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## FEES STATUTE 2020

### Finance Policy Group

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#### 1 Purpose

The Fees Statute establishes the basis for fee charging and related policies at Victoria University of Wellington (“The University”). This version of the Fees Statute applies to all enrolments for the **2020** academic year, unless otherwise stated.

#### 2 Organisational Scope

This is a University-wide statute and applies to all students enrolled at Victoria University of Wellington. The University may from time to time enrol students under a contract with another organisation in which case some or all of the provisions in this statute will apply, in accordance with that contract. The provisions of this statute apply to all students enrolled in courses taught by the University in conjunction with partner institutions. Any variation from the Fees Statute provisions will be specified in a Fees Schedule that lists the unique provisions that will apply to that particular course or programme.

#### 3 Definitions

For purposes of this statute, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

**Distance Course:** Courses which provide content and support services to students who are rarely, if ever, required to attend for face-to-face tuition or for on-campus access to educational facilities.

**Distance Student:** A student whose entire programme for the academic year is made up of distance courses.

**Domestic Student:** A person who is a citizen, resident or permanent resident of New Zealand, Australia, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau Islands, or a citizen of other countries who is resident in New Zealand as a consequence of assignment to a diplomatic or consular post, and their immediate dependants. (A new letter issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Protocol Division confirming this entitlement to domestic student status, must be presented to the Enrolment Office for every year of enrolment.)

*Note: New Zealand permanent residents and citizens of Australia who study extramurally while living outside of New Zealand will be treated as international students for the purposes of charging fees. This is a requirement of the Ministry of Education.*

**Internal Student:** A student who undertakes some or all of their study on campus.

International Student:	A student who is not defined as a Domestic Student.
TEC:	The Tertiary Education Commission, which is responsible for the implementation of the Government's Fee Free tertiary education initiative.

## 4 Statute Content and Guidelines

### 4.1 Basis for Charging Fees

Students are charged fees based on:

- (a) The student's status as a Domestic or International Student.
- (b) The student's status as an internal or distance student.
- (c) The courses and programmes being undertaken.
- (d) The services provided.

*Note: All fees are inclusive of GST, unless otherwise stated.*

### 4.2 Notification of Fees Charged

The University will provide notice of fees, levies and charges to a student when a charge is made.

### 4.3 Liability for Payment of Fees

- (a) A student is liable for payment of fees (or for having confirmed their eligibility for TEC to pay fees on their behalf) when they:
  - i) accept an Offer of Study, Offer of Place or sign the international enrolment application form.
  - ii) are approved for any additional courses or change of course
- (b) Students who do not attend a course in which they have formally accepted a place will be liable for payment of the fees for that course unless the withdrawal procedures as detailed in section 4.12 are followed.

### 4.4 Fee Components

The fees charged to a student will include but are not limited to the Fees, Levies and Charges detailed in this section and associated Appendices.

#### 4.4.1 Tuition fees

- (a) Subject to section 4.7, every person enrolling at the University shall pay (or have confirmed their eligibility for TEC to pay on their behalf) the prescribed tuition fee for each course in which they are enrolled.
- (b) Tuition fees are calculated based on the number of points assigned to each course. The charge per point for each course is listed in Appendix A (Domestic Students) and Appendix B (International Students).

#### 4.4.2 Student Assistance Levy

This levy is a contribution towards assisting students in financial difficulty who would otherwise be unable to continue their studies.

- (a) Every person enrolling at the University as an internal student, or NZ based distance student, excluding incoming exchange students, shall each year at enrolment pay the prescribed Student Assistance Levy.
- (b) The charge for the Student Assistance Levy is shown in Appendix C.

#### 4.4.3 Student Services Levy

All students studying at Victoria University of Wellington are required to pay a Student Services Levy, which is a contribution towards student support services delivered by and through the University to support and facilitate the best academic outcomes for all students. The Student Services Levy Policy provides a full list of services.

Additional payment may be required to access some goods, services or amenities.

- (a) The Student Services Levy is set according to the Student Services Levy Policy. The Student Services Levy is shown in Appendix C.
- (b) Certain categories of students may be exempt from the Student Services Levy or may be entitled to apply for specified rebates, for example:
  - (i) students enrolled for less than 25 points per year;
  - (ii) students enrolled solely in distance courses;
  - (iii) students enrolled solely in the Trimester Three; and
  - (iv) students enrolled in specific programmes as detailed in the Student Services Levy Policy.
- (c) The Student Services Levy Policy provides more information, including how to apply for any applicable rebate.

