



Student Loan

January to December 2023

The [Student Loan Scheme](#) helps students to pay for course fees (compulsory fees charged by education providers), course-related costs (e.g. books, computer, travel) and living costs.

For this report, a student is defined as a person who received at least one payment under this scheme from [StudyLink](#) in the calendar year, up to the end of the specified reporting month. The data in this report is cumulative calendar year-to-date figures. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and all percentages are computed using randomly rounded numbers, and then rounded to one decimal point. Total percentages may not add up to exactly 100 percent because of rounding effects. In line with the Ministry of Social Development’s confidentiality policy, all information in this document has been randomly rounded to base three. The last three years of data and annual comparisons are presented in summary tables. Earlier figures are included in the Student Allowance data file.

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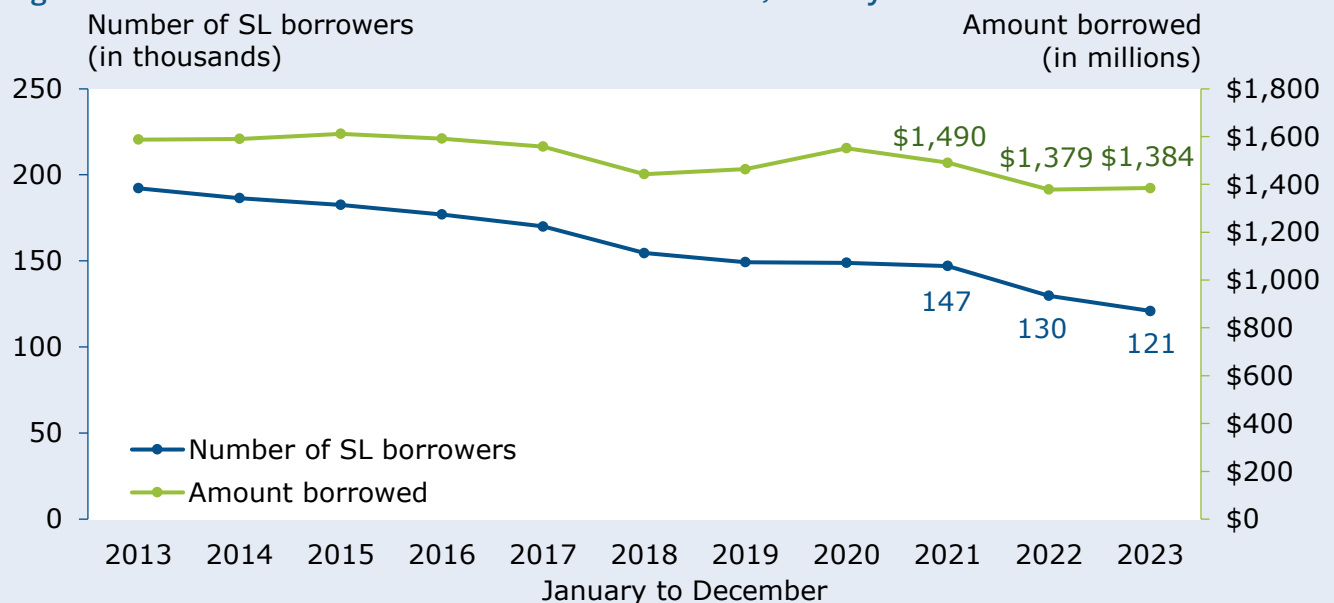
Number of borrowers and amount paid

Fewer students drew down a student loan in 2023 than in 2022.

In 2023, 120,918 students borrowed under the Student Loan (SL) Scheme. This was 8,793 fewer students (down 6.8 percent) when compared with 2022.

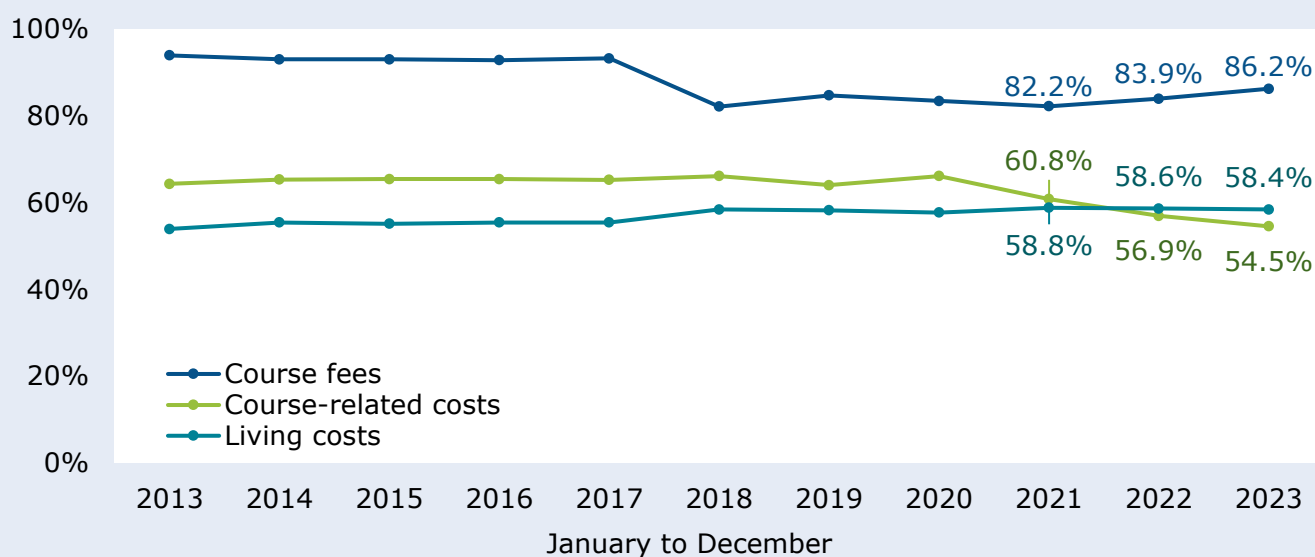
The total amount borrowed for course fees, course-related costs, and living costs was \$1.384 billion, an increase of 0.4 percent when compared with 2022.

