

Federal Financial Loans Cost of Attendance policy

The Cost of Attendance (COA) is the estimated cost a student may incur per academic year while studying full time at The University of Auckland. The Cost of Attendance covers one academic year, not to exceed one calendar year.

Students may be eligible to borrow U.S. federal and private loans up to their cost of attendance less Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA) such as grants, awards, scholarships, private loans, other government loans or study-related employment.

The cost of attendance is calculated in New Zealand dollars (NZD) then converted into U.S. dollars (USD) to determine maximum loan eligibility. The cost of attendance is calculated once for each academic year and will only be reviewed in accordance with Professional Judgment regulations. In signing the award (loan notification) letter the student is accepting the Cost of Attendance and the Cost of Attendance policy.

In determining the cost of attendance, the following rules and policy statements apply:

1. Living Allowance

- a) Includes room, internet, phone, utilities, grocery, domestic travel and miscellaneous expenses.
- b) Are set amounts and will not be adjusted.
- c) Cover up to one academic year or period of study as defined by The University of Auckland regulations for students studying at least half time. No allowances will be provided during periods of non-enrolment or over the summer break, unless studying at least half time
- d) Prorated for less than full time enrolment and for mid semester commencements.
- e) May be prorated for research students based on date of enrolment.
- f) Students who exceed the allocated living allowance are responsible for the difference between the actual cost incurred and the allocated living allowance.
- g) Domestic travel allowance is for Auckland travel only. Students are responsible for any cost incurred above the allocated per week amount. h. Students are responsible for any non-education related domestic or international travel.

2. Tuition fees

- a) Tuition fees are based on actual tuition fees and not an approximate.
- b) The final certified loan amount may be adjusted to reflect actual Tuition fees and final enrolment.
- c) Compulsory non-tuition fees of building levy and student services are included

3. Book and Supplies

- a) Equivalent to the course related cost allowance for Study Link recipients through the New Zealand government.
- b) May be prorated for students who commence mid semester or at some other point throughout the year.
- c) Allocation is based on full time enrolment and not per points or courses enrolled.

4. Return flight to the United States

- a) A fixed amount allocated at the sole discretion of The University of Auckland which is not guaranteed year to year.
- b) Allocated once per academic year for the standard programme duration. Programmes which are one academic year in duration which start mid semester will receive the allocation once.
- c) The difference between the contribution and actual cost of the flight is a cost borne by the student.
- d) Flight contributions cannot be appealed.
- e) New Zealand or Australian Permanent Residents/Citizens are not eligible for the return flight contribution.

5. International Student Insurance

- a) Based on The University of Auckland's default insurance policy and is subject to change.
- b) New Zealand or Australian Permanent Residents/Citizens are not eligible for the International Student Insurance allocation.

6. Non Educational related expenses

- a) Items such as, but not limited to, moving expenses, spousal care, pet care, furniture hire, holidays, visa applications will not be included the Cost of Attendance and cannot be appealed.

7. Professional Judgment (PJ) - Cost of Attendance Appeal

- a) Students may apply to have their COA reviewed based on additional educational related expenses only under the following circumstances:
 - i. Challenge of status as a dependent student.
 - ii. Dependant care costs.
 - iii. Excessive educational related expenses.
 - iv. Professional Registration fees.
- b) Appeals must be submitted in writing to the US Financial Aid Coordinator. Applications for appeals must contain the following:
 - i. Application for Appeal.
 - ii. Receipts, travel logs, letters of endorsement from the Head of Department which confirms the additional cost are necessary costs of the programme.
 - iii. Any additional evidence requested by the US Financial Aid Coordinator or Appeals committee.
- c) Appeals submitted without supporting evidence or appeals submitted for non-educational related costs will be declined.
- d) Appeal decisions will be made by the US Financial Aid Coordinator within 10 working days of receiving an application and supporting documents.
- e) Decision of the US Financial Aid Coordinator may be appealed by submitting a written application for appeal to the Assessment Manager, Academic Services within 7 working days from the date on the initial ruling.

- f) Applications submitted after 7 working days will be reviewed at the discretion of the the Assessment Manager, Academic Services.
- g) Decisions made by the Assessment Manager, Academic Services are final and cannot be appealed.

8. Exchange Rate Conversion

- a) The University accepts no responsibility for any variation in currency exchange rates.
- b) This applies to Direct Loans and variations between the points of a calculated Cost of Attendance and between the first, second, and if applicable, third disbursements.

Review Date: 01 December 2013
Reviewed By: U.S. Financial Aid Co-ordinator
Next Review Date: 01 December 2014