#### 4.4.4 Administration Fees

The University reserves the right to charge the administration fees as shown in Appendix D to students who apply for the relevant service.

#### 4.4.5 Course Material Charges

Some courses include compulsory course materials charges to cover the provision of items such as study materials, equipment or field trips. These charges are detailed in the relevant course prospectus.

#### 4.4.6 Courses Requiring an Overseas Travel Component

- (a) A small number of courses are offered by the University at one or more overseas locations. Where course content is delivered at overseas destinations, the costs of travel will not be included in the fees for the course. Students are responsible for their own travel (including insurance and accommodation) arrangements; however the School will arrange a group booking through a travel agent, which will be available to all students.
- (b) Details of the travel arrangements will be documented in the course description, together with an estimate of the cost. The actual costs will be determined by the Travel Agent based upon airfares, destination costs and exchange rates prevailing at the time of booking. Travel costs for these courses do not qualify for student loans.

#### 4.4.7 Higher Doctorate Application Fee

Refer to Appendix D for Higher Doctorate application fees.

#### 4.5 Exchange Students

- (a) Students enrolled in an exchange programme approved by the University will be liable to pay fees at their home institution.
- (b) Incoming exchange students will be liable only for course material charges and administration fees at VUW.
- (c) Victoria University of Wellington students undertaking an exchange programme approved by the University will be charged fees by the University on the following basis:
  - (i) 120 points for a full year exchange programme.
  - (ii) 60 points for a single semester or trimester exchange programme.
  - (iii) the charge per point for tuition will be set according to the subject and will be one of the rates listed in Appendix A or Appendix B.
  - (iv) Ancillary fees will be calculated as for an internal student

#### 4.6 Research Students

- (a) Research Thesis students are charged fees based on the points value of their course, as set forth in Appendices A and B.
- (b) Fees for Research Thesis students are based on the minimum time allowed for the thesis registration period. There is no reduction or refund for early completion.
- (c) If a student has been granted permission to extend their registration, they will be charged a fee calculated by the points value of the additional months agreed upon and the per point charges set forth in Appendices A and B. The points value for part-time study is half of the points value of an equivalent full-time period of registration.
- (d) Fees for extended registration are charged in advance for the entire mutually-agreed period.
- (e) PhD students required by supervisors to enrol in supplementary courses, during the period of provisional registration, may do so without paying fees in addition to those imposed above.

#### 4.7 Concessionary Fees

- (a) From time to time the University offers concessionary fees. If offered, the concessionary fees provision is available to Domestic Students who wish to attend lectures for reasons other than working towards a University examination or a professional qualification. Students enrolling on this basis cannot attend practical classes, tutorials, workshops, laboratories or studios, submit coursework or sit examinations. No grade or credit will be given to graduates enrolled in courses under this provision.

*Note: No concessionary fees programmes are available in 2020.*

- (b) Domestic Secondary school students enrolled at Victoria University of Wellington under the STAR (Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource) agreement will receive a one third reduction on the advertised tuition fee and levies for that year.
- (c) In accordance with delegations given by the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor may vary the fees set out in the appendices to give effect to particular contractual agreements.

#### 4.8 Payment of Fees

- (a) Payment of all fees is due at the time liability for these is incurred as per section 4.3 or by the payment due date shown on the Fees Assessment or Invoice, whichever is the latest. This includes arrangement for payment by Student Loan as per section 4.9 or instalments

as per section 4.10. A late payment penalty will apply where fees are not paid by the due date (refer to Appendix D).

- (b) The University reserves the right to introduce a charge to recover credit card transaction fees where payments are made via credit card.

#### **4.9 Student Loans**

Student Loans are provided to Domestic Students by StudyLink ([www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)). The University acts in accordance with policies and practices promulgated by the New Zealand Government. Any Domestic Student who applies for a student loan remains responsible to take all necessary steps to ensure that payment is made promptly.

