

2018 SSAF Priorities, Grants & Benefits to Students

Victoria University (VU) takes a formula approach to the allocation of SSAF funds and grants each year, which embodies flexible funding arrangements to ensure some fixed funds as well as the ability to access short-term funds to pilot initiatives and/or meet a short-term need. This approach accommodates both need and demand at the same time allowing for greater flexibility in the delivery of SSAF funded student services and activities.

In 2018 this model was centrally governed, management and administered by Student Services on behalf of VU and includes the following:

- Base allocation funding for all services currently approved for SSAF; the amount related to activity /service based costings (the allocation and funding value reviewed annually via Funding Applications and in line with University budget forecasts and business planning)
- An allocation for initiative grants
- Capital allowance for the improvement of student amenities by Student Services
- Funding to support student representative organisations; and
- Contingency for unexpected growth in usage and/or emerging needs allocation for services not currently funded by SSAF.

The review of applications for funding and grants each year takes into consideration feedback from students provided through data collection, engagement and consultation as well as feedback from the University community, to ascertain the needs and demands for allocation priorities each year.

VU used the following principles for the allocation of SSAF funds in 2018:

1. Comply with the Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines;
2. Be informed by students (data driven) and deliver funds where priorities are identified by students;
3. Continuously improve service provision to students in the areas specified by the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*;
4. Ensure internal financial controls, management accounting, efficiency and effectiveness; and
5. Fund allocation and expenditure alignment with VU's strategic plan and allowable funding categories.

In 2018, total SSAF revenue of \$4,375,000 was forecast at 1 January with the full schedule of priorities estimated to be funded at a significantly higher amount (to be operationally funded by VU). Actual revenue at 31 December 2018 was reported as \$4,635,446 with an actual spend in SSAF priorities and grants of \$4,739,446. VU supported the additional priorities with funding from Student Services.

2018 SSAF Distribution & Expenditure Report

	Budget 2018	Actual 2018
Anticipated and Actual SSAF Revenue	\$4,375,000	\$4,635,794
Base Allocation Funding Areas (including Student Representation)	Allocation 2018	Actual 2018
Student Life, Leadership, Volunteering, Clubs & Societies	\$1,527,589	\$1,290,150
Victoria University Student Union	\$376,698	\$376,249
Student Counselling	\$1,191,189	\$1,087,395
Student Advocacy	\$194,495	\$180,578
Student Welfare	\$371,043	\$278,379
Student Sport & Health Services	\$285,000	\$285,000
Ancillary Costs (internal depreciation)	\$5,971	\$2,494
Initiative Grant Funding		
Student Experience Initiative Grants	\$30,000	\$31,417
Capital Allowance		
Student Facility/Amenity Upgrades	\$150,000	\$130,988
Contingency Funding		
Student Success & Support Programs (incl. backfill resourcing for Student Life & Wellbeing)	\$1,036,219	\$870,880
Student Media Initiatives	\$217,178	\$205,917
	\$5,385,382	\$4,739,446
Revenue	<u>\$4,375,000</u>	<u>\$4,635,794</u>
Revenue Less Expenditure	<u>-\$1,010,382</u>	<u>-\$103,652</u>

2018 Programs, Activities and Services Delivered to Students from SSAF

Student Life, Leadership, Clubs & Societies

- Student as Staff employment opportunities.
- Partnered with students to encourage student-led initiatives, assisting VUSU, Clubs and Societies.
- The Student Life and Leadership Team (SL&L) enhances the vibrancy of life on campus for international and domestic students through events, clubs and societies, student leadership programs and volunteering opportunities. Partnering with students to encourage student-led initiatives, SL&L assists VUSU and supports students with Student Initiatives Grants. The team partners with university stakeholders to oversee orientation and transition programs that ensure commencing students enjoy a successful start to their studies.
- Support the annual calendar of Student Welcome activities (multi-campus, dual sector) including: O-Fest, Block Party, Family Day, Incredible Race and Mature Age/Return to Study sessions
- Exam refresher stations, free equipment hire for student run events, annual calendar of events across all campuses (e.g. Multicultural week, ABMT, lunchtime BBQs, etc.)
- Support for Academic Advice and Enrolment sessions, annual calendar of O-Fest activities (multi-campus, dual sector), Step Up day, Family Day, Incredible Race and Mature Age/Return to Study sessions
- Annual Student Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Awards, Student Leadership Council, Lead2Change program, UTEP Leadership Exchange and special projects
- Events for International Students; Orientation International Sessions; Pre-arrival communications & ISS Newsletter; Airport Reception; Big Beach Day Out; Late-Arrival support; International Hosts Program. Myki pass funded from this account and managed by Enrolments in Student Administration.
- Fund and support club-run events, Run clubs festival, training for club executives (e.g. First-Aid, Food Handling, RSA), networking and skill sharing sessions with fellow students and link to VU Colleges/departments. Manage Clubs and Societies room, provide advice, support and approval for affiliation/reaffiliation process.
- Provides opportunities for VU students to volunteer and build skills, both on and off campus, through: promotion, recruitment, intensive training program, advertising opportunities, running social networking events and major events such as V4U day, providing a system of rewards points and linking students into the leadership program.
- Student Life Grants form an important part of the funding ecology for student led initiatives, providing small grants (<\$500) for clubs and individuals who have a short-turnaround small initiative. This complements the in-kind support Student Life provides for student-led initiatives (equipment hire, advice, bookings, promotion, etc.) making Student Life a “one-stop-shop” for student-led engagement. Student Life use the grant scheme to ensure that we “curate” the calendar of events, to avoid gaps and overlaps, it also allows us to link students to the right departments (e.g. Safer Communities), so events don’t double up and cannibalise the audience.

