

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

2021 Report



What is the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)?

In 2011, the Australian Parliament passed the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities) Bill 2011 to allow universities and other higher education providers to charge a compulsory Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) from 2012. Under the legislation, universities may charge an annual SSAF up to the maximum amount prescribed in the legislation and indexed each year

What can SSAF revenue be spent on?

SSAF revenue is allocated entirely to the provision of student services and amenities. The Commonwealth legislation prescribes a list of categories upon which the funds are to be spent.

The University is ultimately accountable for expenditure of the SSAF revenue. In consultation conducted with students and representatives of the student body, the best methods for providing amenities and services to enhance the ECU student experience are agreed. As a result, a significant amount of amenities and services are provided by the Student Guild (which receive 50% of overall SSAF funding), others by the University itself.

Who decides how to spend ECU's SSAF income?

An Advisory Forum provides advice to the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council on the services and amenities that are proposed to be provided to ECU students with the SSAF revenue. Membership of the Committee includes undergraduate, postgraduate and international student representatives nominated by the ECU Student Guild, a student member of Council, and senior officers of the University.

Early in each year, the Committee drafts priorities for expenditure of the SSAF income, which are published for feedback from students prior to finalisation.

What is this report about?

SSAF funds complement other funds that are dedicated by the University to the provision of amenities and services. This report provides an overview of the services and amenities that were funded in whole or in significant part by the SSAF during 2021. It does not, therefore, describe all of the amenities and services that are available to students at ECU.

The headings in the report are the permissible expenditure categories from the Commonwealth legislation.

How much SSAF was collected in 2021?

The estimated ECU SSAF Allocation in 2021 was \$4,200,000. The actual SSAF income received in 2021 was \$4,070,000.

How was SSAF spent in 2021?

A summary of the 2021 actual expenditure against the approved 2021 SSAF Expenditure Plan is provided in the following table:

Expenditure Categories	Projects	2021 Allocation	2021 Actual
<p>Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider</p>	<p>The Student Guild provided a wide range of recreational and sporting activities in 2021.</p> <p>Student kitchen provisions were made available to students at the Joondalup, Mount Lawley and South West Campus.</p> <p>Numerous free food and drink events & activities were held including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDAHOBIT day • Guild Fair • Cheese & Wine South West • Ramadan Dinner <p>For a list of all activities refer to ECU Guild Annual Report.</p>	<p>\$80,955</p>	<p>\$60,143</p>
<p>Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students</p>	<p>Multiple club and social activities were facilitated with 160 events across the year with over 12,500 students attending Guild events in 2021.</p> <p>Various</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emus Gala Parmelia Hilton • Guild Activation Day – Academic • Senate Elect 2022 BBQ • Guild Activation Day – Postgrad • Clubs awards! – AQWA • Halloween party • Guild ball • Students Holiday Lunch 	<p>\$924,231</p>	<p>\$874,101</p>

	For a list of all activities refer to ECU Guild Annual Report.		
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	<p>The ECU Guild affiliated 56 clubs in 2021 across Academic, Equity and Social Departments.</p> <p>Significant Club events and initiatives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECU Emus Sports Day. In 2021 ECU Guild welcomed the ECU Emus sports teams as Guild affiliated clubs. The Emus first activation day was held in Semester 2 and was a great success encouraging many students to try out for the on campus sports teams. • The Ahlulbayte Humanity Club ran their third annual Peace Walk through the Joondalup campus in honour of frontline workers. • The Contemporary Arts Club welcomed resident artists into the Building 12 Common Room space. • ECU Equity clubs combined for an Equity Fashion show. 	\$316,108	\$317,528
Caring for children of Students	ECU provides creche facilities at its Southwest Campus to support students with children.	\$48,963	\$48,963
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<p>ECU runs a Student Success program to provide guidance and support to students.</p> <p>The Student Success team provides information and advice to help students succeed. ECU offers individual appointments face-to-face, via phone or online to help students thrive in their studies at ECU.</p> <p>ECU assists with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusting to study at ECU • Managing student general wellbeing • Assessing personal challenges and developing action plans to overcome them • Establishing attainable educational goals • Understanding academic policies and procedures 	\$555,184	\$503,834

