

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

2025 Allocation Report

Introduction

The *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* (SSARA Guidelines) require higher education providers to provide a publicly available report on student services and amenities fee (SSAF) allocations and actual expenditure for the year as part of their annual reporting and in the form approved by the Minister. This *SSAF Allocation Report* is the form approved by the Minister.

The information provided in this *SSAF Allocation Report* does **not** require auditing by a financial accountant. The SSAF expenditure reporting is a separate process and remains unchanged, more information can be found in the [Financial Statements Guidelines](#) for Table A and B providers, and in the [Financial Viability Instructions: Applicants and Providers of FEE-HELP \(FVI\)](#) for all other approved providers.

SSAF Consultation, Compliance and Achievements for 2025

RMIT's Annual Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) – Student Consultation Process and the associated communication activities are conducted in line with the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* – Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines.

Consultation

To inform the 2025 SSAF allocation, RMIT conducted a comprehensive consultation process, including the biennial **SSAF Student Poll in September 2024**, which received 983 responses and 616 qualitative comments. Insights from this poll were validated and further explored through discussions with the Student Experience Advisory Group (SEAG). SEAG comprises elected RMIT Student Union (RUSU) representatives and other student leaders, and is co-chaired by the Executive Director Students and the RUSU President.

Through this process, four student priority themes for 2025 were confirmed:

- **Student Life & Campus Engagement** to drive student connection, belonging and social cohesion.
- **Student Welfare & Wellbeing** support for students, across dimensions of mental health, legal and financial advice, consent and respectful behaviour, and food security.
- **Student Employability** to support career development, promote participation in work-integrated learning and engagement in co-curricular experiences.
- **Student Representation**, including in relation to student rights advocacy, and providing opportunities for diverse student voices in university decision-making and student media.

In October 2024, these themes were endorsed by the SSAF Steering Committee and guided the planning and delivery of 2025 SSAF-funded services and activities. Details of funded priorities are published annually on the RMIT Student SSAF website.

Beyond the annual poll, ongoing consultation is embedded across RMIT through strategic advisory groups, RUSU partnership meetings, Have Your Say student voice workshops, online feedback channels, and continuous service evaluation.

Compliance

Student-led Organisation

The RMIT University Student Union (RUSU) is a student-run organisation established in 1944. It has operated as an Incorporated Association since October 2021 and is independent of the University. RUSU is governed by 29 democratically elected student representatives and operates under its own constitution and enterprise agreement. RUSU maintains not-for-profit status with robust financial and legal oversight.

RUSU meets the definition of a student-led organisation as defined by section 19-39(3) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

Allocation to Student-Led Organisations and Transition Arrangements

As part of the 2024–25 Budget measure, subsection 19-38 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and the *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* require higher education providers to allocate a minimum of 40 per cent of total SSAF revenue to eligible student-led organisations from 1 January 2025, unless a Department-approved transition arrangement is in place.

RMIT University sought and received approval from the Department of Education for a staged transition arrangement to achieve compliance with the 40 per cent requirement over multiple years.

- On 23 April 2025, the Department of Education approved RMIT’s transition arrangement permitting the allocation of 30 per cent of total SSAF revenue to RUSU in 2025.
- On 22 September 2025, the Department approved a revised transition arrangement providing for an increase to 35 per cent in 2026, with a further increase to 40 per cent by 2027.

This SSAF Allocation Report relates to the 2025 calendar year and is therefore prepared in accordance with the transition arrangement approved on 23 April 2025. In 2025, RMIT allocated \$5.76 million, representing 30 per cent of total SSAF revenue collected, to RUSU. This allocation aligns with the Department-approved transition arrangement and reflects a year-on-year increase of approximately \$1.6 million in funding provided to the student-led organisation.

