



Student Allowance

January to March 2022

The [Student Allowance Scheme](#) provides financial assistance for full-time students who are enrolled in a recognised course of study or programme, at an approved education provider. It is paid weekly to help students with their living expenses.

For this report, a student is defined as a person who received at least one payment from [StudyLink](#) in the calendar year, up to the end of the specified reporting month. The data in this report are cumulative calendar year-to-date figures. All percentages are computed using actual data and rounded to the nearest one decimal point. Total percentages may not add up to exactly 100 percent because of rounding effects. The last three years of data and annual comparisons are presented in summary tables. Earlier figures are included in the downloadable Excel files.

1

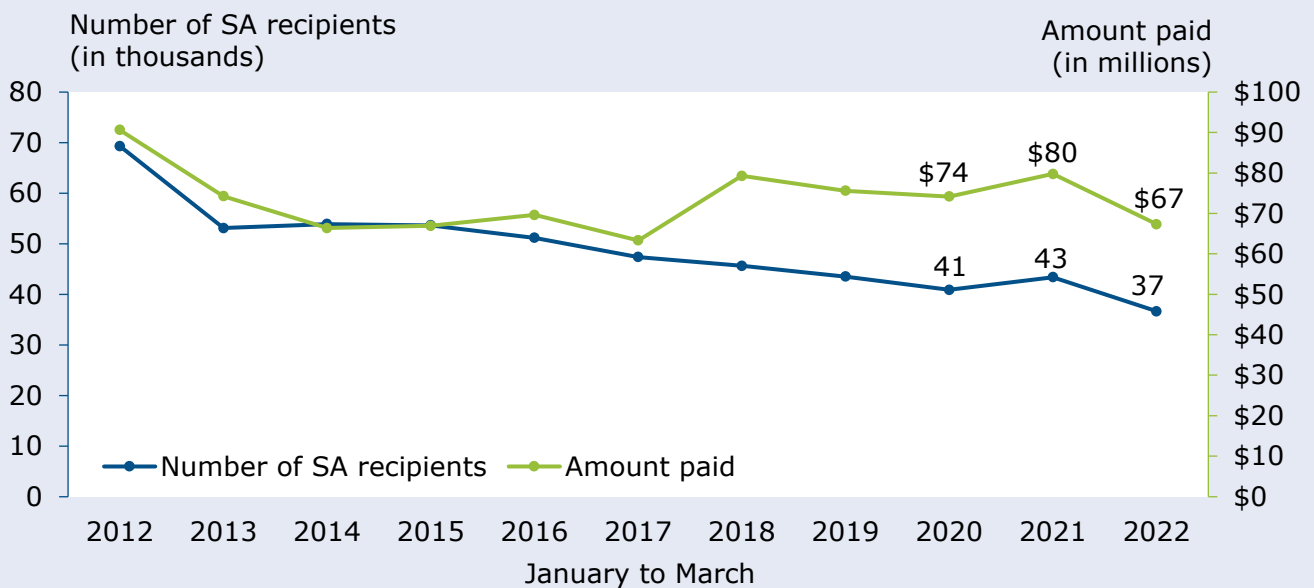
Number of recipients and amount paid

The number of Student Allowance recipients decreased.

From January to March 2022, 36,633 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowance (SA) Scheme. This was 6,735 fewer students (down 15.5 percent) when compared with the same period last year.

A total of \$67,312,198 was paid for Student Allowance and Accommodation Benefit from January to March 2022, a decrease of 15.6 percent compared with the same period in 2021.

Figure 1.1: Number of recipients and amount paid for Student Allowance and Accommodation Benefit, January to March 2012–2022





On average, students received \$1,569 in Student Allowance payments from January to March 2022. This was similar to what students received, on average, in January to March 2021.

From January to March 2022, students who were also entitled to Accommodation Benefit received \$379 on average, down 1.0 percent when compared with last year.

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

Figure 1.2: Number of recipients, amounts paid, and average amount paid

Student allowances	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Student Allowance	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%
Accommodation Benefit	28,215	30,534	25,980	8.2%	-14.9%
Total number of recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$63,150,471	\$68,057,443	\$57,460,237	7.8%	-15.6%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$11,038,267	\$11,706,468	\$9,851,961	6.1%	-15.8%
Total amount paid	\$74,188,738	\$79,763,911	\$67,312,198	7.5%	-15.6%
Average Student Allowance	\$1,544	\$1,569	\$1,569	1.6%	0.0%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$391	\$383	\$379	-2.0%	-1.0%

Note: Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar. Not every Student Allowance recipient is eligible for Accommodation Benefit.



