Student Loan

January to June 2025

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 numbers of people in this document have 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 Loan data file.

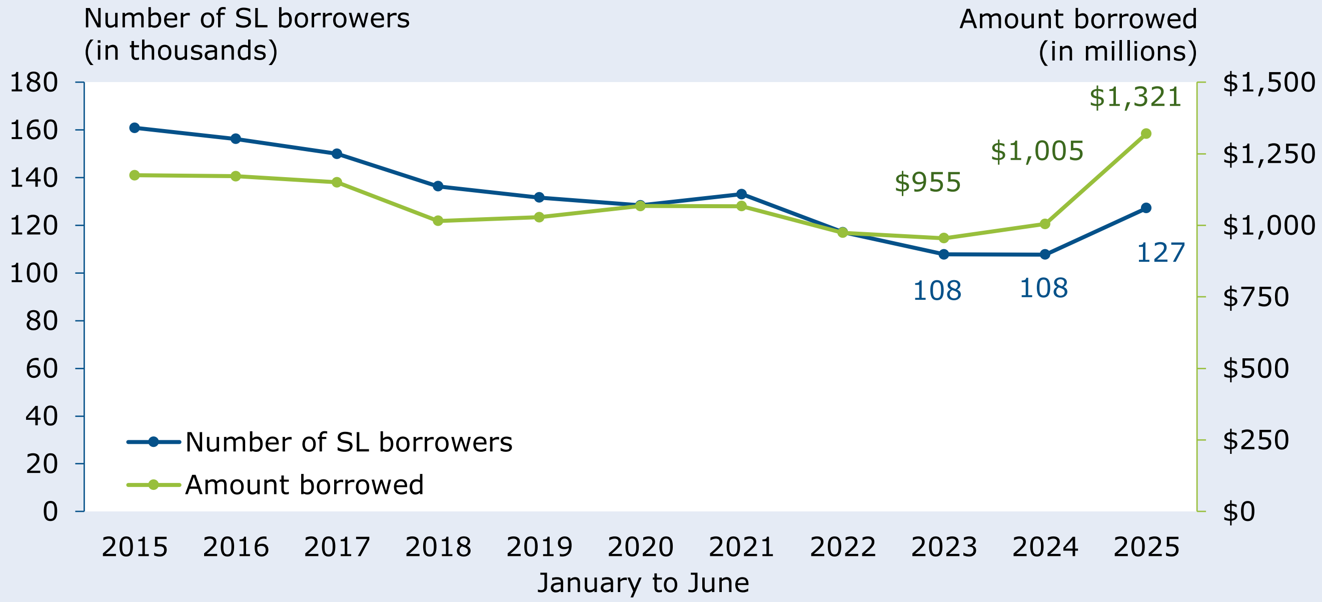
1 Number of borrowers and amount paid

More students drew down a student loan from January to June 2025 than in the same period in 2024.

From January to June 2025, 127,260 students borrowed under the Student Loan (SL) Scheme. This was 19,515 more students (up 18.1 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024.