#### **4.10 Payment of Fees by Instalment**

- (a) Subject to the provisions set out below, any Domestic Student enrolled in at least two courses in at least two trimesters may request to pay their fees by instalments.
- (b) The Director, Student Academic Services (SAS) (or delegate) is responsible for approving requests under clause 4.10 (a). If a request is approved, the Director, SAS (or delegate) will determine the number of instalments, amounts and payment dates depending on the individual student circumstances. Any decision of the Director, SAS (or delegate) relating to payment of fees by instalment is final and binding and there is no internal appeal process.
- (c) Payment cannot be made by instalments where fees are to be paid by Student Loan.
- (d) Returning International Students who have previously demonstrated a good payment history may elect to pay their fees by instalments. This option is not available to PhD students. The final decision on whether to allow an instalment plan is made by the Manager, Student Finance.

#### **4.11 Failure to Pay in Full**

- (a) Any student who fails to pay (either directly or via TEC if they are eligible for Free Fees study) all fees and charges detailed in this Statute and Appendices, to repay Student Assistance scheme loan advances or to pay any other charges due and payable to the University may lose their entitlement:
  - (i) To be issued with an ID card or to have an ID card endorsed;
  - (ii) To attend lectures, laboratories, tutorials, access to University buildings and facilities or use the University Library, ITS Student Computing Services and Student Services;
  - (iii) To have a degree conferred, receive grades, receive a transcript or academic certificate, or access any certified digital documents in My eEquals;
  - (iv) To enrol in any other University course.
- (b) The University reserves the right to place fees debts with its appointed debt recovery agency for collection from the student. The University also reserves the right to recover any additional costs in relation to this debt collection from the student.
- (c) The University reserves the right to cancel a student's enrolment in the event of outstanding fees without affecting the student's liability for payment of the outstanding fees.
- (d) The University reserves the right to refuse to re-activate enrolment or to decline an application for enrolment in a subsequent academic year for a student who has been in default of fees even if the outstanding amount has since been paid.

#### 4.12 Withdrawals from Courses

- (a) A student who completes a withdrawal online or by way of written application through their Faculty Office, on or before the dates shown in Appendix E, will no longer be liable for the fees associated with that course.
- (b) Non-payment of fees, ceasing to attend, or verbally advising a member of staff will not be accepted as notice of withdrawal.
- (c) Only in exceptional circumstances will fees be reconsidered if a student withdraws from a course after the dates shown in Appendix E. Any application for a fee reconsideration must be accompanied by suitable documentation that provides both evidence of the exceptional circumstances and supports the date of withdrawal.
- (d) An application for a fees reconsideration must normally be submitted by the last day of the official exam period for the trimester in which that course was held. Late applications require justification and are accepted at the discretion of the Director, Student Academic Services.
- (e) Decisions on applications for a fees reconsideration are made by the Manager, Student Finance who will take into account of the views of the relevant Faculty Manager, the Associate Director, SAS or other staff as appropriate.
- (f) A student who considers a fees reconsideration decision to be unfair may appeal that decision. Any appeal must be submitted in writing within four weeks of the notification of the initial decision, and must clearly state the grounds for the appeal. Decisions on appeals are made by the Director, SAS in consultation with the relevant Dean.
- (g) Subject to 4.14 subsection (f), if a student has given notice of withdrawal from all of their courses after the dates outlined in Appendix E and a full fee reconsideration has been approved, the University will reverse the full tuition fees liable to the student, less \$100. A percentage refund of non-tuition fees may be applicable. *Note: Detail within the Student Service Levy Policy.*
- (h) A student enrolled in a PhD or Master's degree by thesis for six or twelve months, who gives written notice of withdrawal from enrolment within four weeks of having been enrolled, shall cease to be liable for the fees associated with that course.
- (i) A student who gives written notice of withdrawal from a supervised individual research paper/project, practicum, dissertation or similar course within four weeks of the start date for that course shall cease to be liable for the fees of that course.
- (j) A student enrolled in the CertEnglProf, who gives written notice of withdrawal within two weeks of commencement of the programme, will receive a full refund of fees less and administration fee (if applicable).