2

Education providers

The number of Student Allowance recipients enrolled across all types of providers decreased in comparison to the same time last year.

The decrease across all types of education providers was mainly driven by fewer Student Allowance (SA) recipients enrolled in University and Te Pūkenga.

From January to March 2022, 22,218 students received SA for study at University only. This was a decrease of 2,838 students (down 11.3 percent) when compared with the same period in 2021.

The number of students who received SA for study at Te Pūkenga only (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, formerly Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology) decreased by 2,457 (down 21.1 percent).

The table below provides a summary of the number of SA recipients by type of provider they were enrolled in. The downloadable Excel file includes breakdowns for the small amount of students who received SA for more than one provider type during the year.

Figure 2.1: Number of recipients by type of education provider

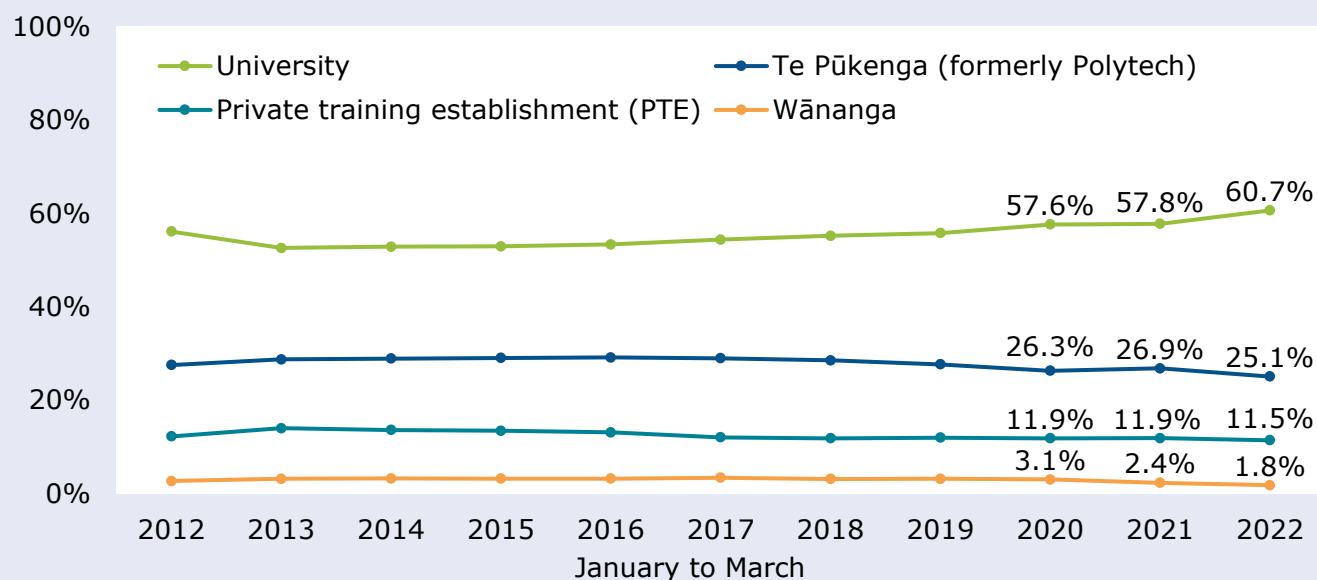
Types of providers	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
University	23,568	25,056	22,218	6.3%	-11.3%
Te Pūkenga	10,764	11,646	9,189	8.2%	-21.1%
Private training establishment (PTE)	4,848	5,169	4,203	6.6%	-18.7%
Wānanga	1,248	1,023	672	-18.0%	-34.3%
Multiple and Other providers	462	474	351	2.6%	-25.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

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, as well as 'other' types of education providers such as high schools.



Proportionately, students attending only University accounted for 60.7 percent of SA recipients, followed by students only attending Te Pūkenga at 25.1 percent.

