

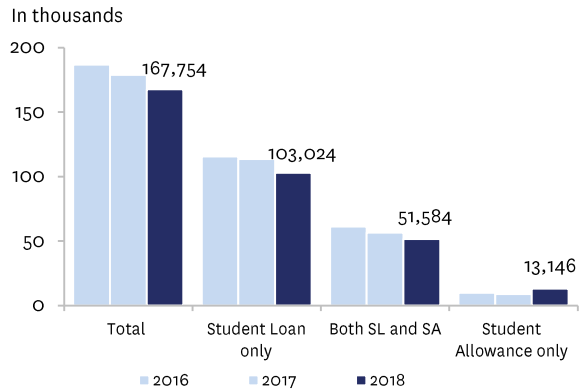
Student Support Update: January to December 2018

NOTE: Unless otherwise mentioned, data presented are year-to-date (i.e. January to December). The more detailed student statistics are available in downloadable files on the Ministry of Social Development website.

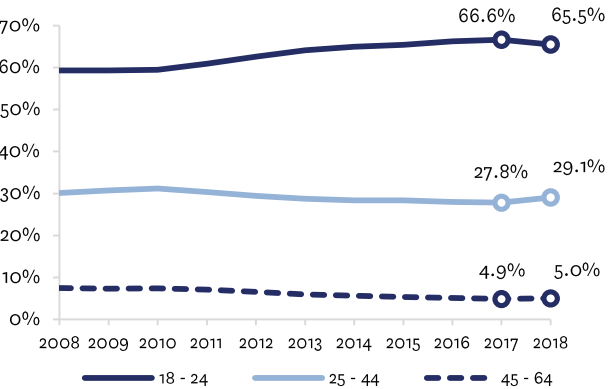
Student Support

① Student Support refers to the Student Allowance Scheme and Student Loan Scheme to help students overcome financial barriers to accessing education and training.

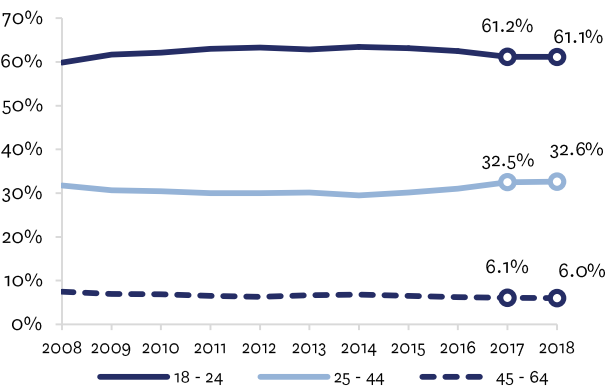
The number of students that accessed Student Support decreased by 6.2 percent compared to last year.



65.5 percent of Student Loan borrowers are 18-24 years old, down by one percentage point from last year.



61.1 percent of Student Allowance recipients are 18-24 years old, almost the same proportion compared to last year.



Student Loan

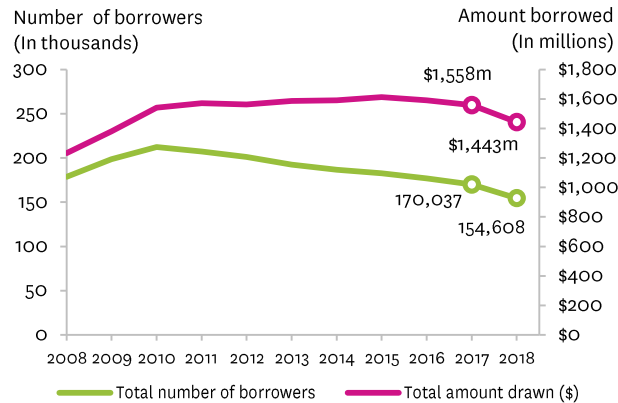
① Student Loan Scheme helps to pay for fees, course-related costs and supports students meet their living costs.

Fees-free policy for first time students, and the maximum student loan living cost entitlement increase by \$50 a week were introduced on 1 January 2018.

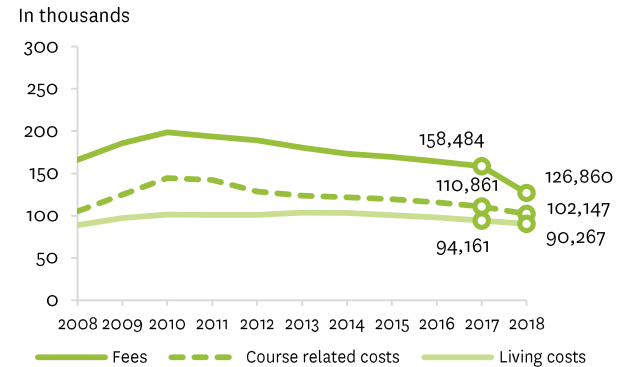
Borrowings does not include administration charges and refunds/repayments.

The number of Student Loan borrowers decreased by 9.1 percent, and the amount borrowed decreased by 7.4 percent.

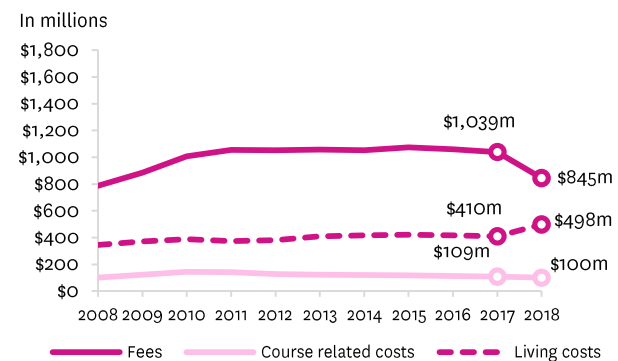
Student Loan, January to December



Number of borrowers by Loan component, January to December



Amount borrowed by loan component, January to December



Student Allowance

① Student Allowance Scheme is an income-tested financial support to help students with their living expenses.