Figure 1.1: Number of SL borrowers and amount borrowed, January to December 2013–2023



In 2023, 86.2 percent of SL borrowers borrowed to pay for course fees.

Figure 1.2: Proportion of SL borrowers by loan component, January to December 2013–2023



Note: Course-related costs entitlement was temporarily increased in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 tertiary support package.

Below is a summary table with year-on-year comparisons over the previous three years.

Table 1.1: Number of SL borrowers, amount borrowed, and average amount borrowed, by loan component

Loan component	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
Course fees	120,873	108,774	104,181	-10.0%	-4.2%
Course-related costs	89,358	73,749	65,871	-17.5%	-10.7%
Living costs	86,466	76,044	70,671	-12.1%	-7.1%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	146,994	129,711	120,918	-11.8%	-6.8%
Amount borrowed for course fees	\$874,331,603	\$802,501,741	\$795,737,763	-8.2%	-0.8%
Amount borrowed for course-related costs	\$87,935,086	\$72,021,979	\$64,598,147	-18.1%	-10.3%
Amount borrowed for living costs	\$528,015,445	\$504,397,394	\$524,051,278	-4.5%	3.9%
Total amount borrowed	\$1,387,381,387	\$1,287,571,157	\$1,305,091,862	-7.2%	1.4%
Average course fees	\$7,233	\$7,378	\$7,638	2.0%	3.5%
Average course-related costs	\$984	\$977	\$981	-0.7%	0.4%
Average living costs	\$6,107	\$6,633	\$7,415	8.6%	11.8%

Note 1: Note: Establishment fees and repayments/refunds are not included in the above summary table but are available in the downloadable Excel file.

Note 2: From 1 April 2022, the student loan living cost maxima increased by \$25 per week (in addition to the annual inflation adjustment), which will have had an impact on the amounts borrowed in the January to December 2023 period.



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Education providers

Across all types of education providers, there were fewer SL borrowers in 2023 than there were in 2022.

Across all types of education providers, there were fewer SL borrowers enrolled in 2023 than there were in 2022. The largest reductions in SL borrowers were in University and Te Pūkenga (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, formerly Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology).

In 2023, the number of students who drew down SL for study at only Te Pūkenga was 23,298. This was 1,593 fewer students (down 6.4 percent) when compared to 2022 (24,891).

There were 84,207 students who drew down SL for study at University only. This was a decrease of 6,318 students (down 7.0 percent) when compared with 2022 (90,525).

Below is a summary table with year-on-year comparisons over the previous three years.

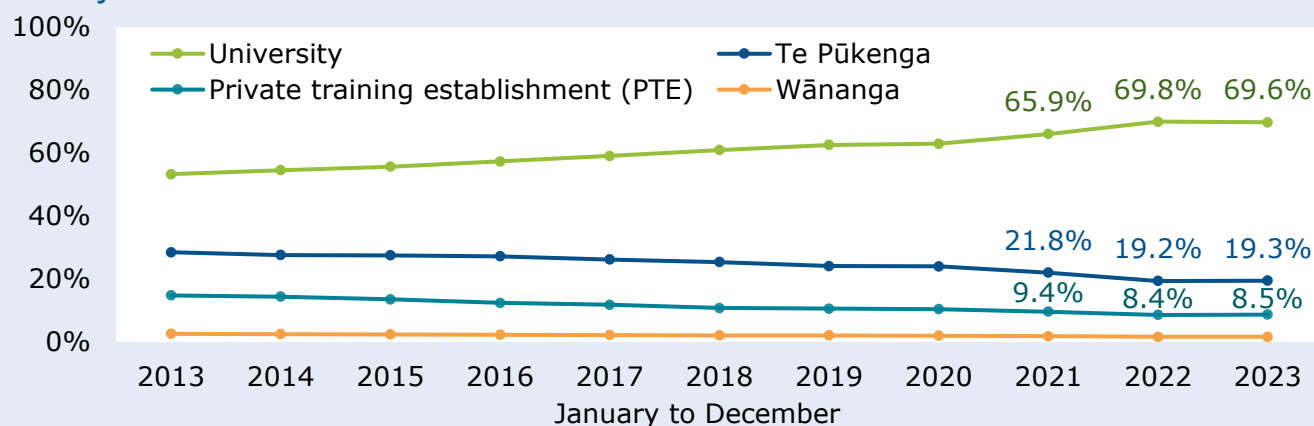
Table 2.1: Number of SL borrowers by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	96,801	90,525	84,207	-6.5%	-7.0%
Te Pūkenga	32,028	24,891	23,298	-22.3%	-6.4%
Private training establishment (PTE)	13,755	10,956	10,299	-20.3%	-6.0%
Wānanga	2,406	1,794	1,710	-25.4%	-4.7%
Multiple and other providers	2,004	1,545	1,407	-22.9%	-8.9%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	146,994	129,711	120,918	-11.8%	-6.8%