Student Media Initiatives

- Provided print resources for students, provided design and print services for Clubs and Societies and managed the Student Life facebook presence with videos.
- Developed student-led content for the new MyVU platform and worked with students on the concept, design and implementation of this new digital channel to improve information and engagement.
- Increased social media content and student engagement through digital channels.
- Produced the Student Diary, in partnership with students.
- Delivered a communications improvement project with students to better understand opportunities for student-led media and communications and plan investment priorities for 2019.

Student Welfare

- Supported students with a team of specialist advisors to guide them through welfare, finance and housing support matters.
- Case management for welfare and life skills support and development.
- Services included support for:
 - cultural support
 - consumer affairs
 - drug and alcohol issues
 - women's support services
 - tax help
 - material aid
 - legal issues
 - financial counselling
- Delivered student workshops to all cohorts - transition, money management, housing
- Delivered tax help program - free tax assessment preparation service
- Produced a range of print and digital content available to provide information on services to students.
- Safety campus pop-up stands
- Provided the Housing database service.
- Produced the 2018 Housing Guide.
- International students wellbeing and welfare workshops

Student Counselling & Advocacy Services

- Provided professional Counselling services designed to assist students in their personal and social development including overcoming obstacles such as transition, uncertainty about the future, personal and family matters, study problems and psychological issues that may hinder their participation or performance in educational activities.
- Provided one on one confidential counselling to students in all cohorts.
- Delivered counselling workshops for students to enhance skills and workshops requested by Colleges and Student Services.
- Provided assistance to staff and students in managing critical mental health incidents involving students across VU campuses.
- Delivered Advocacy Services to support students with Academic Progress, University matters and access to information and advice on their rights.
- Development of a mental health strategy for students, with students, for launch in 2019.

VU Student Union

VUSU is an externally funded organisation by SSAF, reporting the following benefits to students for the 2018 year:

- Orientation activities promote awareness of VUSU to new students. VUSU was represented at every campus in 2018 Welcome week and participated in the Student Life Block Party
- Welcome events benefit students by providing safe social events to introduce new students to each other and the university experience.
- College Societies organise events and workshops, and provide representation and advocacy.
- International Students Association (ISA) organise and participate in events including International student orientation sessions;
- VU Postgraduate Association (VUPA) organize events for postgraduate students including industry and social networking events, seminar series and TED X Melbourne

- The Union represents all students at VU and supports enhancing the student experience at the University via social events and activities, campaigns, up-skilling and student advocacy on both local University and Government contexts, on matters raised by students and identified by elected student representatives.
- The Union provides leadership opportunities for student representatives and encourages innovative student-led programs and activities.
- Representation for all students at VU and enhancement of the student experience at the University via social events and activities, campaigns, up-skilling and student advocacy on both local University and Government contexts, on matters raised by students and identified by elected student representatives.
- Leadership opportunities for student representatives and innovative student-led programs and activities.
- Fund and support events & campaigns, including the VU/VUSU Symposium, VUSU campus hangouts, End of Exams party (in partnership with RUSU & SSU), Exam reviver stations, LBGTQIA Wellbeing Day, Healthy breakfast stalls at all campuses. Subsidised First Aid training. Associations & College Societies provide opportunities for students to network and gain skills.
- HYDE magazine features articles and artwork created by Victoria University students. It aims to create a sense of community between campuses. HYDE is distributed between eight campuses throughout Melbourne; it is also distributed at many places near these campuses that are frequented by students and locals. Hyde promotes opportunities for students, upcoming events as well as career pathways. Hyde also explores fringe careers and personalities, as VU has a varied race and background demographic.
- Fund and support events & campaigns, including the Annual VUSU Ball, VU/VUSU Symposium, VUSU campus hangouts, Back to Uni Party (in partnership with LTSU) Women in Higher Education Week Forum, text book grants, Healthy breakfast stalls.. Subsidised First Aid and Mental Health First Aid training. Associations & College Societies provide opportunities for students to network and gain skills Associations & College Societies - >1400 members.