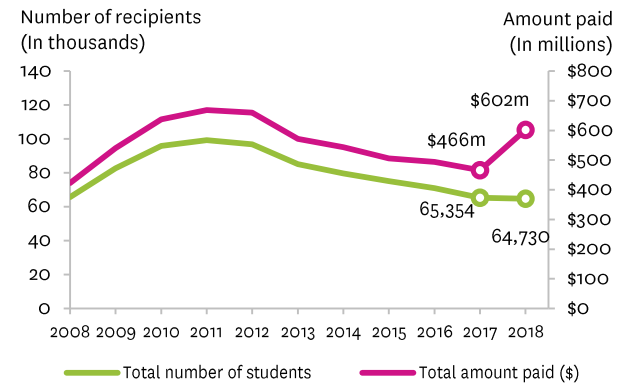
Students who are eligible for Student Allowance may be eligible for Accommodation Benefit and other support.

From 1 January 2018, Student Allowance rates increased \$50 per week.

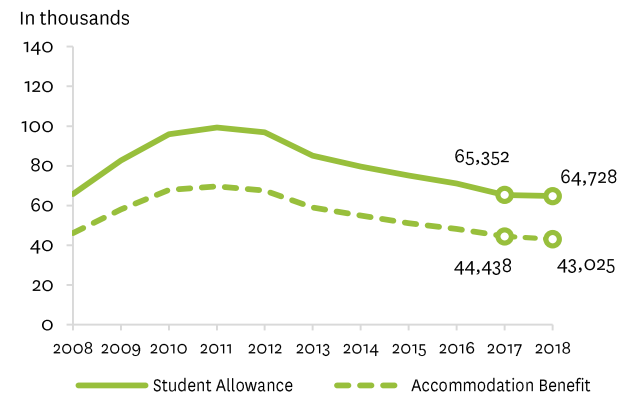
From 1 April 2018, the maximum rate of Accommodation Benefit increased from \$40 to \$60 per week.

The number of students who received Student Allowances slightly decreased by one percent, while the amount paid out for Student Allowances increased by 29.1 percent.

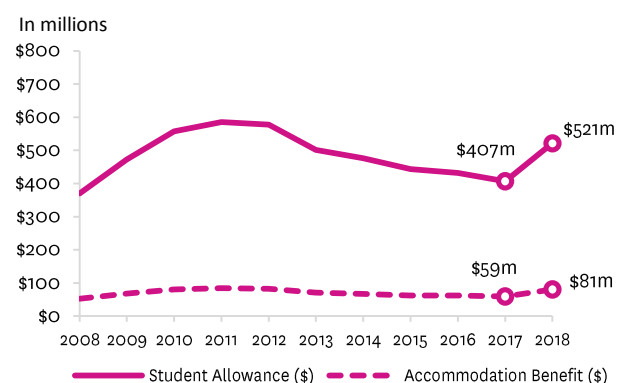
Student Allowance and Accommodation Benefit, January to December



Number of recipients, January to December



Amount of payments received, January to December



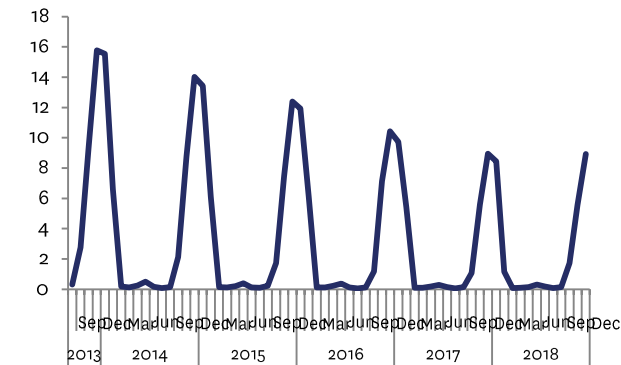
Jobseeker Support Student Hardship (JSSH)

① JSSH is an income-tested benefit for students facing hardship while on study break for more than three weeks. The number of people on JSSH normally starts increasing around November when students are on break, and the number starts decreasing around January when students return to educational institutions.

Benefit numbers are reported as at the end of the quarter (i.e. start of October to end of December).

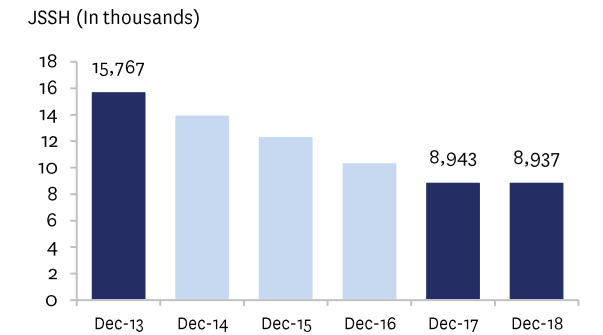
JSSH follows a seasonal pattern, with the highest number of recipients in December.

JSSH (In thousands)



JSSH numbers were stable compared to last year.

Number of students (18-64) on JSSH, as at the end of December quarter



JSSH recipients as a proportion of all main benefit recipients, as at the end of December quarter

