

## Government COVID-19 Support for International Students – Summary Tables

GOVT	SUPPORT OFFERED	DETAILS
NSW	Accommodation Protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eviction protections for six months for NSW residents impacted by COVID-19</li> </ul>
	Mental Health Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health supports available from Beyond Blue and Headspace and other community agencies</li> </ul>
	COVID-19 Health Costs Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiver of out-of-pocket healthcare costs related to COVID-19</li> </ul>
	International Student Legal Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free legal advice funded by Study NSW</li> </ul>
VIC	\$45 Million International Student Emergency Relief Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VIC Gov matching hardship payments up to \$1100 made by public universities, TAFEs and Private RTOs</li> </ul>
	Accommodation Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rent relief payments of up to \$2000</li> <li>Free tenancy legal advice for intl students</li> <li>Eviction protections for six months from 29 March</li> </ul>
	Working for Victoria Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides job opportunities for VIC residents (including International students) impacted by COVID-19</li> </ul>
	COVID-19 Health Costs Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiver for out-of-pocket healthcare costs related to COVID-19</li> </ul>
	Mental Health Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports available through the Study Melbourne Student Centre</li> </ul>
	Emergency and Food Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offered through community agencies and organisations and also through Study Melbourne</li> </ul>
QLD	\$2.2 Million Student Assistance Crisis Package and Student Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Assistance for those facing hardship</li> <li>Tuition support, care-packs and meals and other living expense payments</li> </ul>
	Jobs Finder Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online job portal and free online training available to QLD residents impacted by COVID-19</li> </ul>
	Mental Health Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health supports available from Beyond Blue and Headspace and other community agencies</li> </ul>
SA	International Student Support Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$500 emergency payments for impacted students</li> </ul>
	Mental Health Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health support services referrals from Study Adelaide</li> </ul>

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<b>TAS</b>	Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grants Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$250 per adult</li> <li>• up to \$1000 per household</li> </ul>
	Study Tasmania Supports and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support services provided through NGOs and community organisations</li> </ul>
	Tenancy Evictions Protections and Rent Freeze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation supports through tenancy eviction protections and rent freeze package</li> </ul>
	Travel advice and repatriation assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and other support available for temporary visa holders in crisis to return home</li> </ul>
<b>WA</b>	StudyPerth Crisis Relief Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance for students in need of emergency relief for food, shelter, rights and support, health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Students must apply/qualify for assistance</li> </ul>
	Supports and Resources Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals to mental health services including Beyond Blue and Headspace</li> <li>• StudyPerth providing engagement through online student events and REACH OUT webpage for online support and information sharing</li> </ul>
	Rent Relief Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent relief payments of up to \$2000 for eligible WA residents</li> </ul>
	Tenancy Eviction protections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA residents receive protection from eviction for 6 months if financially impacted by COVID-19</li> </ul>
	COVID-19 Health Costs Waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiver of out-of-pocket healthcare costs related to COVID-19</li> </ul>
	Cost of Living Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$402m of cost relief for WA residents through freeze on utilities, rates and vehicle fees</li> </ul>
<b>ACT</b>	Jobs for Canberrans Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Government employment opportunities until June 2021 available to students and other Canberrans who have lost work because of COVID-19</li> </ul>
	Rental Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsidy to landlords offering rent reductions of 25% or greater to tenants under financial stress (ACT Govt to cover 50% of reduction cost, up to \$1300 a quarter)</li> </ul>
	International Student Support Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150,000 support package in partnership with Australian Red Cross and tertiary institutions for international students who have fallen into hardship because of COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>NT</b>	International Student Emergency Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency relief and supports referral available to international students through the Red Cross</li> </ul>
	Worker and Wellbeing Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5 Million emergency income relief fund available to students impacted by COVID-19 who aren't receiving other income support</li> </ul>
	Territory Jobs Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portal available to NT residents who are seeking new employment due to COVID-19.</li> </ul>

