



Student Allowance

January to March 2025

The [Student Allowance Scheme](#) provides financial assistance for eligible 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 is cumulative calendar year-to-date figures. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and all percentages are computed using actual data and 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 numbers of people in this document have 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 Student Allowance data file.

1

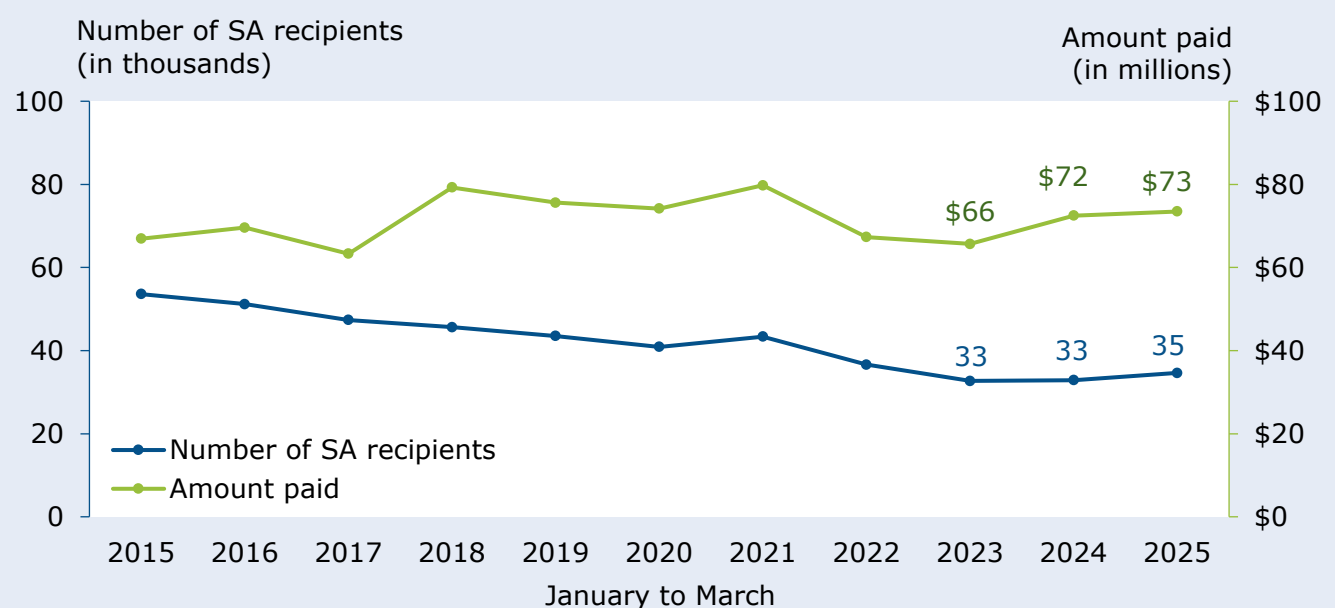
Number of recipients and amount paid

There were more Student Allowance recipients from January to March 2025 than in the same period in 2024.

From January to March 2025, 34,632 students received financial assistance under the Student Allowances (SA) Scheme. This was an increase of 1,722 students (5.2 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024.

A total of \$73.5 million was paid for SA and Accommodation Benefit (AB) from January to March 2025, an increase of 1.4 percent when compared with the same period in 2024.

Figure 1.1: Number of recipients and amount paid for SA and AB, January to March 2015–2025





On average, students received \$1,882 in SA payments from January to March 2025. This was 3.0 percent less than students received, on average, in the same period in 2024.

From January to March 2025, students who were also entitled to AB received \$360 in AB on average. This was down 6.0 percent from the same period in 2024.

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

Table 1.1: Number of recipients, amounts paid, and average amount paid

Student Allowances	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Student Allowance	32,673	32,907	34,629	0.7%	5.2%
Accommodation Benefit	22,914	22,554	23,052	-1.6%	2.2%
Total number of recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%
Amount paid for Student Allowance	\$57,155,275	\$63,856,153	\$65,176,209	11.7%	2.1%
Amount paid for Accommodation Benefit	\$8,505,406	\$8,633,802	\$8,297,391	1.5%	-3.9%
Total amount paid	\$65,660,681	\$72,489,955	\$73,473,601	10.4%	1.4%
Average Student Allowance	\$1,749	\$1,941	\$1,882	11.0%	-3.0%
Average Accommodation Benefit	\$371	\$383	\$360	3.2%	-6.0%

Note: Not every SA recipient is eligible for Accommodation Benefit.