Governance and Oversight

Throughout 2025, the RMIT SSAF Steering Committee—chaired by the Executive Director Students and comprising representatives from both RUSU and RMIT—met three times to:

- review SSAF allocation and expenditure information;
- monitor delivery against funded student priority themes; and
- oversee alignment of funded activities with the allowable items specified in subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

This governance structure supports transparent decision-making, ensures compliance with legislative requirements, and provides assurance that SSAF revenue is used for approved purposes

RMIT confirms that SSAF allocations in 2025 were made:

- in accordance with Department approved transition arrangements; and
- under appropriate governance and oversight mechanisms consistent with the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and associated Guidelines.

To support transparency, effective planning, and clear reporting, RMIT aligns allowable items with the four student priority themes, as outlined below.

Student priority theme	Allowable item
Student Life & Campus Engagement	Student Clubs - Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students. Campus Experiences - Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider. - Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students. - Supporting an artistic activity by students. - Giving students information to help them in their orientation. - Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students.
Student Welfare & Wellbeing	- Promoting the health or welfare of students. - Providing legal services to students. - Helping students secure accommodation. - Helping students with their financial affairs. - Helping to meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation, and employment.
Student Employability	Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers.
Student Representation	- Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described). - Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described).
RMIT does not allocate SSAF to these allowable items	- Caring for children of students. - Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents. - Supporting debating by students. - Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students. - Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled.

RUSU contributes to the delivery of services against nine (9) allowable items, as shown below.

Student priority theme	Allowable item
Student Life & Campus Engagement	Student Clubs - Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students. Campus Experiences - Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider. - Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students.
Student Welfare & Wellbeing	Promoting the health or welfare of students.
Student Employability	Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers.
Student Representation	- Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described). - Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described). - Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students.

Achievements

Student Life & Campus Engagement

In 2025, RMIT continued to prioritise student voice and leadership in shaping inclusive campus experiences. SSAF-funded activities were co-designed with students to strengthen connection, belonging and social cohesion. The Student Experience Advisory Group (SEAG) played a pivotal role in campus placemaking projects that promoted cultural safety, gender inclusivity, and neuro-friendly environments.

Student clubs are the backbone of RMIT's student-led campus life, providing powerful platforms for connection, leadership and belonging. In 2025, participation and membership reached record highs across RMIT clubs, reflecting strong demand for peer-led experiences. With a regular stream of new clubs forming, students continue to shape a diverse and inclusive community that reflects their interests and identities. Supported by SSAF funding, clubs empower students to lead, collaborate and build meaningful connections, making them one of the most impactful drivers of engagement across the University.

Key highlights in 2025 include:

Welcoming and connecting new students

- More than 35,000+ commencing students participated in orientation programs and activities designed to foster early connection and belonging.
- The Student Welcome Crew supported more than 4,000+ new students, offering peer-led guidance and a friendly introduction to university life.
- The Kirrip Social Connection Program hosted 4,500+ students at inclusive events across the Melbourne, Bundoora and Brunswick campuses, helping students build friendships and community through shared cultural and social experiences.

Empowering Student-led Communities

- RMIT supported 32 sport clubs and 23 creative clubs, providing platforms for students to lead, collaborate, and express themselves.
- In 2025, 6 new student clubs were established including Baseball, Lion Dancing and Soccer, reflecting diverse interests and identities. These new clubs demonstrate how SSAF funding enables students to shape campus life and form connections in ways that are meaningful to them.

Expanding Participation in Sport and Recreation

- More than 1,500 students engaged in RMIT Active competitive sport programs.
- This included 200+ students representing RMIT at the UniSport Australia Nationals and 500+ students participating in Esports competitions, showcasing the breadth of student engagement across traditional and emerging sporting formats.

Activating Campus Spaces Through Creativity and Wellbeing

- Weekly programs reached 11,000+ students, contributing to increased campus activation, wellbeing and social connection.
- Activities included active play, creative long tables, dance, and meditation, transforming campus spaces into vibrant, inclusive environments that support student wellbeing and social cohesion.

Student Welfare and Wellbeing

In response to cost-of-living pressures, RMIT has strategically used SSAF revenue to expand student support services, guided by student co-design in 2024. These initiatives provide integrated support across wellbeing, financial and legal advice, consent and respectful behaviours, and food security.