<b>Federal Support Summary</b>	Access to superannuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International students who have been in Australia longer than 12 months can apply to access their Australian superannuation.</li> </ul>
	Exemptions for 40-hour fortnight work restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricted to specific industries (health, disability support and supermarkets). Supermarket exemption expires on 1 May</li> </ul>

## Government Supports for International Students

### New South Wales

#### Accommodation Protections

The NSW Government is introducing a support package that includes an interim 60-day stop on landlords seeking to evict tenants due to rental arrears:

- for tenants who are financially disadvantaged by COVID-19
- where landlords and tenants try to negotiate rental reductions in good-faith, and
- it would not be fair and reasonable in the circumstances to terminate the tenancy

The package immediately:

- applies a 60 day stop on new termination notices and termination applications to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal where these are terminations due to rental arrears as result of a household being unable to pay their rent due to the COVID-19 emergency
- extends notice periods for certain other lease termination reasons to 90 days

Tenants are considered to be impacted by COVID-19 when one or more rent-paying members of the household:

- have lost their employment, income or work hours due to COVID-19 business closures or stand-downs, or
- have had to stop working or substantially reduce work hours due to illness with COVID-19 or to care for a household or family member with COVID-19, and
- this resulted in a reduction in the weekly household income (including government assistance) of at least 25%

[COVID-19 resources for NSW tenants are available here.](#)

#### Mental Health Support

Additional funding has been provided to the NSW Mental Health Line (1800 011 511) and Lifeline (13 11 14) which are available to NSW international students.

#### COVID-19 Health Costs Waiver

NSW Health will waive costs for people not eligible for Medicare and whose health or travel insurance does not cover COVID-19 treatment, and waive payment and debt recovery procedures for ambulance transfers of people taken to NSW Health facilities for people suspected to have a COVID-19 infection or who are taken for assessment. [Read more](#)

#### International Student Legal Services

International Students can receive free legal advice through the Study NSW funded [International Student Legal Service](#).

## Victoria

### **International Student Emergency Relief Fund**

International students can apply for a contribution from the Victorian Government, who have [undertaken to make co-contributions](#) of up to \$1,100 to hardship payments made by Victorian universities, TAFEs, private Vocational Education and Training Providers and English Language Colleges. Detail of the payment-matching mechanism and student eligibility criteria were unavailable at time of publication, but [students are able to lodge an expression of interest in the scheme](#).

### **Accommodation Supports**

#### **Rent Relief Grant**

International students can apply for rent relief grants of up to \$2000 if they are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. [Details are available here](#).

#### **Free Legal Advice for International Students on Housing**

The Study Melbourne International Student Housing and Accommodation Legal Service provides free legal advice to international on accommodation matters. Students can email [info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@studymelbourne.vic.gov.au) to make an appointment.

#### **Tenancy Eviction Protections**

Students suffering financial hardship due to coronavirus (COVID-19) are protected from eviction for rental arrears for six months from 29 March 2020. [Information for tenants is available here](#).

### **Working for Victoria Program**

International students are able to apply to the [Working for Victoria](#) initiative which helps Victorians, including people who have lost their jobs due to the economic impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19), find new work opportunities.

### **COVID-19 health costs waiver**

Victorian hospitals will waive the costs of treatment for overseas travellers, including international students, with symptoms of coronavirus who fall ill in Australia and do not have adequate insurance coverage. [Read more here](#)

### **Mental Health Supports**

Counselling and other supports are available to international students through Study Melbourne's ['Study Well' initiative](#) –students can also access these supports on 1800 056 449 or via [email](#).

### **Community Supports for International Students**

Study Melbourne is maintaining a community supports resource hub with detailed information on where to find [support in the community](#) across Melbourne.

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## Queensland

### **\$2.2 Million in support for International Education including Online Student Hub**

International students are able to access accommodation, travel and employment advice, mental health and wellbeing supports, and assistance with academic complaints and legal referrals through Queensland's Student Hubs, which have transitioned to an online business model. Students can access the Online Student Hub services [here](#) or on 1800 778 389.

