

## Universities Australia 2017 Survey of University Student Finances



This study of the financial circumstances of students at Australian Universities is being undertaken by the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne for Universities Australia, which has funded the study.

The purpose of the national survey is to understand the current financial circumstances of both domestic and international undergraduate and postgraduate students studying at Australian universities. The report will compare the 2017 findings with the previous studies undertaken for Universities Australia by the MCSHE in 2012 and 2006. The findings of this study will benefit students by helping universities and government better understand students: their work patterns, income, family commitments and concerns. Universities Australia is the peak body for Australia's universities. You can see the report of the previous study we conducted [here](#).

### About this survey

The survey will ask you to detail your sources of income and expenditure this year, as well as some questions about you and your feelings about study and finances. It should take about 30 minutes to complete. Some questions about income and expenditure are fairly specific, but we just ask that you make your best estimate. The survey should take 15 to 30 minutes to complete.

We do not expect any risks to participants, and it is not anticipated that the survey will cause anxiety or distress. Some questions ask about your general sense of autonomy, level of stress related to your financial situation, and emotional wellbeing. These questions are intended to help us understand your overall study experience and the impact your finances have on that experience. They are not intended to be intrusive or to make you feel uncomfortable. However, if a question does cause you discomfort, you may choose not to answer it. If you do experience any distress, please contact your university's counselling and psychological services. The following websites also offer support and assistance: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au); [www.orygen.org.au](http://www.orygen.org.au); [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au).

Your involvement in the project is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from participation at any time. Please be assured that the personal information you provide will be entirely confidential, subject to legal limits. No items that could identify individuals will be made public and individual survey responses will not be traceable to individual participants. De-identified data will be retained by the researchers and Universities Australia and used only for comparison with future iterations of the survey, to help universities and policy-makers understand changes in student circumstances over time. No individual participant data will be trackable from one version of the study to the other.

The findings of this study will be made public in a book-length report by the researchers for Universities Australia, which they will publish on their website.

The researchers are:

Dr Emmaline Bexley (Lead Researcher)

[bexleye@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bexleye@unimelb.edu.au)

Professor Sophie Arkoudis

[s.arkoudis@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:s.arkoudis@unimelb.edu.au)

Dr Chi Baik

[cbaik@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cbaik@unimelb.edu.au)

Professor Richard James

[r.james@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:r.james@unimelb.edu.au)

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010.

Tel: +61 3 8344 2073

Email: [humanethics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:humanethics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au)

All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project, which is 1749458.1