The 2025 Food Security program delivered initiatives including the Free Campus Grocer pop-up, 'Grab n Go' meals, and peer cooking programs. Delivered in partnership with RUSU, the program enabled over 207,000 meals and combined immediate relief with longer-term strategies to build food literacy, connection, and student wellbeing.

Key highlights in 2025 include:

Counselling, Welfare and Legal Support

- More than 9,000 counselling appointments were delivered, providing students with timely access to mental health support tailored to their individual needs.
- The RMIT Student Welfare Team provided direct support to more than 3,240 students, helping them manage financial stress, housing issues, and other personal challenges through one-on-one guidance and referrals.
- The RMIT Student Legal Service (delivered by Youth Law) supported 725 students with legal tasks and referrals to essential services—ensuring students could navigate challenges with confidence and clarity.

Wellbeing Engagement and Education

- More than 12,000 students participated in wellbeing programs designed to build resilience, foster connection, and promote mental health.
- Activities included: Mental wellbeing workshops; Peer chats and drop-in sessions; Mindfulness and Meditation sessions, The Counselling Armchair Podcast; Wellbeing Week events; and Webinars on distress support and mental health literacy which were co-designed with students to ensure relevance and accessibility, and to create safe spaces for open dialogue and peer support.

Promoting wellbeing and inclusion

- More than 4,500 students participated in peer-led drop-ins and social inclusion activities that promoted mental wellbeing, connection and inclusion, creating safe spaces that encouraged early help-seeking and reduced stigma around accessing support.
- RMIT supported a range of diversity and inclusion celebrations, and awareness activations on associated dates of significance. Some of which included Queers & Answers Student Panel and its annual Pride March on the Melbourne campus, celebrating LGBTIQ+ youth and affirming the university's commitment to inclusion and visibility. These student-led events fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity.

Student Employability

SSAF-funded initiatives under this theme are co-designed with students to ensure they are relevant, inclusive, and impactful. Through leadership development programs, support to access work-integrated learning opportunities, and co-curricular experiences, students are empowered to take ownership of their growth and career readiness. These initiatives reflect the university's ongoing collaboration with students to shape meaningful pathways that enhance employability and prepare them for life after graduation.

Key highlights in 2025 include:

Career and Skills Development

- More than 7,900 students participated in career services and events, accessing tailored guidance to explore career pathways, refine goals, and build confidence in their professional journey.
- More than 52,000 students accessed the Career Connect 24/7 online support, using tools and resources to strengthen their job applications, resumes, and interview preparation.
- More than 3,500 students joined the RMIT Plus Program, a co-curricular initiative focused on building communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through experiential learning and reflection.

Employment Opportunities and Industry Connections

- More than 795 students gained paid employment through Jobs on Campus, developing professional skills in a supportive university environment.
- More than 7,000 students engaged with industry professionals through skills workshops, mentoring partnerships, networking events, and career fairs, helping bridge the gap between study and employment.

Support for Students with a Disability

- RMIT provided targeted career support to more than 200 students with a disability, helping them navigate employment pathways, understand job markets, and build confidence in their career development.

Student Representation

RMIT is committed to enabling inclusive and effective student representation, ensuring diverse student voices inform institutional decision-making and align with SSAF allowable expenditure for student representation and advocacy. In 2025, the Student Partnerships team supported structured participation across governance, advocacy, and co-design activities, with a focus on demonstrable impact on student experience and university strategy.

The Student Experience Advisory Group (SEAG) remained a central mechanism for engagement, comprising 57 student leaders from across each of RMIT's colleges, campuses, and academic levels. Co-chaired by the Executive Director Students and the RUSU President. SEAG convened three times in 2025, operating under defined terms of reference and formal reporting pathways into senior governance. Members also engaged directly with University Council across two formal sessions, contributing to strategic discussions.

