



Student Loan

January to March 2023

The [Student Loan Scheme](#) helps students to pay for course fees (compulsory fees charged by education providers), course-related costs (e.g. books, computer, travel) and living costs.

For this report, a student is defined as a person who received at least one payment under this scheme 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. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and all percentages are computed using randomly rounded numbers, and then rounded to one decimal point. Total percentages may not add up to exactly 100 percent because of rounding effects. In line with the Ministry of Social Development’s confidentiality policy, all information in this document has been randomly rounded to base three. The last three years of data and annual comparisons are presented in summary tables. Earlier figures are included in the downloadable Excel files.

1

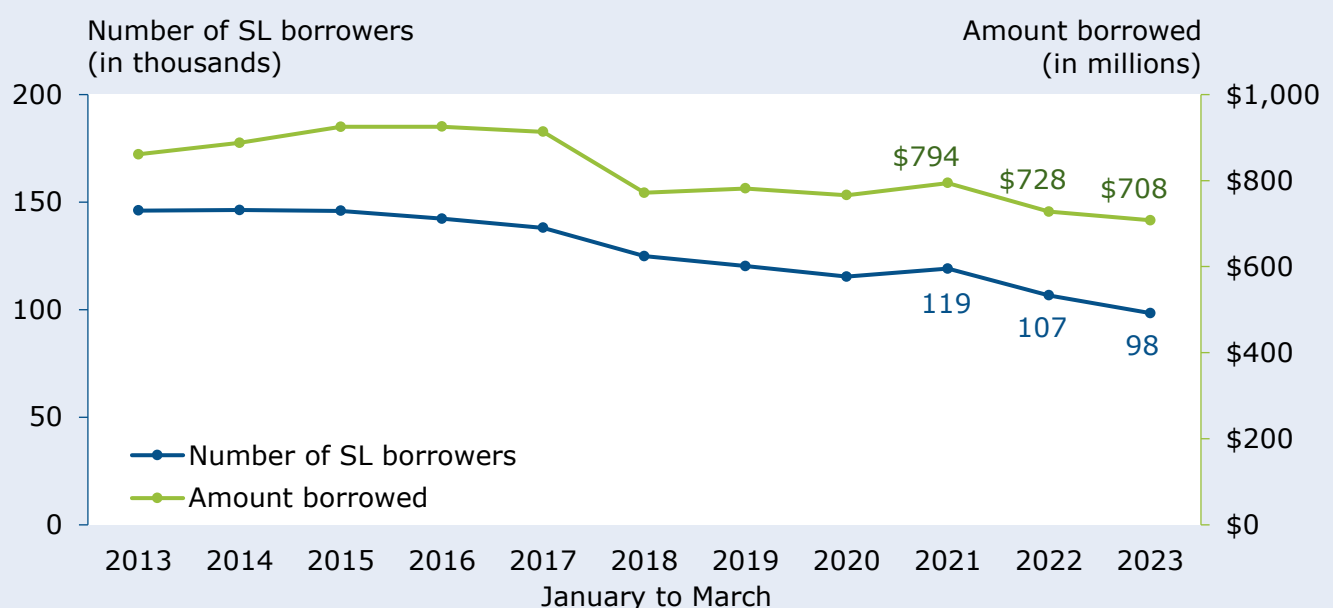
Number of borrowers and amount paid

Fewer students drew down a student loan between January and March 2023 than in the same period in 2022.

From January to March 2023, 98,352 students borrowed under the Student Loan (SL) Scheme. This was 8,274 fewer students (down 7.8 percent) when compared with the same period last year.

