

NGĀ KAUPAPA I UTUA E NGĀ ĀKONGA STUDENT LEVIES



The Student Services Levy and a separate Student Assistance Levy are paid by all students to contribute to the development of a healthy and inclusive learning community. The Student Services Levy also improves services that can facilitate academic success and a positive student experience. A few services are fully funded by the Levy so they can be provided without individual user charge. Services that are partially funded by the Levy are provided to students at a heavily subsidised rate. Others are funded entirely from other sources.

Victoria University of Wellington staff work in partnership with the Advisory Committee on the Student Services Levy (ACSSL), an oversight body with student representatives from the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) and Ngāi Taura executives who consult with other representation groups including PGSA, Pasifika Student's Council and other representative student bodies. They run a consultation process before a recommendation on the levy is made to ACSSL. The University works in partnership with students to ensure they have a strong voice in how the Student Services Levy is spent. In 2021, following significant consultation with students, the University approved a change to the Student Services Levy with effect from 2022 to a per-point charging structure (capped at 150 points) with a transitional rebate for existing Wellington-based students. The per-point charging structure is believed to more equitably allocate Student Services Levy charges across the student base.

Student levies made a net deficit of \$997,881 in 2022, due primarily to a fall in revenue due to lower student numbers, while maintaining the level of services provided to students. Annual carried forward surpluses and deficits are ring fenced and actively managed during the next financial year's levy budgeting and planning processes.

In 2022, an internal student was charged \$8.48 per point (up to a cap of 150 points) for the Student Services Levy, with some existing Wellington-based students receiving a transitional rebate. A Student Assistance Levy of \$28 was paid by all students. For a Wellington-based equivalent full-time student studying 120 points, the total Compulsory Student Service Fee per student in 2022 was \$1,046 excluding any rebate.

The revenue from the levies can be used only for those services that fall within the following government-specified categories:

Advocacy and legal advice

Advocacy services delivered by the University manage a range of resolution activities in relation to student complaints, disputes, appeals, pastoral (including accommodation) issues, and academic disputes. VUWSA is also contracted to deliver an independent advocacy service and train and support class representatives and faculty delegates to ensure that students have a meaningful and independent voice at Victoria University of Wellington.

Careers information, advice, and guidance

Careers and Employment aims to increase the employability of the University's students by providing career and course advice and assessments, and helping students prepare job applications, CVs, and develop interview skills.

Counselling services and pastoral care

Support services include Student Counselling, Āwhina and Pasifika Student Success for Māori and Pasifika students, peer mentoring, and student support coordinators based in halls of residence. A range of welfare services, such as food bank delivery, are delivered by VUWSA.

Employment information

The University provides information on jobs through publications, career expos, employer and industry presentations, and through an online service, CareerHub, which features study-related job vacancies.

Financial support and advice

The University's student finance advisers provide financial advice to students, administer the Hardship Fund, and teach financial literacy. The Student Assistance Levy contributes to the Hardship Fund (which has had a separate bank account since it was set up in 1991) and is available to assist students if they experience a short-term emergency or one-off immediate need.

Health services

The University's Student Health and Wellbeing services operate from the Kelburn and Pipitea campuses and include Student Health and Student Counselling. Counselling services are also available at Te Aro. Disability Services works alongside students with temporary and ongoing impairments to ensure they are able to engage fully and achieve in their studies. Wellbeing services operate from the Student Union Building on Kelburn campus along with Rainbow and Refugee student advisory services.

Media

VUWSA publishes the weekly magazine Salient and operates its website and podcasts. Salient provides paid work opportunities and skills development for its contributors, who are all students.

Childcare services

Victoria Kids provides childcare facilities for children of Victoria University of Wellington students.

Clubs and societies

The University has more than 150 clubs across political, cultural, sports, faith-based, and academic interests. Assistance is provided to clubs and societies through the provision of meeting rooms, activity spaces and resources, training programmes, and advice on club financial management.

Sports, recreation, and cultural activities

Victoria Recreation provides space and equipment for students to keep active. Sports leagues, tailored fitness and other programmes, recreational facilities, and venues for student events and activities are offered.

SERVICE CATEGORY	2022 STUDENT SERVICES LEVY (SSL) REVENUE \$'000	2022 STUDENT ASSISTANCE LEVY (SAL) REVENUE \$'000	2022 REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES \$'000	TOTAL REVENUE \$'000	TOTAL COST (SSL RELATED AND SAL GRANTS) \$'000	NET SURPLUS/ (COST) \$'000
Advocacy and legal advice	892	–	–	892	1,010	(118)
Careers information, advice, and guidance	1,173	–	22	1,195	1,016	179
Counselling services and pastoral care	2,521	–	883	3,404	3,343	61
Employment information	568	–	8	576	518	58
Financial support and advice	456	492	444 ¹⁴	1,392	1,305	87
Health services	3,695	–	2,801	6,496	6,714	(218)
Media	245	–	–	245	245	–
Childcare services	195	–	–	195	195	–
Clubs and societies	975	–	–	975	1,149	(174)
Sports, recreation, and cultural activities	2,141	–	416	2,557	3,430	(873)
Total	12,861	492	4,574	17,927	18,925	(998)

¹⁴ Includes \$428,553 received via the Hardship Fund for Learners (HAFL) which was established by TEC to help tertiary education organisations (TEOs) provide temporary financial assistance for currently enrolled tertiary learners who were facing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.