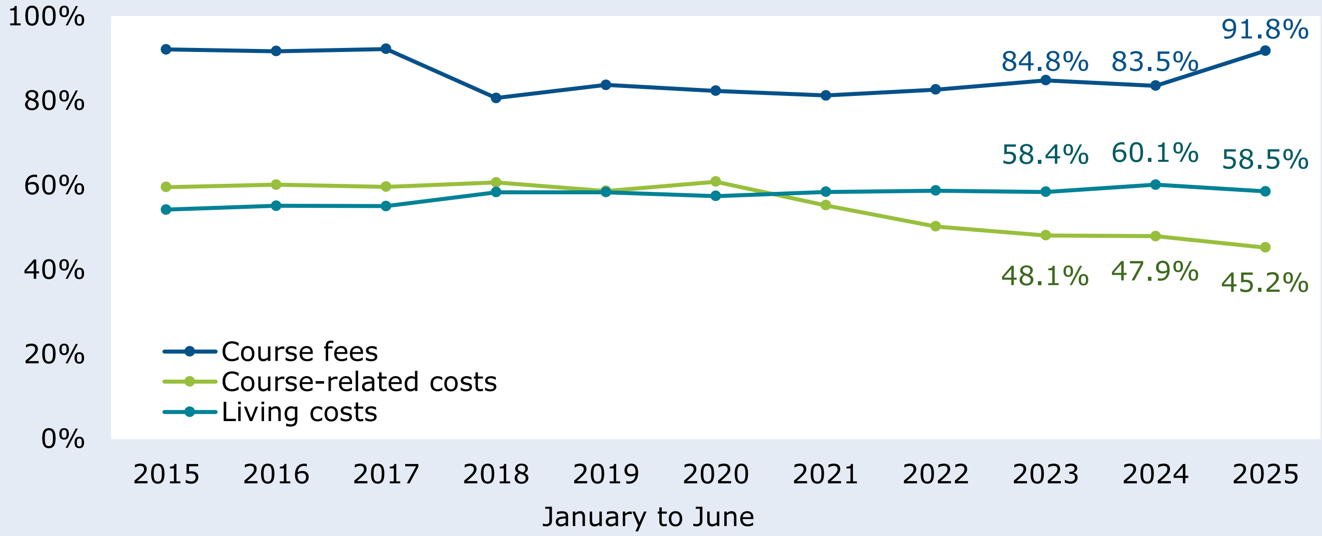
From January to June 2025, the total amount borrowed for course fees, course-related costs, and living costs was $1,320.5 million. This was an increase of 31.5 percent when compared with the same period in 2024.

Figure 1.1: Number of SL borrowers and amount borrowed, January to June 2015–2025



From January to June 2025, 91.8 percent of SL borrowers borrowed to pay for course fees.

Figure 1.2: Proportion of SL borrowers by loan component, January to June 2015–2025



Note: From April 2020, course-related costs entitlement was increased for study 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 recipients, amount borrowed, and average amount borrowed, by loan component

Loan component	January to June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
Course fees	91,464	89,937	116,811	-1.7%	29.9%
Course-related costs	51,882	51,591	57,501	-0.6%	11.5%
Living costs	62,901	64,707	74,451	2.9%	15.1%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	**107,799**	**107,745**	**127,260**	**-0.1%**	**18.1%**
Amount borrowed for course fees	$661,872,424	$685,830,727	$954,774,235	3.6%	39.2%
Amount borrowed for course-related costs	$48,000,993	$48,029,434	$53,181,507	0.1%	10.7%
Amount borrowed for living costs	$244,861,518	$270,691,190	$312,591,223	10.5%	15.5%
Total amount borrowed	**$954,734,935**	**$1,004,551,350**	**$1,320,546,965**	**5.2%**	**31.5%**
Average course fees	$7,236	$7,626	$8,174	5.4%	7.2%
Average course-related costs	$925	$931	$925	0.6%	-0.6%
Average living costs	$3,893	$4,183	$4,199	7.4%	0.4%

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

Note 2: The overall increases in borrowers and borrowing for compulsory fees reflects the fact that the first-year Fees Free scheme was replaced with a final-year Fees Free scheme from 1 January 2025, meaning that students are now borrowing for fees in their first year of study. Under the final-year Fees Free scheme, fees for students' final years will be refunded on application following completion of their qualification.

2 Education providers

From January to June 2025, there were 89,952 students who drew down SL for study at University only. This was an increase of 11,967 students (up 15.3 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (77,985).

The number of students who drew down SL for study at only Te Pūkenga was 23,859. This was 4,650 more students (up 24.2 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (19,209).