2

Education providers

From January to March 2025, 20,937 students received SA for study at University only. This was an increase of 312 students (1.5 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (20,625).

There were 8,511 students who received SA for study at only Te Pūkenga. This was an increase of 876 students (11.5 percent) when compared with the same period in 2024 (7,635).

Table 2.1 provides a summary of the number of SA recipients by the type of provider that they were enrolled in over the last three years. The SA data file includes breakdowns for the small number of students who received SA for more than one provider type during the year.

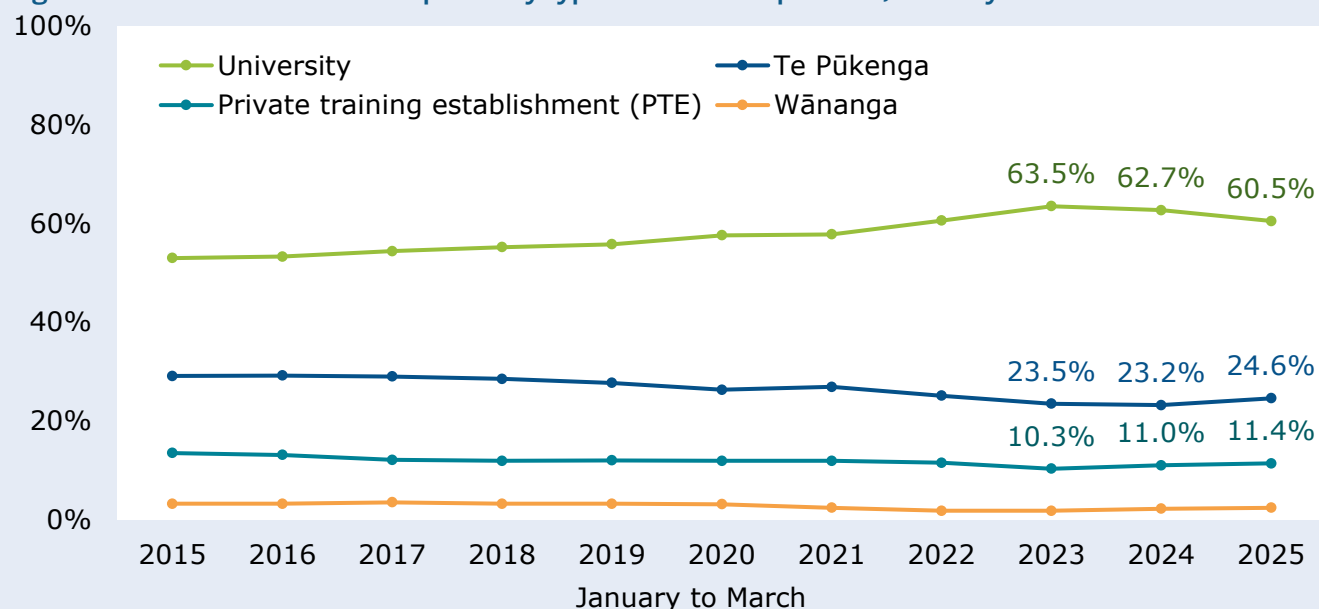
Table 2.1: Number of SA recipients by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
University	20,754	20,625	20,937	-0.6%	1.5%
Te Pūkenga	7,689	7,635	8,511	-0.7%	11.5%
Private training establishment (PTE)	3,360	3,603	3,960	7.2%	9.9%
Wānanga	582	720	834	23.7%	15.8%
Multiple and other providers	294	321	384	9.2%	19.6%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

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.

Students attending only University made up 60.5 percent of SA recipients, followed by students attending only Te Pūkenga at 24.6% percent.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of SA recipients by type of education provider, January to March 2015–2025



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

Table 2.2: SA paid to students by type of education provider

Type of provider	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
University	\$31,512,277	\$35,999,606	\$34,177,912	14.2%	-5.1%
Te Pūkenga	\$15,741,786	\$16,195,634	\$18,093,661	2.9%	11.7%
Private training establishment (PTE)	\$7,984,804	\$9,076,198	\$9,935,605	13.7%	9.5%
Wānanga	\$1,062,014	\$1,553,092	\$1,794,763	46.2%	15.6%
Multiple and other providers	\$854,394	\$1,031,623	\$1,174,269	20.7%	13.8%
Total amount paid for Student Allowance	\$57,155,275	\$63,856,153	\$65,176,209	11.7%	2.1%

Note 1: Data does not include payments for AB.