Key highlights in 2025 include:

- **Governance & Advocacy:** More than 40 democratically elected student leaders actively contributed to university decision-making via the Student Union, Academic Board, and University Council, alongside key institutional committees including the SSAF Steering Committee and SEAG.
- **Consultation & Co-design:** Consultation and co-design activities engaged more than 2,000 students through *Have Your Say* polls, workshops, and targeted engagement initiatives. Insights were systematically analysed and integrated into planning process, directly informing priorities relating to:
 - Orientation and Campus Experience
 - Student Food Security
 - Community Safety, Respect, and Wellbeing
 - Industry Connections and Employability

SSAF Revenue Summary

	2025 Allocation \$ ¹	2025 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue	\$19,163,535	\$19,163,535
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2024	\$0	\$0
Total SSAF funds available for 2025	\$19,163,535	\$19,163,535
SSAF revenue carried over into 2026	\$0	\$0

¹ Allocation refers to the SSAF funds expected to be received in the reported year (i.e., budgeted SSAF revenue).

SSAF Charge Summary

The student services and amenities fee (SSAF) charged to students must not be above the maximum fee for a calendar year. The maximum SSAF is indexed annually as required by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act). In 2025 the maximum SSAF was **\$365**.

Student Status	2025 SSAF charged \$ ²	Number of students charged in 2025 ³
Full-time ¹ (> 0.75 EFTSL)	<i>charged on a pro-rata basis at the rate of \$3.81 per credit point for each course up to a maximum of \$365</i>	36,143
Part-time ¹ (< 0.75 EFTSL)	charged on a pro-rata basis at the rate of \$3.81 per credit point for each course up to a maximum of \$273.75	17,719
	charged on a pro-rata basis \$0.51 per nominal student contact hour, up to a maximum of \$365	13,915
	Total (excluding Online only students)	67,777

¹ Note: As per Part 2 of the *Higher Education Support (Administration) Guidelines 2022* (Administration Guidelines), students studying on a part-time basis must not be charged more than 75 per cent of the maximum SSAF that a higher education provider determines for students studying on a full-time basis. The term “part-time basis” means a study load of less than 75 per cent of the normal full-time student load for the period to which the fee relates. As per part 7 of the Administration Guidelines, the normal EFTSL value for a full-time student studying over a period of one year is 1.0.

² Note: As per Part 2 of the Administration Guidelines, a higher education provider may choose to determine a different SSAF for categories of persons, including a zero amount.

³ Note: Students are categorised as full-time or part-time students based on the total EFTSL value of the units of study they undertook in 2025. For example, a student undertook a full-time study load in Semester 1 which was equal to 0.5 EFTSL and undertook a part-time study load in Semester 2 which was equal to 0.375 EFTSL. This student would be categorised as a full-time student in 2025 as the total EFTSL they undertook in 2025 was equal to 0.875.

Student Status	2025 SSAF charged \$ ²	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2025 ⁴
Remote learning/Online only	<i>charged on a pro-rata basis at the rate of \$3.81 per credit point for each course up to a maximum of \$365</i>	2,589

⁴ Note: The Department of Education understands that not all higher education providers capture mode of study in their information systems, and many students undertake a mixed mode of study such as face-to-face and remote learning. The data provided above is for students who undertook remote learning for 100% of their units of study.

SSAF Allocation Summary

Key areas of expenditure 2025

Subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (the Act) provides a list of 19 allowable expenditure items which higher education providers may allocate and spend SSAF revenue on. Please note, under subsection 19-38 of the Act, SSAF revenue must not be spent to support a political party or the election of a person as a member of the legislature of the Commonwealth, State or a Territory, or a local government body.