### **Jobs Finder Queensland**

International students who have been impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) and looking for work, can [register to be matched with job opportunities](#) by local professional recruitment agencies through Queensland's Job Finder program. There is also access to free online training. This program is eligible to those who have lived in Queensland for six months or longer and hold a Visa that allows you to work.

### **Mental Health Support**

Mental health supports are offered by Beyond Blue: [Online coronavirus forum](#) or Phone: 1300 22 4636; Lifeline: [Lifeline Website](#) or COVID-19 Phone: 13 11 14 and Headspace: [Chat online to a health](#) clinician or Phone: 1800 650 890

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## South Australia

### **International Student Support Package**

The South Australian Government is providing some emergency relief for international students studying with independent providers:

A \$500 emergency cash grant will be available to international students not studying at one of the public universities, currently enrolled in a course, living in Adelaide and who meet the criteria.

A one-off \$200 assistance payment per student living with South Australian families provided to Homestay families.

Students are able to [register for an update](#) when applications are opened.

A fund has also been made available to UniSA, Adelaide University and Flinders University for distribution to their international students.

### **Mental Health Support**

StudyAdelaide have collated available mental health and wellbeing resources for students [online](#).

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## Tasmania

### **Pandemic Isolation Assistance Grants**

A one-off payment for low-income individuals who are required to self-isolate by Public Health. Adults can receive a grant of \$250, and households can also receive \$125 per dependent child. Grants are capped at \$1000 per household. [More information is available here.](#)

### **Study Tasmania Supports and Resources**

Study Tasmania has collated a portal of Tasmanian Non-Government Organisations and community organisations that have been provided with additional funding to support international students needing emergency relief and assistance. Students can [access the portal here.](#)

### **Tenancy Eviction Protections and Rent Freeze**

Any notice to vacate issued by an owner to a tenant is of no effect until 30 June 2020 (exceptions apply). Any rent increase that was due to take place between 23 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 will no longer occur. This includes any rent increase where notice was given prior to 23 April 2020, if that rent increase is yet to take place. This measure will be reviewed prior to 30 June 2020 and may be extended. Other assistance can also be provided for rental adjustment negotiations and other leasing issues. [Read the details here](#)

### **Travel Advice and Repatriation Assistance**

The Tasmanian Government will assist students seeking to return to their home country with travel advice, and if necessary due to genuine financial hardship we will on a case by case basis assist with financial support to do so. The full details of this program are yet to be released, but students can register their interest in support to return to their country of origin via the Tasmanian public health hotline (1800 671 738 ) by 23 May 2020.

[Announcement available here](#)

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## Western Australia

### **StudyPerth Crisis Relief Package**

The StudyPerth Crisis Relief program is available to international students in Western Australia who are in immediate, emergency need of food or accommodation. Organisations and associations who are able to support international students with food, shelter, rights and health and wellbeing may also eligible for support. Applications are required. [Students can apply online for the program here.](#)

### **COVID-19 Information for Students**

StudyPerth have collated health and wellbeing supports as well as accommodation and financial supports into their COVID-19 Student portal, [available here.](#) Students can enquire about available supports [online](#) or email [reachout@studypertth.com.au](mailto:reachout@studypertth.com.au)

### **COVID-19 Health Costs Waiver**

The WA Minister for Health has confirmed that those people who are not eligible for Medicare AND who present to WA Health facilities for assessment in relation to COVID-19 infection, will not be charged out of pocket expenses. [A WA Health factsheet is available here](#)

### **Cost of Living Relief**

A freeze will be placed on household fees and charges, including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, the emergency services levy and public transport fares for WA residents. [More information is available here.](#)

## Western Australia (cont.)

### Rent Relief Grant

International students in WA who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 can apply for rent relief grants of four weeks rent (up to a maximum \$2000). The Grant is paid directly to landlords.