Figure 2.2: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to March 2012–2022



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

Figure 2.3: Student Allowance paid to students by types of education providers¹

Types of providers	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
University	\$30,943,482	\$34,022,805	\$30,007,874	10.0%	-11.8%
Te Pūkenga	\$18,960,363	\$20,274,450	\$16,791,956	6.9%	-17.2%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$9,891,059	\$10,800,630	\$8,582,211	9.2%	-20.5%
Wānanga	\$2,048,325	\$1,652,915	\$1,075,866	-19.3%	-34.9%
Multiple and Other providers ²	\$1,307,242	\$1,306,643	\$1,002,330	0.0%	-23.3%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$63,150,471	\$68,057,443	\$57,460,237	7.8%	-15.6%

Note 1: Data does not include payments for Accommodation Benefit.

Note 2: "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, as well as 'other' types of education providers such as high schools.

Note 3: Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and first decimal place for percentages.



3

Allowances paid based on personal and family circumstances.

The proportion of Student Allowance recipients who were single students living away from home increased slightly when compared to the same time last year.

The [weekly rates for Student Allowance](#) are based on the personal and family circumstances of students, e.g. age, income of the student (and their partner if they have one), parent/s income for students aged under 24 years, relationship status, and other circumstances.

From January to March 2022, 26.8 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 1.6 percentage points higher when compared with January to March 2021.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of Student Allowance recipients by weekly rates paid based on personal and family circumstances

