

POLICY STATEMENT: CONVERSION OF STUDENT START-UP SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOANS

24th August 2017

GSA position

In 2015, federal legislation moved to convert the Student Start-up Scholarship to a loan scheme. GSA continues to condemn this decision and we call on the government to reinstate the Scholarship program.

Rationale

Student Start-Up Scholarships were created so that lower-income students would receive financial assistance to meet the costs of studying each semester, such as purchasing textbooks and other necessary equipment.

Changing these scholarships to loans undermines the intent of this scheme, to support lower-income students in accessing and completing higher education, and means that students with the least resources will end up with more debt at the end of their degrees.

Relevant research and information

[Student Start-up Loan update](#)

[Student Start-Up Loan](#)

POLICY	CATEGORY	REF	AMENDED/ CREATED	NEXT REVIEW
Conversion of student start-up scholarships to loans	Higher education policy	1.1	December 2015	December 2018