#### 4.13 Refunds

- (a) Refunds of fee payments derived from the Student Loan scheme will be credited to StudyLink. Where fee payment has been derived only in part from the Student Loan scheme, refunds will be credited back to StudyLink to the value of the Student Loan payment and any balance then refunded to the student.
- (b) Refunds of fee payments derived from a contract will be credited back to the organisation that has set up the contract with the University.
- (c) Refunds of fee payments where payment was made by an interested party, must be returned to the interested party, or to the student at the interested party's request.
- (d) Refunds will not be made to students if there are fees remaining to be paid for their current academic year or if they have an outstanding debt to the University.

- (e) Refunds to individual students during an academic year that total in excess of \$1,000 will be subject to an administration fee. The charge is not applicable if a credit results from Free Fees allocation; an approved fees reconsideration or Student Loan. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the Manager, Student Finance.

#### **4.14 Additional Information for International Students**

- (a) A student enrolled in a trimester based programme who obtains a residency permit during the course of their study will be considered an International Student for the trimester in which residency is granted, unless the residency is granted within the dates prescribed in Appendix E of this Statute. The Student will be treated as a Domestic Student from the following trimester.
- (b) A student who is enrolled in a programme that is not trimester based and who obtains a residency permit will be given a refund (pro rata) from the week after the date on which residency is granted, as shown in their passport.
- (c) An International Student who withdraws from the University and transfers to another institution must inform Wellington University International and Student Finance in writing and provide copies of their new Offer documents. The refund of fees will be sent directly to the relevant institution less an International Transfer fee (refer Appendix D).
- (d) An International Student that has not had their tuition fees administered through an external contract is entitled to a full refund of all money that remains in their account after enrolment. This refund subject to clause 4.13(d) will be granted provided the student has paid their fees in full and holds a valid student visa for the period of study. The monies up to a value of \$15,000 per academic year will be paid directly to the student. Any monies to be refunded over and above this amount will be refunded to the originating bank account. Any exceptions will be at the discretion of the Director, Student Academic Services (SAS) or Associate Director (Management and Administration) and Manager, Student Finance if approval has been delegated.
- (e) Subject to subsections (a), (c) and (d) of this section, all refunds will be paid by bank transfer (upon production of appropriate photo ID).
- (f) Full refunds will be made pursuant to the relevant clauses of this Statute and in the following circumstances:
  - (i) The student is unable to take up the offer of admission;
  - (ii) Immigration NZ has declined a student a visa for study in New Zealand;
  - (iii) A student's application for a visa extension is declined by Immigration NZ;
  - (iv) The University is unable to proceed with the course offered.
- (g) Should a student completely withdraw or temporarily cease studying at Victoria University of Wellington and seek a refund, they will be required to provide proof that they are no longer on a Victoria University of Wellington student visa prior to their refund being authorised.
- (h) Subject to subsections (c) and (f) of this section, international students that have prepaid tuition fees who travel to New Zealand and do not complete their enrolment or who have given notice of withdrawal from all of their courses on or before the dates outlined in Appendix E will receive a 100% refund of pre-paid tuition fees less an administration fee. The monies will be refunded to the originating bank account.
- (i) Students receiving Federal Loans from the US Government for payment of their study at Victoria University of Wellington are subject to special withdrawal and refund procedures and policies. Details are available from Wellington University [International](#).

- (j) An International Student who is enrolled in a PhD and resident in New Zealand is charged domestic tuition fees. If such a student does not reside in New Zealand for the agreed proportion of their candidature they may be charged fees at the rate specified in Appendix B as for 400 and 500 level courses in their discipline.

## Legislative Compliance

The University is required to manage its policy documentation within a legislative framework. The legislation guiding this statute is the:

[Education Act 1989](#)

[Victoria University of Wellington Act 1961](#)

## 5 References

[StudyLink](#)

[Student Services Levy Policy](#)

[Victoria International](#)

[Fees Statute 2019](#)

## 6 Appendices

[Appendix A: Domestic Tuition Fee Rates](#)

[Appendix B: International Tuition Fee Rates](#)

[Appendix C: Other Fees](#)

[Appendix D Administration Charges](#)

[Appendix E Withdrawal Dates](#)

## 7 Approval Agency

University Council

## 8 Approval Dates

This statute was originally approved on:	not specified
This version was approved on:	9 September 2019
This version takes effect from:	9 September 2019
This statute will be reviewed by:	October 2020

## 9 Statute Sponsor

Director, Student Academic Services

## 10 Contact Person

The following person may be approached in relation to this statute:

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