Student Sport and Health Services

- Sport club growth and support to Clubs.
- Sport Club presence at orientations.
- Daily lunch-time social sport opportunities available on multiple campuses concurrently.
- Regular lunchtime sport held, over 30 sessions held, 1500 student engagements, averaging 45 participants per session.
- Provision of access to VU sport facilities at subsidised rates.
- Provision of a suite of sport, active living and physical play programs for students. Programs include:
 - Orientation and festival events
 - Vunite/ Team VU events
 - Social/Active programs (SAP) - walking/ running/ cycling/ golf
 - VU Active Living Program (VALP) - Health, Diet, Mental wellbeing, Functional Fitness, Social Sport
 - Adventure Tour - multiple activities
 - Sport Awards and Scholarships
 - Elite Athlete Program (EAP)
 - Head to head competition challenges
- Delivery of supporting programs at all Orientation and Festival events.
- Delivery of 2 Vunite events.
- Weekly schedule of SAP (multiple activities, multiple days, multiple campuses).
- Deliver initial Adventure.
- Initial consultation with all EAP students.
- Support of World and stand alone AUC events where students qualify.
- Nationals trial process and team management selection and training commences
- Health initiatives within the THRIVE: Active Living Program
- Short course programs in a range of health, first aid and sport and recreation areas.

- Delivery of calendar of VU Sport and Health programs as indicated in the VU Sport and Health Handbook 2018.

Student Success & Support Programs

- Student advisory services to advise on Institutional matters and in particular, provide personalised support and one-to-one consultation for VU's Academic Progress Planning program.
- Supported students to develop skills for study and set themselves up for study success via the Success Planning advisory program and online services.
- Supported students with their orientation to VU and the VU Polytechnic.
- Supported students with advice on careers and employment opportunities at VU for student as staff.
- Helped students with accommodation matters and their financial affairs, including the release of BlackBullion as an online service to support students with better financial management and literacy.
- advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);

Student facility / amenity upgrades

- New furniture and equipment for student spaces at Footscray Park campus
- Upgrades for VUHQ student hub areas

2018 SSAF Student Experience Initiative Grants

Since 2013, SSAF Student Experience Initiatives funding has helped students and staff provide student amenities, services and activities that contribute to a positive student experience of a non-academic nature.

The below table illustrates the range of projects allocated funding by the SSAF Consultative Committee in 2018 and the benefits delivered to students (often by students).

Project Title	Project Description	Allocation
2018 Indigenous Games	<p>Victoria University Sport and Moondani Balluk took a team of Indigenous students and staff from Victoria University to the 2018 Indigenous Games at Macquarie University in Sydney, New South Wales.</p> <p>The objectives of the Indigenous Games are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, 2. Promote unity, health, fitness and well-being 3. Encouraging the demonstration of self-determination 4. Initiating new communication networks 5. Reinforce identity through positive role models. <p>Our participation at the 2018 Indigenous Games is one part of an ongoing strategy to build towards future representation, participation and success at future Indigenous Games events,</p>	\$10,000.00

	for the benefit of our Indigenous students and the Aboriginal community as a whole.	
VU Music Society Open Mic Series	VU Music Society ran a weekly open mic night at Kindred Studios, where students could perform and gain feedback about their performances and technique or simply enjoy some live music. Open Mic events will build students' confidence in performing, as well as giving them opportunities to gain practical performance techniques and key musicianship skills.	\$8,000.00
Representative Sport - Nationals	<p>The SSAF SEI Grant helped to support students representing VU at the Australian University Sport (AUS) Nationals by providing a VU participation package subsidy to Student Team Managers and Coaches. VU's Representative Sport Leadership Group comprises overall Student Team Captains (1 female, 1 male across multi-sport event) plus a Student Team Manager and Coach per sport.</p> <p>VU's representative sport program is largely user pays, our dedicated student athletes and team managers fund competition registration fees and travel (Including flights) as well as their VU participation package (accommodation, uniform and team dinners).</p> <p>With the introduction of the Nationals model and increased competitiveness, experience has shown that teams perform best and the overall student experience is greatly improved when supported by an effective leadership group.</p>	\$6,400.00
De-stress festival	Two 2018 De-Stress Festivals were held in the periods leading up to when assignments due dates and exams. These events included a wide variety of activities, from therapy dogs to a Scream booth, that engaged with VU students to support their health and well-being. The activities were held across all campuses with no cost to students.	\$5,000.00

<p>Monthly Tech Talk</p>	<p>The Monthly Tech Talk is an initiative of ANDS, Nectar, QCIF, Intersect, VicNode, eRSA, and Pawsey. The purpose of these combined virtual Australia-wide meetings combined with local physical meetups is to:</p> <p>(1) provide a forum for developers to discuss topics of interest to them;</p> <p>(2) enable a dialogue between developers and NCRIS facilities</p> <p>This initiative will enable HDR students and researchers at VU listen to some best research work on a technical research area. It will also help to develop an intellectual climate within VU. The Monthly Tech talks will happen every first Friday of the month and will take about an hour (3:00pm-4: 00 pm AEST).</p>	<p>\$600.00</p>
	<p>ALLOCATION TOTAL</p>	<p>\$30,000.00</p>