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.

3

Allowances paid based on personal and family circumstances

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), parental income for students aged under 24 years, relationship status, and other circumstances.

From January to March 2025, 24.5 percent of SA recipients were single students who were living away from home. This proportion was 0.7 percentage points lower than it was in the same period in 2024.

Figure 3.1: Proportion of SA recipients based on personal and family circumstances, January to March 2015–2025

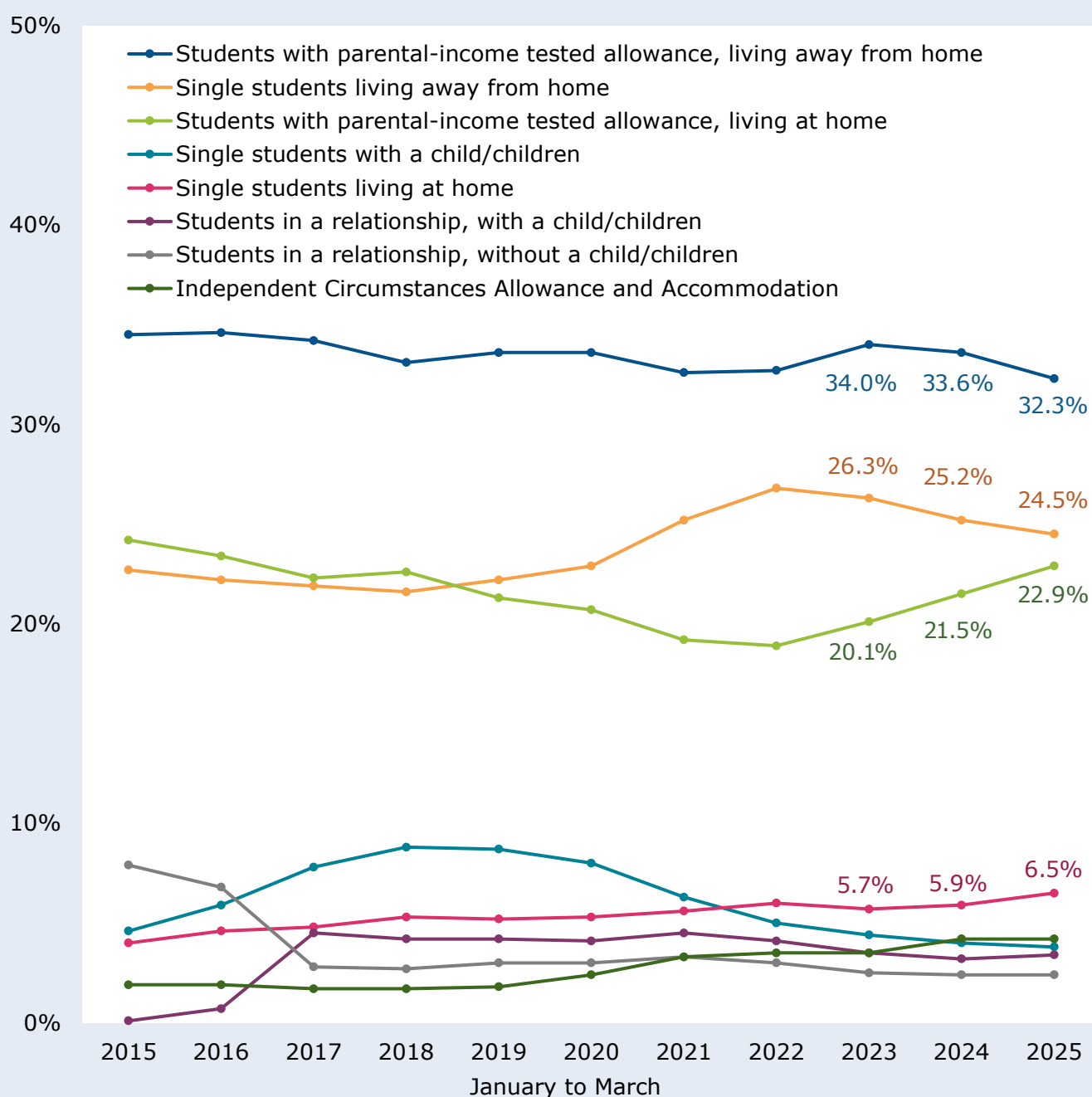




Table 3.1: Number of recipients based on personal and family circumstances

Personal and family circumstances	January to March			Annual change	
	2022	2023	2025	2022-23	2023-24
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living at home	6,558	7,086	7,944	8.1%	12.1%
Students with parental-income tested allowance, living away from home	11,112	11,070	11,199	-0.4%	1.2%
Single students living at home	1,866	1,953	2,235	4.7%	14.4%
Single students living away from home	8,601	8,286	8,484	-3.7%	2.4%
Single students with child/children	1,431	1,320	1,320	-7.8%	0.0%
Students in a relationship, without a child/children	825	777	816	-5.8%	5.0%
Students in a relationship, with a child/children	1,137	1,041	1,179	-8.4%	13.3%
Independent Circumstances Allowance and Accommodation	1,146	1,374	1,458	19.9%	6.1%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

Note: In this document, ‘single’ generally refers to students aged 24 years or older who are single. Under the SA scheme, a relationship is not recognised if either party is under 24 years old. Students who are under 24 are usually subject to a parental income test for SA. For more information, please see [here](#).

4

Demographics of Student Allowance recipients

The following tables provide a summary profile of SA recipients for each of the last three years, up to the month specified. As demographics may change during the year, the profile is as recorded at the end of the period. Detailed data series are available in the SA data file.

Table 4.1: SA recipients by age group

Age group	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
16-17 years	324	339	441	4.6%	30.1%
18-24 years	20,772	21,534	22,482	3.7%	4.4%
25-34 years	8,256	7,851	8,265	-4.9%	5.3%