Note: "Multiple and other providers" includes combinations of two or more provider types (e.g. University and Te Pūkenga, PTE and University) that some students attended during the specified reporting period.

Students attending only University made up 69.6 percent of SL recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 19.3 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SL borrowers by type of education provider, January to December 2013-2023



Note: To avoid double counting, the figure above excludes a small number of students attending more than one provider type.

Table 2.2: Amount borrowed for course fees by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	\$639,376,568	\$606,582,313	\$592,139,549	-5.1%	-2.4%
Te Pūkenga	\$133,818,115	\$111,825,615	\$116,929,106	-16.4%	4.6%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$80,179,867	\$66,454,939	\$69,927,946	-17.1%	5.2%
Wānanga	\$4,938,941	\$4,478,959	\$4,100,341	-9.3%	-8.5%
Multiple and other providers	\$16,018,112	\$13,159,915	\$12,640,820	-17.8%	-3.9%
Total amount borrowed for course fees	\$874,331,603	\$802,501,741	\$795,737,763	-8.2%	-0.8%

Note: “Multiple and other providers” includes combinations of two or more provider types (e.g. University and Te Pūkenga, PTE and University) that some students attended during the specified reporting period.

3

Demographics of Student Loan borrowers

The following tables provide a summary profile of SL borrowers from January to December, for the previous three years. Detailed data series are available in the SL data file.

Table 3.1: SL borrowers by age group

Age group	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
16-17 years	315	222	216	-29.5%	-2.7%
18-24 years	94,365	84,423	78,438	-10.5%	-7.1%
25-34 years	33,126	28,758	26,049	-13.2%	-9.4%
35-44 years	12,369	10,704	10,461	-13.5%	-2.3%
45-54 years	5,643	4,554	4,581	-19.3%	0.6%
55 years and older	1,179	1,050	1,176	-10.9%	12.0%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	146,994	129,711	120,918	-11.8%	-6.8%

Note 1: Age is calculated as at the end of the period.

Note 2: A breakdown of “55 and older” is available in the Student Loan data file.



Table 3.2: SL borrowers by gender

Gender	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Female	92,982	82,548	75,855	-11.2%	-8.1%
Male	53,307	46,200	43,866	-13.3%	-5.1%
Gender Diverse	705	966	1,197	37.0%	23.9%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	146,994	129,711	120,918	-11.8%	-6.8%

Table 3.3: SL borrowers by residential status

Residential status	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
Citizen by birth	109,593	96,606	89,877	-11.9%	-7.0%
Citizen	22,830	20,352	19,410	-10.9%	-4.6%
Permanent resident	14,169	12,402	11,310	-12.5%	-8.8%
Other	408	348	324	-14.7%	-6.9%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	146,994	129,711	120,918	-11.8%	-6.8%

Note: “Other” includes students who have refugee status, and those classified as protected person/s. Details of “Other” are included in the downloadable data file.

It is not mandatory for students to disclose their ethnicity and students may report more than one ethnicity.

The numbers presented in this table are total responses – students who reported more than one ethnic group were counted in each group they identified with. The total number of responses therefore does not add up to the total number of SL borrowers.

Table 3.4: SL responses by ethnic group

Ethnic group (total response)	January to December			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
European	93,027	84,309	79,062	-9.4%	-6.2%
Māori	26,553	22,497	21,066	-15.3%	-6.4%
Pacific Peoples	14,928	12,897	11,994	-13.6%	-7.0%
Asian	24,030	22,512	22,368	-6.3%	-0.6%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	4,527	4,128	3,948	-8.8%	-4.4%
Other	690	546	480	-20.9%	-12.1%
Total borrowers with recorded ethnicity	140,670	125,739	118,665	-10.6%	-5.6%
Not specified	6,324	3,972	2,256	-37.2%	-43.2%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	146,994	129,711	120,918	-11.8%	-6.8%

Note: A detailed breakdown of ethnic groups is included in the Student Loan data file.