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to key contacts at ECU and in our local community <p>For international students we can help you with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settling into life in Australia • Understanding what is expected of student visa holders • Applying for a leave of absence • Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) <p>Programs to support student nursing staff pre-practicum preparations.</p> <p>The ECU Guild also provide free and confidential advice to all ECU Guild members who are ECU students.</p> <p>The Guild Student Assist Officers (GSAs) are professionally trained staff who form a core component of the Guild – providing advocacy, support and referral services for students on academic, financial, personal and welfare matters.</p>		
<p>Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers</p>	<p>ECU provides a Volunteering Hub which facilitates volunteering with the many local, national and global volunteering opportunities. Students are taught that being a volunteer is a great way to contribute to our local community, and can help students to become more employable by improving their skills and knowledge.</p> <p>ECU provides CareerHub, a 'one-stop-shop' for student career planning and job search resources and information.</p> <p>On CareerHub, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • view a range of online resources, such as career direction and planning tools, fact sheets, FAQs, and links to external organisations and resources 	<p>\$788,196</p>	<p>\$788,196</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • view information about and book in to attend workshops • visit an online jobs board • find information about on and off campus events, including employer visits and career expos • book an appointment with a career adviser <p>Qualified Career and Employability Advisers run regular workshops which can help students with the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • résumé writing • networking • interview skills • self-awareness • addressing selection criteria <p>ECU also holds other events throughout the year, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employer information sessions • on-campus career fairs • guest speaker presentations 		
Helping students with their financial affairs	<p>Financial counselling is provided by the University via the Student Success program mentioned above.</p> <p>The Guild also provides financial support to students in need. This has included top ups to SmartRider transport accounts, grocery and fuel vouchers, Foodbank WA support and other discretionary grants.</p>	\$97,374	\$85,208

<p>Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes)</p>	<p>As well as providing reading rooms and spaces students are able to purchase limited resources from the Guild's second hand bookstore The bookshop provides members with a valuable resource with respect to course textbook costs by offering a service to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buyback textbooks for cash, at the highest rate available, from students who no longer require. • Sell these books back to students for units they are starting, at significantly lower prices than they would have to pay for new books. 	<p>\$18,827</p>	<p>\$23,722</p>
<p>Supporting an artistic activity by students</p>	<p>Wear it Purple Day was held on 27 August 2021. ECU and the Guild are proud to support LGBTIQ+ young people on Wear It Purple Day as well as other activities to support the day.</p>	<p>\$11,217</p>	<p>\$10,009</p>
<p>Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students</p>	<p>The ECU Guild publish the Dircksey magazine for students. A production run of 1,500 40 page print editions is produced and distributed around all three campuses.</p> <p>For more information visit https://www.dircksey.com.au/</p>	<p>\$67,548</p>	<p>\$62,261</p>
<p>Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled</p>	<p>The Academic Skills Centre (ASC) assists students to effectively transition into university study and equip them with the necessary skills to become a successful student and lifelong learner.</p> <p>Staff of the Academic Skills Centre, we can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assist students with tackling assessment tasks (at Assignment Drop in Sessions); • help students to develop their English language (through English Language Workshops); • deliver academic skills training workshops in the areas of academic literacy, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (through Academic Skills Workshops). <p>The Student Guild provides opportunities for students to attend professional development training and conferences related to their studies.</p>	<p>\$756,860</p>	<p>\$735,254</p>

<p>Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)</p>	<p>Mechanisms are provided to support student complaints, investigations and resolutions on behalf of students.</p>	<p>\$112,728</p>	<p>\$112,728</p>
<p>Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)</p>	<p>In 2021 Guild Student Assist Officers supported 1993 individual students, an increase of 313 students when compared with the previous year.</p> <p>The most common type of support required continued to be academic support in the form of advice and assistance for students with results related appeals, late withdrawal statements, complaints and academic misconduct appeals.</p>	<p>\$191,527</p>	<p>\$162,579</p>
<p>Giving students information to help them in their orientation</p>	<p>Two major student orientation were undertaken in 2021 to help students get ready to study as a new ECU student at each of the three campuses.</p> <p>The Student Guild supported Orientation activities for students and collaborated with the University across all three campuses at ECU in 2021.</p> <p>Student run Guild Departments, affiliated clubs and student groups provided information about their services and activities on campus during O Days.</p> <p>Tours of the University grounds, the Guild and its facilities were conducted by a number of Guild representatives. Induction sessions were also held for students wanting to know more about the Guild and its function within the University environment.</p>	<p>\$191,577</p>	<p>\$179,571</p>
<p>Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment</p>	<p>ECU runs a Student Success program to provide guidance and support to students. A particular area of focus has been student welfare during Covid-19 as well as sector shortages for affordable accommodation for students.</p>	<p>\$38,705</p>	<p>\$34,863</p>

	The Guild Student Assist Team also established key referral pathways for students both within the University and externally to ensure that students obtain holistic support to improve their wellbeing.		
	Total	\$4,200,000	\$3,998,960