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

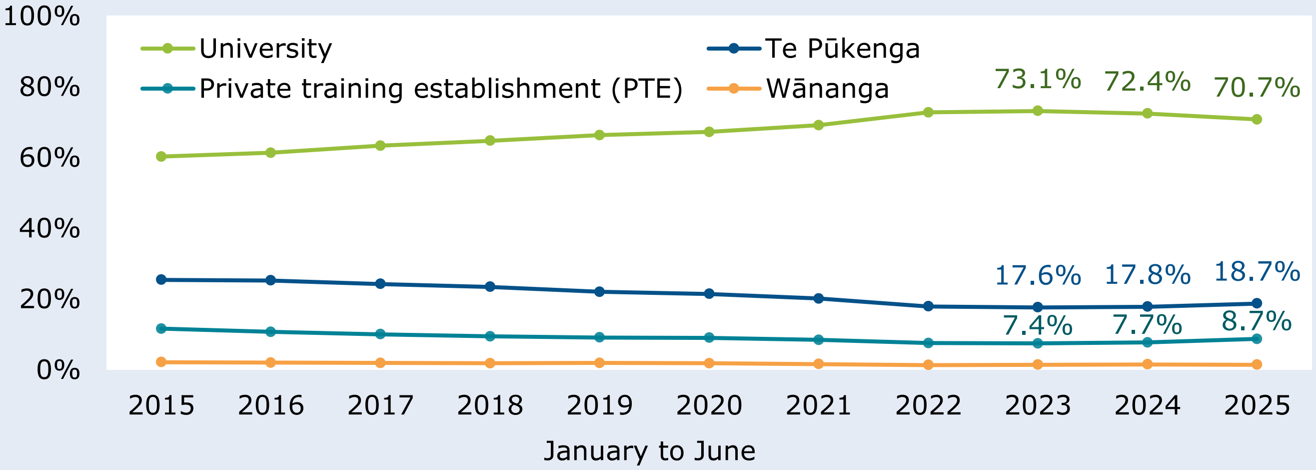
Table 2.1: Number of SL borrowers by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
University	78,789	77,985	89,952	-1.0%	15.3%
Te Pūkenga	18,960	19,209	23,859	1.3%	24.2%
Private training establishment (PTE)	7,956	8,319	11,082	4.6%	33.2%
Wānanga	1,500	1,626	1,779	8.4%	9.4%
Multiple and other providers	597	609	588	2.0%	-3.4%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	**107,799**	**107,745**	**127,260**	**-0.1%**	**18.1%**

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

Students attending only University made up 70.7 percent of SL recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 18.7 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SL borrowers by type of education provider, January to June 2015–2025



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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
University	$507,626,533	$524,919,167	$718,979,527	3.4%	37.0%
Te Pūkenga	$95,229,184	$97,065,110	$142,157,692	1.9%	46.5%
Private training establishment (PTE)	$50,790,959	$55,085,633	$83,690,277	8.5%	51.9%
Wānanga	$3,619,003	$4,242,269	$5,271,277	17.2%	24.3%
Multiple and other providers	$4,606,745	$4,518,548	$4,675,461	-1.9%	3.5%
Total amount borrowed for course fees	**$661,872,424**	**$685,830,727**	**$954,774,235**	**3.6%**	**39.2%**

Note: "Multiple and other providers" includes combinations of providers (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 June, 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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
16–17 years	285	426	1,482	49.5%	247.9%
18–24 years	74,577	74,850	91,425	0.4%	22.1%
25–34 years	20,289	19,569	20,556	-3.5%	5.0%
35–44 years	8,262	8,403	8,928	1.7%	6.2%
45–54 years	3,555	3,669	3,963	3.2%	8.0%
55 years and older	831	825	903	-0.7%	9.5%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	**107,799**	**107,745**	**127,260**	**-0.1%**	**18.1%**

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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
Female	67,644	66,813	77,235	-1.2%	15.6%
Male	39,138	39,624	48,348	1.2%	22.0%
Gender Diverse	1,014	1,311	1,680	29.3%	28.1%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	**107,799**	**107,745**	**127,260**	**-0.1%**	**18.1%**

Table 3.3: SL borrowers by residental status

Residential status	January to June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
Citizen by birth	80,454	80,817	95,772	0.5%	18.5%
Citizen	17,295	17,100	19,965	-1.1%	16.8%
Permanent resident	9,789	9,510	11,028	-2.9%	16.0%
Other	264	321	495	21.6%	54.2%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	**107,799**	**107,745**	**127,260**	**-0.1%**	**18.1%**

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 June			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
European	71,526	71,085	82,275	-0.6%	15.7%
Māori	18,006	18,954	22,677	5.3%	19.6%
Pacific Peoples	10,110	10,410	13,347	3.0%	28.2%
Asian	19,950	20,850	25,929	4.5%	24.4%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	3,456	3,591	4,509	3.9%	25.6%
Other	429	408	438	-4.9%	7.4%
Total borrowers with recorded ethnicity	**105,588**	**106,395**	**125,946**	**0.8%**	**18.4%**
Not specified	2,214	1,347	1,314	-39.2%	-2.4%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	**107,799**	**107,745**	**127,260**	**-0.1%**	**18.1%**

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