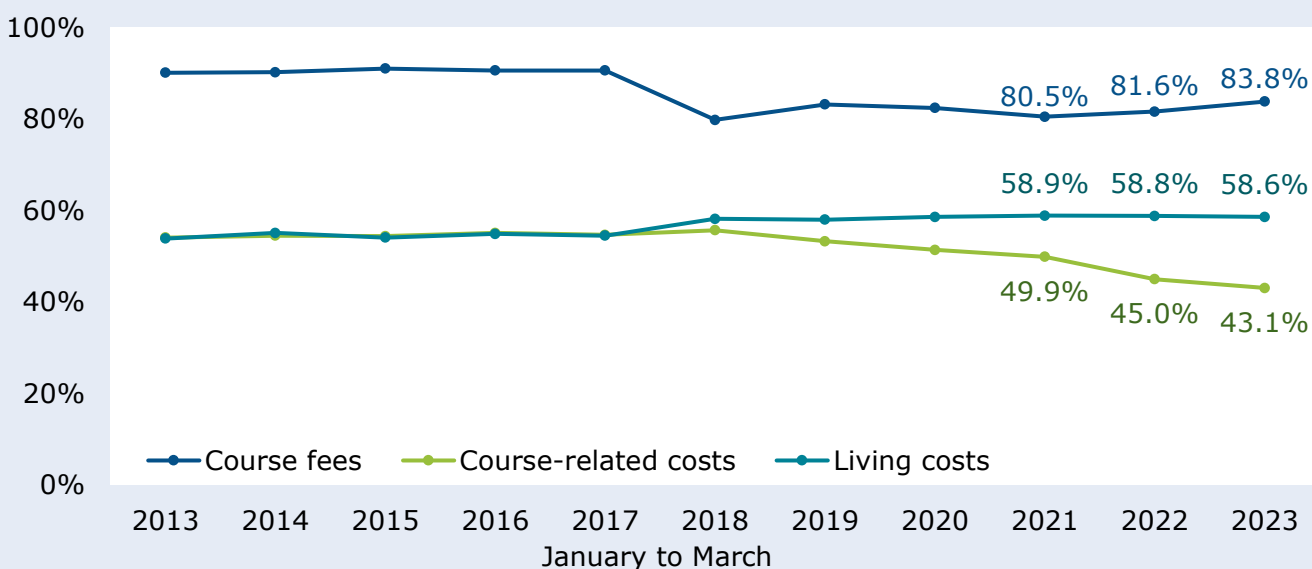
The total amount borrowed for course fees, course-related costs, and living costs was \$707.6 million, a decrease of 2.8 percent when compared with the same period last year.

Figure 1.1: Number of SL borrowers and amount borrowed, January to March 2013–2023



From January to March 2023, 83.8 percent of SL borrowers borrowed to pay for course fees.

Figure 1.2: Proportion of SL borrowers by loan component, January to March 2013–2023



Note: Course-related costs entitlement was temporarily increased in 2020 as part of the COVID-19 tertiary support package.

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

Table 1.1: Number of SL borrowers, amount borrowed, and average amount borrowed, by loan component

Loan component	January to March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021–22	2022–23
Course fees	95,910	86,955	82,404	-9.3%	-5.2%
Course-related costs	59,442	47,988	42,426	-19.3%	-11.6%
Living costs	70,128	62,667	57,648	-10.6%	-8.0%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	119,097	106,626	98,352	-10.5%	-7.8%
Amount borrowed for course fees	\$663,932,439	\$613,734,742	\$596,216,314	-7.6%	-2.9%
Amount borrowed for course-related costs	\$52,660,875	\$42,309,902	\$37,640,652	-19.7%	-11.0%
Amount borrowed for living costs	\$77,807,676	\$71,850,941	\$73,783,919	-7.7%	2.7%
Total amount borrowed	\$794,400,990	\$727,895,585	\$707,640,885	-8.4%	-2.8%
Average course fees	\$6,922	\$7,058	\$7,235	2.0%	2.5%
Average course-related costs	\$886	\$882	\$887	-0.5%	0.6%
Average living costs	\$1,110	\$1,147	\$1,280	3.3%	11.6%

Note: Administration charges/establishment fees, repayments and refunds are not included in the above summary table but are available in the downloadable Excel file.



2

Education providers

The number of SL borrowers enrolled across almost all types of education providers decreased when compared to the same time last year.

Across all types of education providers except for Wānanga, there were fewer SL borrowers enrolled between January and March 2023 than in the same period in 2022. The largest reductions in SL borrowers were in Te Pūkenga and University. From January to March 2023, the number of students who drew down SL for study at only Te Pūkenga was 16,626. This was 1,893 fewer students (down 10.2 percent) when compared to the same period in 2022 (18,519).

There were 73,752 students who drew down a SL for study at University only. This was a decrease of 5,643 students (down 7.1 percent) when compared with the same period last year (79,395).

