

2019 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 whilst allowing for greater flexibility in the delivery of SSAF funded student services and activities.

In 2019 this model was centrally governed, managed and administered by Student Services on behalf of VU and included the following:

- Base allocation funding for all services currently approved for SSAF; the amount related to activity /service based costings (the allocation and funding are 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 2019:

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 2019, total SSAF revenue of \$4,857,364 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 2019 was reported as \$5,585,424 with an actual spend in SSAF priorities and grants of \$5,747,808. VU supported the additional priorities with funding from Student Services.

2019 SSAF Distribution & Expenditure Report

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019
Anticipated and Actual SSAF Revenue	\$4,857,364	\$5,585,424
Base Allocation Funding Areas (including Student Representation)	Allocation 2019	Actual 2019
Student Life, Leadership, Volunteering, Clubs & Societies	\$1,497,048	\$1,625,535
Victoria University Student Union	\$379,868	\$374,949
Student Counselling	\$1,258,386	\$1,300,729
Student Advocacy	\$198,106	\$180,453
Student Welfare	\$376,244	\$353,826
Student Sport & Health Services	\$291,000	\$291,000
Student Success & Support Programs	\$966,272	\$878,421
Student Media Initiatives	\$292,442	\$256,801
Ancillary Costs (internal depreciation)	\$6,203	\$3,410
Initiative Grant Funding		
Student Experience Initiative Grants	\$40,000	\$51,474
Capital Allowance		
Student Facility/Amenity Upgrades	\$100,000	\$26,843
	\$5,405,569	\$5,747,808
Revenue	<u>\$4,857,364</u>	<u>\$5,731,242</u>
Revenue Less Expenditure	<u>-\$548,205</u>	<u>-\$16,566</u>

2019 Programs, Activities and Services Delivered to Students from SSAF

Student Life, Leadership, VU Vollies, Clubs & 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 Life Grants. The team partners with university stakeholders to oversee orientation and transition programs that ensure commencing students enjoy a successful start to their studies.
- Student as Staff employment opportunities offered to 10 current VU students.
- Partnered with students to encourage student-led initiatives, assisting VUSU, Clubs and Societies.
- Support the annual calendar of Student Welcome activities (multi-campus, dual sector) including: O-Fest, Block Party, Family Information Day, Big Beach Day Out, Incredible Race and orientation sessions specifically designed for international students
- Exam Reviver activations, free equipment hire for student run events, annual calendar of events across all campuses (e.g. Cultural Diversity Week, De-Stress Fest, Twilight Cinema, lunchtime BBQs, etc.)
- Annual Student Leadership Conference, Student Leadership Awards, Student Leadership Council, LEAD program, UTEP Leadership Exchange and special projects
- Events for International Students; International Orientation sessions; Pre-arrival communications including Airport reception services; 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, Clubs-Fest, training for club executives (e.g. Finance training for Treasurers, First-Aid, Food Handling, RSA), networking and skill sharing sessions with fellow students and link to VU Colleges/departments., 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 the hugely successful V4U Day, providing a system of reward and recognition for active volunteer service 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 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 MyVU platform and worked with students on the concept, design and implementation of this new digital channel to improve information and engagement.
- Developed and designed a range of digital content for the promotion of student events, programs and activities that promote student participation and engagement
- Increased social media content and student engagement through digital channels.
- Produced the MyVU and MyVU International guides for students
- Produced the Student Diary, in partnership with students.

Student Welfare & Advocacy Services

- 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 2020 Housing Guide.
- International students wellbeing and welfare workshops
- Delivered Advocacy Services to support students with Academic Progress, University matters and access to information and advice on their rights.

Student Counselling

- 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.
- Delivered Mental Health First Aid training programs
- Provided assistance to staff and students in managing critical mental health incidents involving students across VU campuses.
- Supported two Student led research initiatives that aim to positively impact on student mental health and positive wellbeing

VU Student Union

VUSU is an externally funded organisation by SSAF, reporting the following benefits to students for the 2019 year:

- Orientation activities promote awareness of VUSU to new students. VUSU was represented at every campus in 2019 Welcome week.
- 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.

- 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 Student Forum, VUSU Hangs on every campus, De-Stress Festival and Carnival, mid-semester party, Liptember Festival, Exam revival stations, and 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.