Students meet the WA Rent Relief eligibility criteria where they:

- Resident in WA
- Have, or shortly will have, lodged a tenancy bond with the Bond Administrator
- Live in a private residential property, rooming house or residential park
- Have agreed to a reduction in rent with the landlord, or have engaged in [Consumer Protection's dispute resolution service](#)
- Are in 'financial hardship', meaning:
  - Lost work on or after 20 March 2020
  - Have applied for Centrelink income support
  - Have less than \$10k of household savings
  - Are currently paying rent of at least 25 per cent of the total household income after tax

It's anticipated the [online form for applications](#) will be available from Friday May 1, 2020.

### Tenancy Eviction Protections

International students are protected by a six-month moratorium on residential tenancy evictions for rental arrears. [Details are available here](#)

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## Australian Capital Territory

### Jobs for Canberrans Fund

ACT residents can apply for temporary employment (until June 2021) with the ACT Government through the Jobs for Canberrans Fund. International students will benefit from the priority attention the Fund provides to applicants who are ineligible for Federal Government supports.

The ACT Government is recruiting for cleaning, administration, customer service, fire recovery restoration, and garden or building maintenance roles. [Interested students can apply here.](#)

### Residential Tenancy Support

#### Rent Relief

The government will provide a land tax and rates rebate to landlords of residential properties who reduce rents by at least 25 per cent for tenants impacted by COVID-19.

The rebate will be equal to 50 per cent of the rent reduction, capped at \$1,300 per quarter (around \$100 per week), for up to six months. This will provide rental relief to impacted tenants of up to \$200 per week.

#### Eviction Moratorium

The ACT Government is also preparing regulations to support any tenant under financial duress due to COVID-19 including a short-term moratorium on evictions, temporary freeze of rental increases and prevention of 'blacklisting' as a result of being unable to pay rent.

Fact sheets are available for [residential tenants](#), [landlords](#) and [real estate agents](#) regarding the ACT Government's residential tenancy support measures.

### Mental Health Supports

International students in the ACT can access a range of mental health support services from local and nationwide service providers – the ACT Government has collated [a list of supports here.](#)

## Australian Capital Territory (cont.)

### ACT Government Support package Hardship funds

International students affected by COVID-19 will be able to access support through a \$150,000 ACT Government support package provided to the Red Cross, accessed by affected students through their higher education provider. Details of this program have not yet been released. [Read more](#)

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## Northern Territory

### International Students Support – Red Cross Hotline

Red Cross have partnered with Melaleuca Refugee Centre to provide emergency relief for international students and visa holders and Territorians who have lost their job or their income has been reduced because of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Students can contact Red Cross on 0403 987 018 to access emergency relief and support.

### Worker and Wellbeing Fund

The Worker and Wellbeing Fund can support international students who have lost work or had their hours reduced due to COVID-19, and who are not already receiving financial and/or wellbeing support including Centrelink benefits.

The Worker and Wellbeing Fund will:

- help people access wellbeing and other counselling or support services that are available
- help people navigate the welfare system and access income and any other financial support available
- help workers who have lost their job find new employment opportunities fast -such as guiding people to job matching services like the Territory Jobs Hub
- assist Territorians who require access to accommodation and other essentials.

Students can connect with the NT Government [through the Fund portal](#) or via [email](#).

### Territory Jobs Hub

The NT Government has created a free [Territory Jobs Hub](#) to connect NT residents with employment opportunities if they have lost their job due to COVID-19.

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## Federal

### Access to Superannuation

International Students experiencing financial hardship who have been living in Australia for longer than 12 months can apply to [access their Australian superannuation](#).

### Exemptions for the 40 hour per fortnight work limit:

Student visa holders working at health and NDIS providers, as well as at supermarkets are being exempted from their usual work limitations of 40 hour per fortnight. The exemption for supermarket workers ceases on 1 May 2020.

Student visa holders already enrolled in nursing can undertake work to help and support the health effort against COVID-19 as directed by health officials. On 23 April 2020, this was expanded to include all student visa holders enrolled in health care related courses supporting the health effort against COVID-19 as directed by health officials. Enforcement action will not be taken regarding health care students working in these circumstances.

[More information is available here.](#)

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