valuable resource to assist students in finding suitable housing options and ensuring a seamless transition to university life.
- The commitment to student wellbeing and social connections continued with the maintenance of a steady number of buddy events and social engagements, attracting 20 buddies and engaging 1,336 students throughout various events.
- Sensory spaces were successfully launched in two campus locations, providing distress and neurodiverse environments to a remarkable 10,400 students across the year. We also provided a space for staff to attend and interact with sensory options.
- The Accessibility Service continued to run specialised support Skillsshops. These small group programs are for students who identify as neurodiverse and are seeking additional assistance to manage their study and wellbeing. Skillsshops continue to be well attended, with students providing positive feedback around the support received, building their networks, and feeling a sense of belonging and connectivity to the wider university.
- The inauguration of the Professional Conference for International Students was a resounding success, drawing 450 students and providing a platform for valuable networking and professional development. Through these accomplishments, the University demonstrated unwavering dedication to the holistic wellbeing and success of its diverse student body in 2023.

Student Celebration, Social and Cultural Activities

- Graduation support activities enabled 8,614 students to celebrate their academic achievements.
- The establishment of the breakfast bar provided a welcoming space for students to connect and refuel as well as impacting on food security. We established a strategic partnership with U@MQ to offer subsidised meals during Session 2, providing a valuable and cost-effective dining option for students on campus.
- The University introduced a new initiative, "Celebrating Student Success," inviting high-achieving students with a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) surpassing 85 to come on campus and receive a special celebratory gift, acknowledging their outstanding academic accomplishments.
- Students actively participating in training and workshops focused on student diversity and inclusion, fostering an inclusive campus culture. Safety activations were hosted each month with the following impact:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Connected with Community/Harmony Day | 1,500 |
| Trans Day of Visibility | 450 |
| Beat the Trolls | 100 |
| Easter activation | 250 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Mindful May | 300 |
| De stress for success session 1 | 1,023 |
| Macquarie Kickstart S2 | 2,116 |
| Celebrating student success | 899 |
| Money Matters | 300 |
| Sextember | 1,500 |
| Healthy Living | 485 |
| De stress for success session 2 | 950 |

Student Recreation and Sport Activities

- The Indigenous Nationals is a week-long multi-sport competition for Indigenous student-athletes. This annual event brings student-athletes together from universities across Australia to compete in a variety of sports and celebrate the rich sporting culture of Indigenous Australia.
- Students were supported to compete at UniSport Nationals events held across Australia. Students represented the University at standalone Championships for athletics, swimming, T20 cricket, snow sports and 3x3 basketball taking students across NSW, Victoria and Queensland. Furthermore, students attended Division 1 & 2 Nationals competing across more than 12 sports at the weeklong competition held on the Gold Coast in September.
- Students represented the University and Australia at the 2023 World University Games held in China. Our students were selected for sports including athletics, water polo, diving, fencing and taekwondo.

SSAF Revenue Summary

| | [2023] Allocation \$ ¹ | [2023] Actual \$ |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| SSAF Revenue | \$10,215,206 | \$10,554,434 |
| SSAF revenue carried forward from [2022] | \$0 | \$ |
| Total SSAF funds available for [2023] | \$10,215,206 | \$10,554,434 |
| SSAF revenue carried over into [2024] | \$ | \$ |

¹ Allocation refers to the SSAF funds expected to be received in the reported year (i.e., budgeted SSAF revenue).

SSAF Charge Summary

The student services and amenities fee (SSAF) charged to students must not be above the maximum fee for a calendar year. The maximum SSAF is indexed annually as required by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*. In 2023 the maximum SSAF was \$10,554,434.

| Student Status | 2023 SSAF charged \$ ² | Number of students charged in 2023 ³ |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Full-time ¹ (> 0.75 EFTSL) | \$7,617,701 | 32,943 |
| Part-time ¹ (< 0.75 EFTSL) | \$2,936,733 | 12,700 |
| Total: | | 45,643 |

¹ Note: As per Part 2 of the *Higher Education Support (Administration) Guidelines 2022* (Administration Guidelines), students studying on a part-time basis must not be charged more than 75 per cent of the maximum SSAF that a higher education provider determines for students studying on a full-time basis. The term “part-time basis” means a study load of less than 75 per cent of the normal full-time student load for the period to which the fee relates. As per part 7 of the Administration Guidelines, the normal EFTSL value for a full-time student studying over a period of one year is 1.0.

