

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

2024 Allocation Report

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 and Achievements

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 2024 SSAF funding allocation, RMIT conducted a comprehensive consultation process, including the *SSAF Student Poll*, 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, other student leaders, and is co-chaired by the Executive Director Students and the RUSU President.

Through this process, four student priority themes were confirmed for 2024:

- **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.

These themes were endorsed by the SSAF Steering Committee and guided the planning and delivery of 2024 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, student-staff project roles, online feedback channels, and continuous service evaluation.

Compliance

As part of the 2024-25 Budget measure, higher education providers are required to allocate a minimum of 40 per cent of SSAF revenue to student-led organisations, effective from January 2025.

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 student-led organisation as defined by Section 19-39(3) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

SSAF Allocation

In 2024, RUSU received an SSAF allocation of \$4.2 million, representing 25 per cent of total SSAF income collected. This reflects a year-on-year increase of \$0.7 million.

Following the implementation of the new minimum allocation requirement from January 2025, RUSU’s SSAF allocation increased to \$5.6 million, representing 30 per cent of total SSAF income. This allocation aligns with the 2025 SSAF Transition Plan approved by the Department of Education and reflects a year-on-year increase of \$1.4 million.

Governance and Oversight

Throughout 2024, the RMIT SSAF Steering Committee—chaired by the Executive Director of Students and comprising representatives from both RUSU and RMIT—met quarterly to review expenditure. These meetings confirmed that funds were used for activities consistent with the allowable items specified in subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

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

Student priority themes ¹	Allowable item
Student Life & Campus Engagement	<p>Student Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students. <p>Campus Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
Student Welfare & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promoting the health or welfare of students.Providing legal services to students.Helping students secure accommodation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping students with their financial affairs. Helping to meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation, and employment.
Student Employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers.
Student Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
RMIT does not allocate SSAF to these allowable items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 themes¹	Allowable item
Student Life & Campus Engagement	<p>Student Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students. <p>Campus Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider. Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students. Giving students information to help them in their orientation.
Student Welfare & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the health or welfare of students.
Student Employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers.
Student Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

¹ The RMIT SSAF 'student priority themes' are shown as 'key areas' in the allocation and expenditure shown on pages 8 and 9 of this report.

Achievements

Student Life & Campus Engagement

RMIT continued to prioritise student voice and leadership in shaping vibrant, inclusive campus experiences in 2024. SSAF-funded activities under this theme are designed in close collaboration with students to foster 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.

A standout initiative in 2024 was **Metropolis – Art for Social Change**, co-created with students and RUSU, which amplified the lived experience of over 200 students with disability. This immersive installation transformed a Melbourne campus space into a canvas for storytelling, identity and inclusion. Through such initiatives, students are empowered to shape the environments they learn in, ensuring RMIT campuses reflect the diversity and aspirations of the student community.

Key highlights in 2024 include:

Welcoming and connecting new students

- Over **18,750 commencing students** participated in orientation programs and activities designed to foster early connection and belonging.
- The Student Welcome Crew supported more than **3,900 new students**, offering peer-led guidance and a friendly introduction to university life.
- The Kirrip Social Connection Program hosted **128 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 **34 sport clubs** and **18 creative clubs**, providing platforms for students to lead, collaborate, and express themselves.
- In 2024, **12 new student clubs** were established, reflecting diverse interests and identities-from Motorsport and Weightlifting to Visible Ink, Battlebots, and the Arkknights Fan Association. 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 **1,600 students** engaged in RMIT Active competitive sport programs.
- This included **200+ students** representing RMIT at UniSport Nationals and **930+ 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 student life programs reached **7,000+ students** promoting health, creativity and 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 rising cost-of-living pressures, RMIT has strategically used SSAF revenue to expand support services that directly address the financial and wellbeing challenges faced by students. Guided by student feedback collected in 2023, these initiatives have been shaped to meet real and evolving needs. SSAF-funded programs provide holistic support across mental health, legal and financial advice, consent and respectful behaviour, and food security.

A key example is the **Food Security Program**, launched in 2024 and co-designed with students, which combines immediate food relief with long-term strategies focussed on food literacy, social connection, and sustainability. This initiative empowers students to co-create solutions that reduce financial stress and support their wellbeing and academic success.

Key highlights in 2024 include:

Counselling, Welfare and Legal Support

- Over **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 **4,500 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 YouthLaw) supported **990+ students** with legal tasks and referrals to essential services—ensuring students could navigate challenges with confidence and clarity.

Wellbeing Engagement and Education

- More than **10,000 students** participated in wellbeing programs designed to build resilience, foster connection, and promote mental health.
- Activities included: Mental wellbeing workshops; Peer chats and Kirrip drop-in 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

- RMIT embedded the **6 Ways of Wellbeing** model across student services and programs, promoting a holistic approach to mental health and wellbeing. The six pillars—Being Balanced, Grounded, Curious, Active, Connected, and Thoughtful—guided the design of activities and resources, helping students build sustainable habits and reduce the risk of mental health challenges.
- RMIT hosted its **first Pride March** on the Melbourne campus, celebrating LGBTQIA+ youth and affirming the university's commitment to inclusion and visibility. This student-led event fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity and marked a milestone in campus culture transformation.

