Getting a Centrelink payment?  
When to get in touch to avoid a debt

Do you get Youth Allowance or Austudy?

Avoid getting overpaid and having to pay back a Centrelink debt. Here are the top examples of when you need to contact Services Australia because of changes to your study.

**Your study load isn’t enough**

If you’re getting a study payment, you usually need to be a full time student to keep it. Your uni, TAFE or VET provider may work this out in different ways. This includes credit points, hours of study or equivalent full time study load (EFTSL). Full time means you’re studying at least 75% of your course’s full time study load.

If your study load goes below 75% you may no longer be eligible for a student payment. Check your study load is enough to be considered full time.

**You need to study part time**

You may be in a situation where you can’t study full time. This includes having a temporary illness or another medical condition. Or it could be your education provider cancels a subject or reduces your study load. If so, let Services Australia know. To continue to get your payment you’ll need to provide evidence. This could be a medical certificate or a letter from your provider.

**You’ve changed your course**

If you’ve changed courses you need to update this as well, even if you haven’t changed where you study. If your new course is approved for a student payment you’ll continue to get your payment.

If you change courses it may affect how long you can get a student payment from Services Australia.

Other things have changed

Apart from study changes, you need to tell Services Australia if there’s been changes to your personal situation. These include:

* how much you or your partner earn
* where you’re living
* if you’re in a relationship.

Remember to let Services Australia know about changes within 14 days. If you don’t, you may end up owing money that you’ll need to pay back.

Go online and update your study and personal details using your Centrelink online account through myGov. Or use the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app. If you need to explain why you can only study part time, call the Youth and Students line on 132 490.

You can read more about Services Australia student payments at [servicesaustralia.gov.au/higher-education](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/higher-education).