

NGĀ KAUPAPA I UTUA E NGĀ ĀKONGA STUDENT LEVIES



The Student Services Levy and a separate Student Assistance Levy are paid by all students to contribute to the development of a healthy and inclusive learning community. The Student Services Levy also improves services that can facilitate academic success and a positive student experience. A few services are fully funded by the Levy so they can be provided without individual user charge. Services that are partially funded by the Levy are provided to students at a heavily subsidised rate. Others are funded entirely from other sources.

Victoria University of Wellington staff work in partnership with the Advisory Committee on the Student Services Levy (ACSSL), an oversight body with student representatives from the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) and Ngāi Tauira executives who consult with other representation groups including PGSA, Pasifika Students' Council and other representative student bodies. They run a consultation process before a recommendation on the levy is made to ACSSL. The University works in partnership with students to ensure they have a strong voice in how the Student Services Levy is spent.

The Student Services Levy is calculated and charged on a per-point charging structure (capped at 150 points) and there is a different rate for students studying within the Wellington region and those studying from elsewhere in New Zealand or overseas.

Student levies made a net deficit of \$971,550 in 2023, primarily due to a fall in revenue from lower student numbers, while maintaining the level of services provided to students. Annual deficits (and surpluses) are carried forward, ring fenced and actively managed during the next financial year's levy budgeting and planning processes.

In 2023, a Wellington based student was charged \$8.60 per point (up to a cap of 150 points) for the Student Services Levy. For students studying from elsewhere within New Zealand or overseas, the Student Services Levy was charged at \$4.30 per point (also up to a cap of 150 points). A Student Assistance Levy of \$28 was paid by all students. For a Wellington-based equivalent full-time student studying 120 points, the total Compulsory Student Service Fee per student in 2023 was \$1,060.

The revenue from the levies can be used only for those services that fall within the following government-specified categories:

Advocacy and legal advice

Advocacy services delivered by the University manage a range of resolution activities in relation to student complaints, disputes, appeals, pastoral (including accommodation) issues, and academic disputes. VUWSA is also contracted to deliver an independent advocacy service and train and support class representatives and faculty delegates to ensure that students have a meaningful and independent voice at Victoria University of Wellington.

Careers information, advice, and guidance

Careers and Employment aims to increase the employability of the University's students by providing career and course advice and assessments, and helping students prepare job applications, CVs, and develop interview skills.

Counselling services and pastoral care

Support services include Student Counselling, Āwhina and Pasifika Student Success for Māori and Pasifika students, peer mentoring, and student support coordinators based in halls of residence. A range of welfare services, such as food bank delivery, are delivered by VUWSA.

Employment information

The University provides information on jobs through publications, career expos, employer and industry presentations, and through an online service, CareerHub, which features study-related job vacancies.

Financial support and advice

The University's student finance advisers provide financial advice to students, administer the Hardship Fund, and teach financial literacy. The Student Assistance Levy contributes to the Hardship Fund (which has had a separate bank account since it was set up in 1991) and is available to assist students if they experience a short-term emergency or one-off immediate need.

Health services

The University's Student Health and Wellbeing services operate from the Kelburn and Pipitea campuses and include Student Health and Student Counselling.

Counselling services are also available at Te Aro. Disability Services works alongside students with temporary and ongoing impairments to ensure they are able to engage fully and achieve in their studies. Wellbeing services operate from the Student Union Building on Kelburn campus along with Rainbow and Refugee student advisory services.

Media

VUWSA publishes the weekly magazine Salient and operates its website and podcasts. Salient provides paid work opportunities and skills development for its contributors, who are all students.

Childcare services

Two early childhood centres at the Kelburn campus provide education for children of students at the University.

Clubs and societies

The University has more than 150 clubs across political, cultural, sports, faith-based, and academic interests.

Assistance is provided to clubs and societies through the provision of meeting rooms, activity spaces and resources, training programmes, and advice on club financial management.

Sports, recreation, and cultural activities

Victoria Recreation provides space and equipment for students to keep active. Sports leagues, tailored fitness and other programmes, recreational facilities, and venues for student events and activities are offered.

SERVICE CATEGORY	2023 STUDENT SERVICES LEVY (SSL) REVENUE \$'000	2023 STUDENT ASSISTANCE LEVY (SAL) REVENUE \$'000	2023 REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES \$'000	TOTAL REVENUE \$'000	TOTAL COST (SSL RELATED AND SAL GRANTS) \$'000	NET SURPLUS/ (COST) \$'000
Advocacy and legal advice	1,245	–	–	1,245	1,195	50
Careers information, advice, and guidance	1,092	–	33	1,125	976	149
Counselling services and pastoral care	2,938	–	1,021	3,959	3,804	155
Employment information	455	–	13	468	410	58
Financial support and advice	386	467	126	979	949	30
Health services	3,944	–	2,321	6,265	6,720	(455)
Media	190	–	–	190	190	–
Childcare services	203	–	–	203	203	–
Clubs and societies	1,056	–	–	1,056	1,246	(190)
Sports, recreation, and cultural activities	1,879	–	468	2,347	3,116	(769)
Total	13,388	467	3,982	17,837	18,809	(972)