

NOTIFY ME

Inland Revenue's student loan update

November 2016 • IR229

Are you working while studying full time?

If you're a full-time student in New Zealand and working while you study, you may be able to apply for a repayment deduction exemption.



A repayment deduction exemption means you don't have to use a student loan repayment code and you won't have student loan repayments deducted from your pay.

To qualify you need to:

- be a full-time student, and
- be a New Zealand-based borrower, and
- expect to earn less than \$19,084 from all sources (including student allowance) during the tax year (1 April to 31 March).

This exemption applies for up to one tax year at a time. You can reapply the following tax year if you continue to meet the criteria.

If granted a repayment deduction exemption, you need to:

- make sure your tax code does not include "SL" for example, if your tax code is "M SL" it will need to change to "M"
- let us know if your circumstances change, as your repayment deduction exemption may no longer apply.

Note: If you only have one job and you don't expect to earn over \$19,084 during the tax year, you don't need to apply for the repayment deduction exemption. Your employer won't make student loan deductions when you earn under this amount.

You can apply for a repayment deduction exemption through your myIR account.

To find out more about the repayment deduction exemption go to www.ird.govt.nz (search keywords: repayment deduction exemption).

One student loan statement a year



We're reducing the number of student loan statements we send to you.

As all your account information is available online, we will send you just one statement a year. You will receive this in May.

This change doesn't apply if you:

- still get loan payments from Studylink, or
- have overdue payments.



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

Welcome to Notify Me

In this issue:

- Are you working while studying full time?
- One student loan statement a year
- Australian-based borrowers: Update
- Like us on Facebook
- Make a payment from overseas
- Check your student loan balance online with myIR.

If you have any suggestions for topics you'd like covered in this newsletter, email us at StudentLoanNotifyMe@ird.govt.nz



REMINDERS

15 January 2017: Second 2017 interim payment is due for New Zealand-based borrowers whose previous year-end student loan repayment obligation was \$1,000 or more.

7 February 2017: 2016 end of year student loan repayment obligation is due for New Zealand-based borrowers (if you don't have a tax agent with a valid extension of time).

31 March 2017: Second and final 2017 repayment is due for overseas-based borrowers (unless you're on a repayment holiday).

Note: If a due date falls on a weekend, public holiday or provincial anniversary day, we can receive your return or payment on the next working day without a penalty being applied.

Australian-based borrowers: Update

Are you going to Australia for 6 months or more?

Do you currently live there?

We're now exchanging information with the Australian Taxation Office so it's a good time to check we have your correct contact details.

Here's a checklist to help keep track of your loan:

- Register for myIR Secure Online Services. With a myIR account you can update personal details, check your loan balance and more.
- Like us on Facebook to get the latest news and information about student loans.
- Get on top of overdue payments. Call us from Australia on 1800 559 653 or New Zealand on 0800 377 778.

For more information on managing your student loan while you're overseas, go to www.ird.govt.nz/studentloans/overseas/managing

Like us on Facebook

If you're thinking about going overseas or want the latest tips and information about student loans - like us on Facebook.

The Student Loans NZ Facebook page is all about helping you. We'll keep you informed and give you a place to ask questions you may not want to call us about, such as:

- What changes when I go overseas?
- What do I need to pay when I start working?
- When are my payments due?

Like us today to keep up-to-date on everything student loans at www.facebook.com (search keywords: Student Loans NZ).



Make a payment from overseas



If you're living overseas, remember you must meet two instalment dates each year (30 September and 31 March).

There are a number of ways you can make a payment.

Money transfer services

You can use OrbitRemit, Western Union Business Solutions, HiFX or NZForex.

Credit and debit card payments

You can make a credit and debit card payment through our website using Mastercard or Visa. We waive the credit card convenience fee for student loan payments made from overseas.

PayWay for Australian-based borrowers

PayWay direct debit allows you to make regular repayments from your Australian bank account in Australian dollars toward your student loan. We will cover the currency conversion cost.

We accept payments all year round, so if a lump-sum repayment is difficult to manage, you can choose to pay in instalments. This helps spread the cost throughout the year.

For more information on managing your student loan while you're overseas, go to: www.ird.govt.nz/studentloans/overseas/managing

Check your student loan balance online with myIR

You can check your student loan balance online with a myIR account. Our secure online service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That means if you're an overseas-based borrower you don't need to worry about time zones.

myIR makes managing your student loan quick and easy. You can use it to:

- check your loan balance and recent transactions
- apply for a repayment holiday
- send us enquiries by secure mail
- update personal details, and more.

Log in or register for myIR at www.ird.govt.nz/myir