35-44 years	1,968	1,890	2,025	-4.0%	7.1%
45-54 years	843	843	927	0.0%	10.0%
55 years and older	513	450	489	-12.3%	8.7%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

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

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



Table 4.2: SA recipients by gender

Gender	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Female	19,539	19,599	20,316	0.3%	3.7%
Male	12,729	12,810	13,701	0.6%	7.0%
Gender Diverse	411	495	615	20.4%	24.2%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

Table 4.3: SA recipients by residential status

Residential status	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Citizen by birth	23,610	24,093	25,110	2.0%	4.2%
Citizen	4,962	4,857	5,193	-2.1%	6.9%
Permanent resident	3,774	3,558	3,777	-5.7%	6.2%
Other	330	396	552	20.0%	39.4%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

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

Table 4.4: SA recipients by relationship status

Relationship status	January to March			Annual change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023-24	2024-25
Single	30,360	30,768	32,262	1.3%	4.9%
Married/Civil Union	1,536	1,350	1,443	-12.1%	6.9%
Defacto	783	789	927	0.8%	17.5%
Unknown	0	0	3	N.A.	N.A.
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

Note: ‘Unknown’ refers to students who have had a change in relationship status which needs to be confirmed. These students will not be receiving payments.



It is not mandatory for students to disclose their ethnicity and students may report more than one ethnicity.

The numbers presented in table 4.5 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 SA recipients.

Table 4.5: SA responses by ethnic group

Ethnic group (Total response)	January to March			Annual Change	
	2023	2024	2025	2023–24	2024–25
European	19,209	18,711	19,287	-2.6%	3.1%
Māori	5,898	6,354	6,735	7.7%	6.0%
Pacific Peoples	3,195	3,555	3,948	11.3%	11.1%
Asian	8,286	8,571	9,072	3.4%	5.8%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	1,476	1,500	1,722	1.6%	14.8%
Other	177	171	168	-3.4%	-1.8%
Total recipients with recorded ethnicity	32,274	32,559	34,242	0.9%	5.2%
Not specified	405	345	390	-14.8%	13.0%
Total number of Student Allowance recipients	32,679	32,904	34,632	0.7%	5.3%

Note: A detailed breakdown of ethnic groups is included in the Student Allowance datafile.