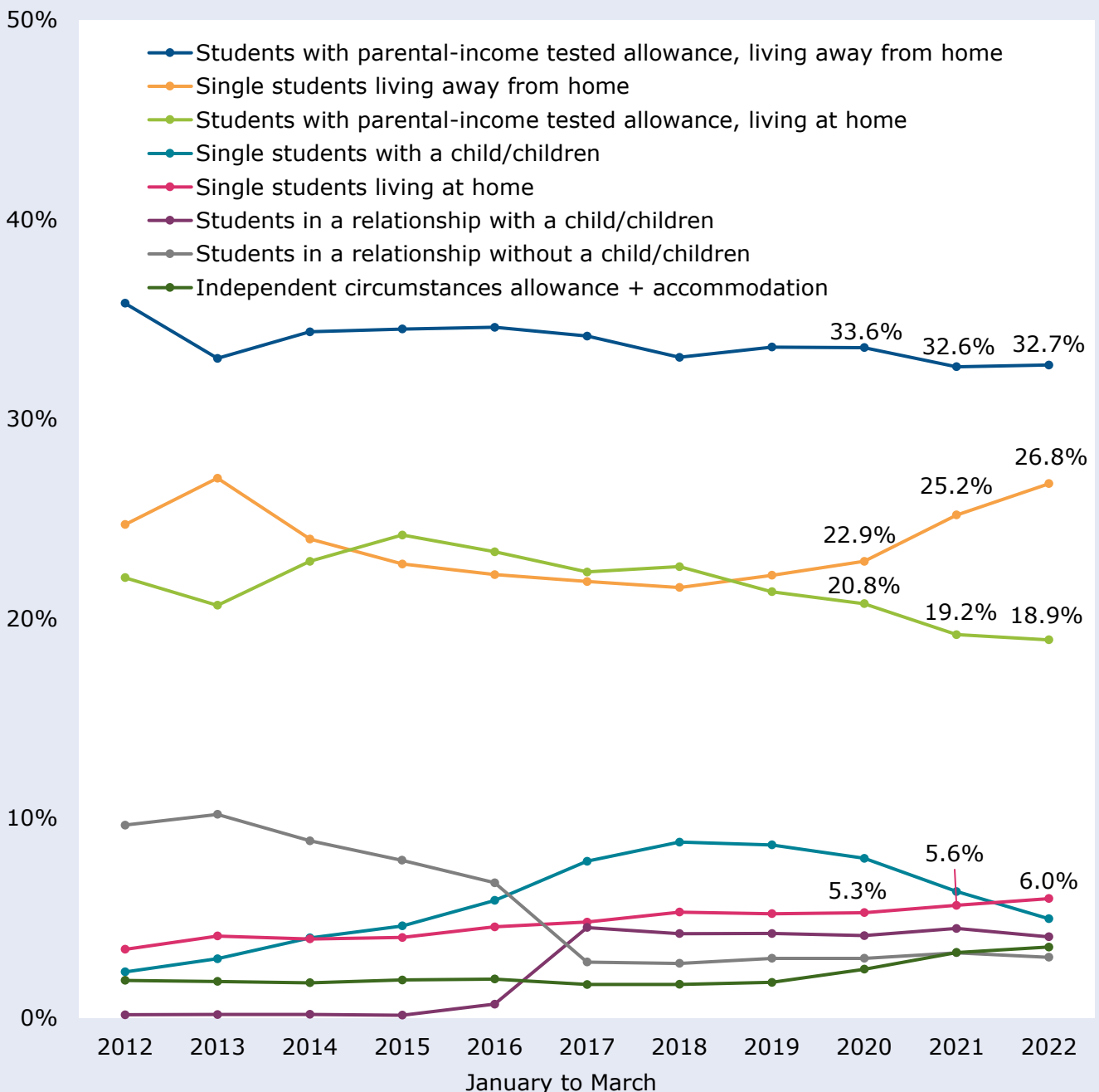




Figure 3.2: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	8,484	8,328	6,939	-1.8%	-16.7%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	13,731	14,151	11,985	3.1%	-15.3%
Single students living at home	2,154	2,445	2,190	13.5%	-10.4%
Single students living away from home	9,351	10,929	9,807	16.9%	-10.3%
Single students with child/children	3,267	2,745	1,818	-16.0%	-33.8%
Students in a relationship without a child/children	1,218	1,413	1,113	16.0%	-21.2%
Students in a relationship with a child/children	1,683	1,941	1,488	15.3%	-23.3%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and accommodation	996	1,419	1,299	42.5%	-8.5%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

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Demographics of Student Allowance recipients

The following tables provide a summary profile of Student Allowance recipients for January to March, in the last three years. Detailed data series are available in the downloadable Excel files.

Figure 4.1: Number of recipients by age group

Age group	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
16-17 years	407	407	305	0.0%	-25.1%
18-24 years	25,641	26,575	22,612	3.6%	-14.9%
25-34 years	9,959	11,372	9,729	14.2%	-14.4%
35-44 years	2,675	2,833	2,323	5.9%	-18.0%
45-54 years	1,369	1,329	978	-2.9%	-26.4%
55 years and older	839	853	686	1.7%	-19.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

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

Note 2: A breakdown of "55 and older" is available in the downloadable Excel file.



Figure 4.2: Number of recipients by gender

Gender	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Female	25,005	26,628	22,305	6.5%	-16.2%
Male	15,828	16,533	14,022	4.5%	-15.2%
Gender Diverse	54	207	306	283.3%	47.8%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

Note: In December 2019, forms and online applications were updated to include Gender Diverse.

Figure 4.3: Number of recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Citizen by birth	29,272	31,122	26,241	6.3%	-15.7%
Citizen	6,147	6,608	5,496	7.5%	-16.8%
Permanent resident	5,027	5,213	4,542	3.7%	-12.9%
Other	444	426	354	-4.1%	-16.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

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

Figure 4.4: Number of recipients by relationship status

Relationship status	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
Single	37,389	39,411	33,597	5.4%	-14.8%
Married/Civil Union	2,217	2,472	1,929	11.5%	-22.0%
Defacto	1,284	1,482	1,104	15.4%	-25.5%
Unknown	0	3	0	N/A	-100.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

Note: Students with unknown marital/relationship status refer to clients who have had a change in circumstances, and their marital/relationship status has not been confirmed at the end of the period. These students would not be receiving payments while their marital/relationship status is not confirmed.

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 response – 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 Student Allowance recipients.

Figure 4.5: Number of responses by ethnic group

Ethnic group (Total response)	January to March			Annual Change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020-21	2021-22
European	21,999	24,717	21,366	12.4%	-13.6%
Māori	7,863	8,205	6,573	4.3%	-19.9%
Pacific Peoples	3,876	4,350	3,684	12.2%	-15.3%
Asian	9,156	9,600	8,880	4.8%	-7.5%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	1,587	1,695	1,494	6.8%	-11.9%
Other	255	231	201	-9.4%	-13.0%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	38,265	41,574	35,805	8.6%	-13.9%
Not specified	2,625	1,797	828	-31.5%	-53.9%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	40,890	43,368	36,633	6.1%	-15.5%