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

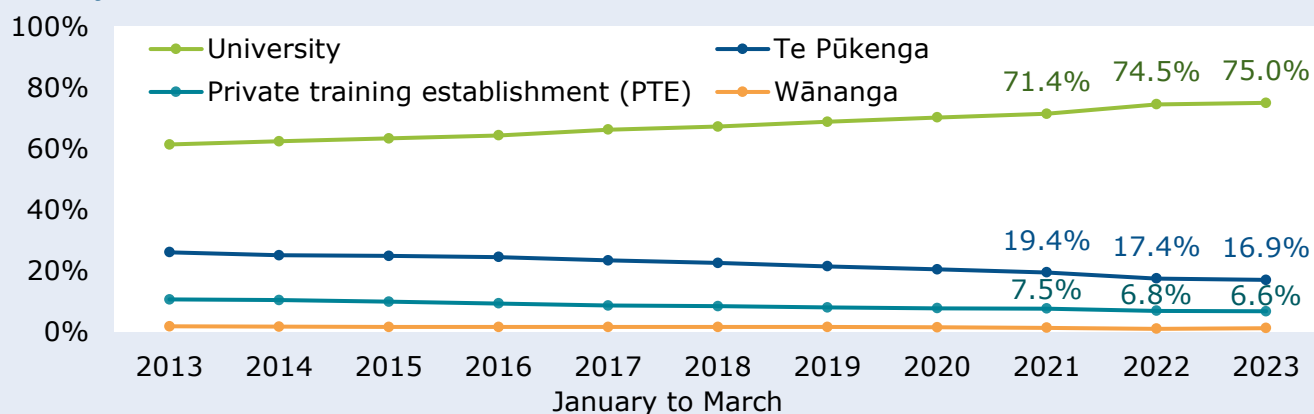
Table 2.1: Number of SL borrowers by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	85,011	79,395	73,752	-6.6%	-7.1%
Te Pūkenga	23,049	18,519	16,626	-19.7%	-10.2%
Private training establishment (PTE)	8,973	7,266	6,495	-19.0%	-10.6%
Wānanga	1,434	960	1,068	-33.1%	11.3%
Multiple and other providers	633	486	411	-23.2%	-15.4%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	119,097	106,626	98,352	-10.5%	-7.8%

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.

Proportionately, students attending only University accounted for 75.0 percent of SL recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 16.9 percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SL borrowers by type of education provider, January to March 2013-2023



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



Table 2.2: Amount borrowed for course fees by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
University	\$511,547,740	\$485,817,632	\$466,708,206	-5.0%	-3.9%
Te Pūkenga	\$98,523,971	\$83,751,074	\$84,056,166	-15.0%	0.4%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$46,841,570	\$38,697,482	\$39,826,070	-17.4%	2.9%
Wānanga	\$2,961,666	\$2,099,877	\$2,540,113	-29.1%	21.0%
Multiple and other providers	\$4,057,491	\$3,368,677	\$3,085,758	-17.0%	-8.4%
Total amount borrowed for course fees	\$663,932,439	\$613,734,742	\$596,216,314	-7.6%	-2.9%

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.

3

Demographics of Student Loan borrowers

The following tables provide a summary profile of SL borrowers from January to March 2023, for the last three years. Detailed data series are available in the SL data file.

Table 3.1: SL borrowers by age group

Age group	January to March			Annual change	
	2021	2022	2023	2021-22	2022-23
16-17 years	1,206	924	780	-23.4%	-15.6%
18-24 years	83,433	75,435	69,639	-9.6%	-7.7%
25-34 years	22,026	19,512	17,412	-11.4%	-10.8%
35-44 years	8,184	7,170	6,993	-12.4%	-2.5%
45-54 years	3,651	3,024	2,922	-17.2%	-3.4%
55 years and older	594	561	600	-5.6%	7.0%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	119,097	106,626	98,352	-10.5%	-7.8%

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

Note 2: A breakdown of “55 and older” is available in the SL data file.



Table 3.2: SL borrowers by gender

Gender	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
Female	75,357	67,923	61,923	-9.9%	-8.8%
Male	43,308	37,995	35,529	-12.3%	-6.5%
Gender Diverse	432	702	897	62.5%	27.8%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	119,097	106,626	98,352	-10.5%	-7.8%

Note: In December 2019, forms and online applications were updated to include Gender Diverse, which was not available previously.

Table 3.3: SL borrowers by residential status

Residential status	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
Citizen by birth	89,253	79,782	73,542	-10.6%	-7.8%
Citizen	18,633	16,794	15,762	-9.9%	-6.1%
Permanent resident	10,917	9,795	8,826	-10.3%	-9.9%
Other	291	255	225	-12.4%	-11.8%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	119,097	106,626	98,352	-10.5%	-7.8%

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.

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 responses – 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 SL borrowers.

Table 3.4: SL responses by ethnic group

Ethnic group (total response)	January to March			Annual change	
	2020	2021	2022	2020–21	2021–22
European	76,917	70,788	66,003	-8.0%	-6.8%
Māori	19,533	17,088	15,864	-12.5%	-7.2%
Pacific Peoples	10,956	9,678	8,898	-11.7%	-8.1%
Asian	19,557	18,537	18,219	-5.2%	-1.7%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	3,531	3,258	3,129	-7.7%	-4.0%
Other	534	429	384	-19.7%	-10.5%
Total borrowers with recorded ethnicity	112,914	102,843	96,249	-8.9%	-6.4%
Not specified	6,180	3,780	2,100	-38.8%	-44.4%
Total number of Student Loan borrowers	119,097	106,626	98,352	-10.5%	-7.8%

Note: A detailed breakdown of ethnic groups is included in the SL data file.