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 2024 include:

Career and Skills Development

- Over **19,700 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 **33,700 students** accessed the Career Connect 24/7 online support, using tools and resources to strengthen their job applications, resumes, and interview preparation.
- Over **1,000 students** completed 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

- **587 students** gained valuable work experience through Jobs on Campus, developing professional skills in a supportive university environment.
- More than **7,400 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 International Students

- RMIT provided targeted career support to over **13,100 international students**, helping them navigate employment pathways, understand local job markets, and build confidence in their career development.

Student Representation

RMIT is committed to fostering inclusive student representation by supporting platforms where diverse voices can be heard and influence university decision-making. SSAF-funded initiatives in 2024 enabled students to actively participate in governance, advocate for student rights, and contribute to student-led media. For information on **Student Representation** activities, as well as SSAF-funded key activities and services delivered by RUSU in 2024, please see [RUSU Infographic Achievements 2024 SSAF](#)

SSAF Revenue Summary

	2024 Allocation \$ ¹	2024 Actual \$
SSAF Revenue	\$17,100,552	\$17,100,552
SSAF revenue carried forward from 2023	\$0	\$0
Total SSAF funds available for 2024	\$17,100,552	\$17,100,552
SSAF revenue carried over into 2025	\$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) must not exceed the annual maximum set under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, which is indexed each year. In 2024, the maximum SSAF was \$351.

Student Status	2024 SSAF charged \$ ²	Number of students charged in 2024 ³
Full-time ¹ (> 0.75 EFTSL)	charged on a pro-rata basis at the rate of \$3.66 per credit point for each course up to a maximum of \$351	32,499
Part-time ¹ (< 0.75 EFTSL)	charged on a pro-rata basis at the rate of \$3.66 per credit point for each course up to a maximum of \$263	17,972
Vocational Education	charged on a pro-rata basis \$0.49 per nominal student contact hour, up to a maximum of \$351	13,034
		63,505

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 particular 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 2024. 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 2024 as the total EFTSL they undertook in 2024 was equal to 0.875.

Student Status	2024 SSAF charged \$ ⁴	Approx. number of SSAF students remote learning 2024 ⁴
Remote learning/Online only	charged on a pro-rata basis at the rate of \$3.66 point for each course up to a maximum of \$351	2,936

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 2024

Subsection 19-38(4) of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* outlines 19 categories of allowable expenditure for SSAF revenue by higher education providers.

Importantly, under this subsection, SSAF revenue **must not** be used to support a political party or the election of any individual to the Commonwealth, State, Territory, or local government.

Key Area ¹	2024 Total Allocation \$ ²	2024 Total Actual Spend \$	Are services available online?	Estimated No. of students accessing services ³
Student Clubs	\$762,268	\$762,268	Partially	18,305
RMIT Creative clubs (18)				5,940
RMIT Sport clubs & affiliations (34)				12,365
RUSU Social & cultural clubs (29)				
RUSU Spiritual & faith-based clubs (6)				
RUSU Academic & study skills clubs (50)				
RUSU Political clubs (4)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Campus Experience	\$4,690,104	\$4,690,104	Partially	139,505
Student Welfare & Wellbeing	\$4,696,606	\$4,696,606	Yes	32,630
Student Employability	\$4,189,839	\$4,189,839	Yes	67,702
Student Representation	\$2,225,085	\$2,225,085	Yes	19,279
Total	\$17,100,552	\$17,100,552		274,651

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

² This is the total allocation for RMIT, including RUSU. The 'RUSU only' component is shown on page 9 of this report.

³ This 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 2024

Allocation of SSAF revenue – non-student-led organisations

Organisation Name ¹	Australian Business Number (ABN)	Supported Key Area	Total SSAF Received from provider \$	% of total SSAF revenue collected by the Provider
LifeLine Direct Limited	14 618 509 818	Wellbeing services	\$120,000	0.7%
Young People's Legal Rights Centre Incorporated (trading as 'YouthLaw')	12 794 935 230	Legal services	\$115,804	0.7%
Student Youth Network Incorporated (operating as 'SYN Media')	94 478 397 512	Student media	\$20,000	0.1%
Total SSAF provided to non-student led organisation			\$255,804	1.5%

Allocation of SSAF revenue to student-led organisations – evidence of meeting requirement of 40 per cent

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 an agreed transition plan in place	Details of transition plan
RMIT University Student Union Incorporated (operating as 'RUSU')	90 575 269 384	Student Clubs	\$438,222	3%	Yes	Transition Plan approved on 29 April 2025
		Campus Experience	\$874,728	5%		
		Student Welfare & Wellbeing	\$499,148	3%		
		Student Employability	\$497,362	3%		
		Student Representation	\$1,544,831	9%		
		Student Media	\$348,690	2%		
Total SSAF provided to student-led organisation			\$4,202,981	25%		

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

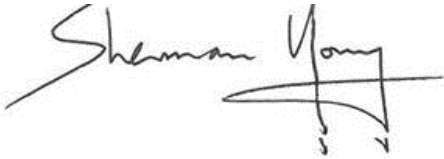
Attestation that student led organisations in receipt of a minimum of 40 per cent of SSAF revenue are meeting governance requirements

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	Approved 29 April 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.



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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 16/06/2025