

What is the census date?

Census dates for each unit of study are predetermined, and the student will not incur VET Student Loan liability until **AFTER** each census date. SWTAFE census dates are specific, as shown in the information table below. The census date of a unit of study (which forms part of an eligible course of study) is the last day a student can submit their request for VET Student Loan assistance through the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) eCAF Portal.

Students who have elected not to access a VET Student Loan will be required to pay fees in full by this date. If you have not submitted a completed Request for a VET Student Loan on or before the census date, you WILL NOT be entitled to a VET Student Loan for that unit and will therefore be required to pay the fee. Students will be advised of the census dates that apply to them at the time of enrolment.

The Census Date is the last day you can:

- 1- Complete the eCAF application to access a VET Student Loan (VETSL)
- 2- Withdraw your enrolment **without** incurring the cost or debt for your course

NB: the census date can vary between individual courses

Every part of a course (unit or subject) has its own census date, so a student will incur their debt as they progress through the course, not the entire course cost at the beginning.

The following census dates apply to all units of study on SWTAFE's 2026 VET Student Loan Course Schedules.

Study Period	Census Dates (Last withdrawal date)	Last Enrolment Dates	Teaching End Dates
Full Year A	2 April 2026	19 March 2026	18 Dec 2026
Full Year B	12 June 2026	29 May 2026	18 Dec 2026
Full Year C	14 Aug 2026	31 July 2026	18 Dec 2026
Sem 1A	6 March 2026	20 Feb 2026	18 Dec 2026
Sem 1B	10 April 2026	27 March 2026	18 Dec 2026
Sem 1C	8 May 2026	24 April 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Term 2A	8 May 2026	24 April 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Term 2B	29 May 2026	11 May 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Term 2C	3 July 2026	19 June 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Sem 2A	14 Aug 2026	31 July 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Sem 2B	18 Sept 2026	4 Sept 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Sem 2C	16 Oct 2026	2 Oct 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Term 4A	23 Oct 2026	9 Oct 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Term 4B	6 Nov 2026	23 Oct 2026	18 Dec 2026
Comm Term 4C	18 Dec 2026	4 Dec 2026	18 Dec 2026
VSL Cross Years A	30 Oct 2026	16 Oct 2026	20 Dec 2027
VSL Cross Years B	12 Feb 2027	31 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027
VSL Cross Years C	28 May 2027	31 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027

Is there anything else I will have to do?

You will be required to demonstrate that you are progressing throughout your course.

You will receive emails from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) with instructions to log in online and acknowledge that you accept the loan you will receive for the course.

What happens if I withdraw on or before the census date?

If you correctly withdraw from any unit on or before the census date, you will not incur a debt for that part of your course. If you have already made an upfront payment of your tuition fees, you will receive a refund from South West TAFE.

For further information, please refer to

- *PPP151 Student Withdrawal and Fee Refund Guidelines* and
- *PPP153 VET Student Loan Review Guidelines*

What happens if I withdraw after the census date?

If you fail the unit or withdraw incorrectly after the census date, you will incur a FEE HELP debt to the Australian Government.

If, after the census date, special circumstances occur and you are unable to continue your studies, you can apply to have your VET Student Loan debt removed for that unit(s).

Time limits apply for you to have your FEE- HELP balance re-credited due to special circumstances. Please refer to *PPP153 VET Student Loan Review Guidelines* for further information.

For more information on VET Student Loans

Refer to your VET Student Loan Information booklet or the study assist website at

<https://www.dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans>

OR

the VET Student Loans Student Enquiry Line on 1800 020 108

To Check your eligibility requirements for VET Student Loans, visit [VET Student Loan Eligibility tool](#).