

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

3 December 2015

GSA position

GSA condemns federal legislation that has moved to convert Student Start-up Scholarships to loans.

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 2016