Student Sport and Health Services

- Supporting representative, club and campus sport programs to enhance the student experience
- On campus sports programs including sporting clubs and teams, UniSport Nationals and social sport
- Regular free lunch-time sport opportunities available on multiple campuses (313 sessions, 6 campuses, 10,613 student participants, averaging 33 participants per session).
- Weekly schedule of SAP Social/Active programs (SAP) - walking/ running/ cycling/ golf/table tennis/badminton (1230 participants)
- Promotion of individual and team participation in evening social sport competitions at multiple campus locations
- Sport club growth and support: start up, affiliation and exec support and student opportunities for competition and training.
- Sport club presence at campus Orientation Festival events and series of come and try events.
- Provision of access to VU sport fitness facilities at subsidised rates. Free access to multi-sport courts at times outside of bookings with equipment loan.
- Coordination of UniSport Nationals trial selection process, team management, coaching and training
- 500+ students participating and supported including trials, training, tour preparation and representation at UniSport Nationals .
- Facilitation of regional intervarsity competition participation, including hosting Southern Shield Netball tournament
- Training and support for volunteer student sport team managers and coaches including incident management training and workshops, mentoring and networking events
- VUnite/Team VU Community Fitness events participation, including partnering with VU Polytechnic Massage to provide complimentary treatments adding value to participants and student work integrated learning
- Support of students selected to represent the Australian UniRoos at World Universiade.
- Elite Athlete Program (EAP) 145 eligible student-athletes supported. Individual consultations with eligible students and support re course enquires, liaison with Admissions, academic advice, enrolment and advocacy including flexible assessment around competition to balance sport and study
- Delivery of Annual Sport Awards, recognising, student sporting achievements at Nationals, club competitions and major international events and student leaders and volunteers supporting programs.
- Health, fitness and initiatives within THRIVE: VU Active Living Program.
- Partnering with De-Stress Festival and Muti cultural Week providing sport and health activations
- Short course programs in a range of health, first aid and sport and recreation areas.

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 through the transition in to their second year of study via the second Year Advising Program
- 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
- 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 St Albans campus
- Upgrades for Learning Hub at City Flinders campus

2019 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 2019 and the benefits delivered to students (often by students).

Project Title	Project Description	Allocation
Be a Better Human Campaign	Victoria University Student Union brought the Be a Better Human (BaBH) campaign to VU. The campaign was created to reflect campus culture and what everyone needs to appreciate – consent, respect and empathy. The campaign spread this message through social media content, campus festivals, branded merchandise and a booklet specifically for VU students. The outcomes of this project have an environment where students and staff feel supported and empowered. BaBH has raised awareness of VU and VUSU services available to students and staff, as well as education on respectful relationships, consent, and empathy. This has created a positive student experience in not only creating a more safe and inclusive environment, but brought all students together to hear more about consent empathy and respect, but also together in a fun and creative event. The festival brought students and staff from all departments together under one umbrella of education and enjoyment.	\$6,000.00

International Postgraduate Students Buddy Program	<p>The SSAF SEI Grant helped the Victoria University Postgraduate Association (VUPA) run a buddy program that paired international postgraduate students with a “buddy” that provided students with an easier transition to study in Australia. The program enhanced the academic and social atmosphere for these newly arrived students by connecting them with existing students in the research sphere, and allowed them to share information about the university, life in Australia and in particular, life in Melbourne.</p>	\$4,580.00
Queernival	<p>A carnival style celebration of gender diversity that coincided with 2019 Wear it Purple Day, Queernival provided all students and staff the opportunity to participate in a fun event that promoted a healthy university environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment, where gender diverse students and could feel accepted as part of the VU community. The event included a Pride flag display, as well as performances by drag artists, salsa dancers and circus acts that all encouraged student and audience participation.</p>	\$5,934.00
VU Multicultural Stories Project	<p>The VU Multicultural Stories Project entailed gathering stories and voices amongst the student population around identity, connection, belonging, international student experiences, aspiration etc. The stories are by students for students, drawing on a range of stakeholders to create a community of practice (COP). The stories articulated the importance of identity and the narrative of the student experience. The project included workshops to provide guided writing and storytelling skills. The program was extremely well attended with stories being published in the VUSU Hyde Magazine, as well as being published to the VU Cultural Diversity website</p>	\$5,000.00

40th Anniversary Gala Dinner of Peak Body CAPA	The allocation of this SEI Grant money supported inter-university postgraduate networking	\$3,000.00
Postgrad Ball/Cocktail Evening	The SEI Grant enabled VUPA to put on and host their inaugural Postgrad Ball and cocktail evening. The evening was designed to promote collegiality and networking across the colleges. The event was successful in providing opportunities for postgraduate students to mix with university leadership, other postgraduate students and student representatives.	\$2,000.00
Victoria University Water Wise Program	<p>This Water Safety Program was a specialized aquatics education initiative run by VU Sport.</p> <p>This program was specifically designed to target high risk groups within the VU population that are currently not catered for eg. International students, students from a non-English speaking background and students from a low socio-economic background. These particular groups are under represented in traditional Learn to Swim and Water Safety programs due to cultural differences (it is not traditional to learn to swim as a child in many countries) and lack of financial resources.</p> <p>The program provided a safe environment for students to learn to swim and gain water survival skills to be safe around water.</p>	9,870.00
ALLOCATION TOTAL		\$36,384.00