² Note: As per Part 2 of the Administration Guidelines, a higher education provider may choose to determine a different SSAF for particular categories of persons, including a zero amount.

³ Note: Students are categorised as full-time or part-time students based on the total EFTSL value of the units of study they undertook in 2023. For example, a student undertook a full-time study load in Semester 1 which was equal to 0.5 EFTSL and undertook a part-time study load in Semester 2 which was equal to 0.375 EFTSL. This student would be categorised as a full-time student in 2023 as the total EFTSL they undertook in 2023 was equal to 0.875.

| Student Status | 2023 SSAF charged \$ ² | Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2023 ⁴ |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Remote learning/Online only | 0 | 0 |

⁴ Note: The Department understands that not all higher education providers capture mode of study in their information systems and many students undertake a mixed mode of study such as face-to-face and remote learning. The data provided above is for students who undertook remote learning for 100% of their units of study.

SSAF Allocation Summary

Subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act) provides a list of 19 allowable expenditure items which higher education providers may allocate and spend SSAF revenue on.

Please note, under subsection 19-38 of the Act, SSAF revenue must not be spent to support a political party or the election of a person as a member of the legislature of the Commonwealth, State or a Territory, or a local government body.

| Key Area | 2023 Total Allocation \$ | 2023 Total Actual Spend \$ | Are services available online? | Estimated no. of unique students accessing services |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Health Services | \$3,333,793 | \$3,333,793 | Y | 11,060 |
| 2. Clubs or other associations | \$3,100,651 | \$3,100,651 | | |
| <i>a. Sporting</i> | \$1,281,228 | \$1,281,228 | N | 3,800 |
| <i>b. Internal student politics*</i> | \$257,676 | \$257,676 | Y | 100 |
| <i>c. Gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race, or nationality-based</i> | \$362,824 | \$362,824 | Y | 10,100 |
| <i>d. Areas-of-study related e.g. law</i> | \$827,273 | \$827,273 | Y | 1,200 |
| <i>e. Other activities e.g. music, debate, chess*</i> | \$24,732 | \$24,732 | Y | 3,445 |
| <i>f. Other (inc. student groups)*</i> | \$346,918 | \$346,918 | Y | 4,600 |
| 3. Employment/career services | \$2,389,478 | \$2,389,478 | Y | 1,100 |
| 4. Legal aid | \$0 | \$0 | Y | |
| 5. Other student amenities (Food. Childcare) | \$436,928 | \$436,928 | Y | 25,000 |
| 6. Helping students secure accommodation | \$186,648 | \$186,648 | Y | 3,300 |
| 7. Giving students information about orientation | \$543,491 | \$543,491 | Y | 16,630 |
| 8. Advocating students' interests in relation to rules, policies and procedures | \$308,991 | \$308,991 | Y | 1,600 |
| 9. Other – additional students support | \$254,454 | \$254,454 | Y | 17,000 |
| Total | \$10,554,434 | \$10,554,434 | | |

*Full allocation for student groups

Organisations, bodies or third-party providers that received SSAF funding in 2023

| Organisation Name ¹ | Australian Business Number (ABN) | Supported Key Area | Total SSAF Funding Received \$ | % of total SSAF Funding Received |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| U@MQ Ltd | [27 125 926 169] | Club or other associations | \$918,678 | 9% |
| U@MQ Ltd | [27 125 926 169] | Other (Food and childcare) | \$313,290 | 3% |

¹ Note: Only organisations, bodies or third-party providers who receive over \$1,000 in SSAF funding are expected to be disclosed above.

Declaration by Person of Authority

I, Rorden Wilkinson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic of Macquarie University, declare that the information provided in this Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Allocation Report is to the best of my knowledge true, complete and correct.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Wilkinson', written in a cursive style.

Professor Rorden Wilkinson

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

28 June 2024