Key Area ¹	2025 Total Allocation \$	2025 Total Actual Spend \$ ²	Are services available online?	Estimated No. of students accessing services ³
Student Clubs (140)	\$1,209,767.53	\$1,209,767.53	Partially	27,319
RMIT Creative clubs (23)				5,783
RMIT Sport clubs & affiliations (32)				21,536
RUSU Social & cultural clubs (22)				
RUSU Spiritual & faith-based clubs (6)				
RUSU Academic & study skills clubs (53)				
RUSU Political clubs (4)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Campus Experience	\$5,955,117.20	\$5,955,117.20	Partially	100,712
Student Welfare & Wellbeing	\$5,152,409.73	\$5,152,409.73	Yes	37,469
Student Employability	\$3,402,791.85	\$3,402,791.85	Yes	71,697
Student Representation	\$2,921,855.69	\$2,921,855.69	Partially	14,000
Student Media	\$438,001.00	\$438,001.00	Yes	650
Total	\$19,163,535	\$19,163,535		251,847

¹The Allowable Items covered under each Key Area are detailed on page 2 and 3 of this report.

²This is the total allocation for RMIT, including RUSU. The 'RUSU only' component is shown on page 9 of this report. ³This is the estimated number of students accessing services delivered across RMIT and RUSU. This number represents a count of student engagements, not a count of unique students.

Organisations, bodies or third-party providers that received SSAF funding in 2025

1. Allocation of SSAF revenue – non-student-led organisations

Organisation Name ¹	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Funding Received from provider \$	% of total SSAF revenue collected by the Provider
Lifeline Direct Limited	14 618 509 818	Wellbeing Services	\$126,000	0.7%
Young People's Legal Rights Centre Incorporated (trading as 'Youth Law')	12 794 935 230	Legal services	\$111,502	0.6%
		Total SSAF provided to non-student-led organisations	\$237,502	1.3%

¹ Note: Only organisations, bodies or third-party providers who receive over \$1,000 in SSAF funding are expected to be disclosed.

2. Allocation of SSAF revenue to student-led organisations – transition arrangement and annual allocation

Organisation Name ²	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	SSAF Funding Received from Provider \$	% of total revenue collected by the provider	If below 40 per cent, is there an agreed transition plan in place	Details of transition plan
RMIT University Student Union Incorporated (operating as 'RUSU')	90 575 269 384	Student Clubs	\$676,514	3.5%	Yes	30% allocation to RUSU in 2025 (approved 23 April 2025) 35% in 2026 and 40% by 2027 (revised approval 22 September 2025).
		Campus Experience	\$1,021,338	5.4%		
		Student Welfare & Wellbeing	\$976,923	5.1%		
		Student Employability	\$186,531	1.0%		
		Student Representation	\$2,460,693	12.8%		
		Student Media	\$438,001	2.2%		
		Total SSAF provided to student-led organisations	\$5,760,000	30%		

² Note: Only organisations, bodies or third-party providers who receive over \$1,000 in SSAF funding are expected to be disclosed.

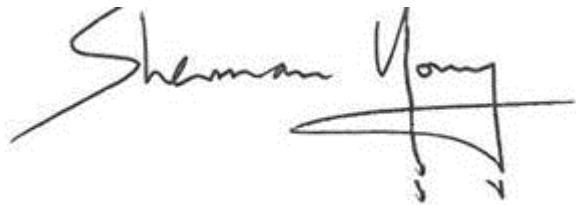
3. Attestation that student led organisations in receipt of a minimum of 40 per cent of SSAF revenue are meeting governance requirements

Organisation Name ¹	Majority student-led	Democratically elected leaders	Independence	Audited accounts	Corporate Governance policies and procedures established and adhered to	If replying no on any measure, is there an agreed transition plan in place?	Details of transition plan
RMIT University Student Union Incorporated (operating as 'RUSU')	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	30% allocation to RUSU in 2025 (approved 23 April 2025) 35% in 2026 and 40% by 2027 (revised approval 22 September 2025).

Declaration by Person of Authority

I, Professor Sherman Young, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education & Vice President of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, declare that the information provided in this *Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Allocation Report* is to the best of my knowledge true, complete, and correct.

I further attest that the information provided in this Report meets the requirements of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and the *Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022* and that, where transition arrangements have either been sought or approved, information is provided on this.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherman Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the last name.

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Signature of Person making Declaration

Professor Sherman Young

Full name of Person making Declaration

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education & Vice President RMIT University

Position of Person making Declaration

Date 16 June 2026