



A fair deal for students

For a fairer society

Supporting students creates a fairer society and a stronger economy. The Greens have got your back.

Students are the only group in society expected to borrow just to get by. We believe that students should be supported so that they can focus on learning the skills they need to contribute to a smart, innovative economy and a fairer society. It's difficult to do that when you are constantly worried about making ends meet. Tertiary study should be a way out of poverty, not a way into it. The Green Party will:

1. Make all post-graduate students eligible for student allowances, as a step towards a fully universal student allowance.
2. Increase all student allowances by 20 percent.
3. Make buses and trains free for all tertiary students and apprentices.
4. Increase funding for tertiary institutions to make sure they are resourced to support students with disabilities.
5. Restore the ability of students in long courses to access loans and allowances beyond seven years.

As well as these Green Party promises, we support Labour's three free years of tertiary education plan.

A universal allowance for post-graduate students

The Green Party will make all post-graduate students eligible for a student allowance, as a first step towards eventually making all students eligible. New Zealand needs smart tertiary policy that values the contribution of higher education to our economy and society. Making all post-graduate students eligible for allowances is estimated to cost \$300 million a year.

Raising student allowances

The Green Party will increase all student allowances by 20 percent. A student under 24 years old not living with their parents would receive \$39.50 more every week, and a student over 24 not living with their parents would receive an extra \$47.50 a week. A single parent who is studying will be around \$130 better off every week. This is part of our Mending the Safety Net welfare and tax reform policy that will make everyone who earns less than \$150,000 better off than they are now. This policy also includes raising the

minimum wage to \$17.75 and restoring the Training Incentive Allowance to help people on benefits gain new skills and qualifications. See www.greens.org.nz/mending-the-safety-net

The Green Card: free buses and trains

For students who are already struggling to cover their basic costs, and who have to commute most days to study, travel costs are a real issue. On average, students spend \$33 every week on transport – which they could put towards food or power bills. Our Student Green Card will provide free public transport for all tertiary students and apprentices in off-peak hours. This will make a massive difference to students trying to make ends meet. See <https://www.greens.org.nz/our-transport-plan>

Improving student disability support services

Students with disabilities face significant hurdles accessing tertiary education. Current Government funding for disability support in tertiary education is not adequate. This needs addressing urgently because 42.3% of disabled youth aged 15–24 years are not in employment, education, or training. The Green Party will increase equity funding fourfold, to \$112 per equivalent full-time student with disabilities. We will also strengthen tertiary institutions' reporting requirements so students' progress can be tracked better and to ensure they have support from entry to graduation. This will cost \$1.1 million a year.

Restoring access to loans and allowances

People in long term courses like medicine, dentistry, and veterinary science help us build a world class health system and need support to complete their degrees. The Greens will restore access to student loans and allowances beyond seven years. We are committed to keeping all student loans interest free in the long term.

Winter energy payments

The Green Party will provide all households that earn less than \$50,000 a year with winter energy payments to cover 75 percent of the average increase to power bills over the winter months. These will be set based on average regional power bills, so a student flat in Auckland would be \$206 better off every winter, while a student flat in Dunedin would be \$261 better off every winter. See <https://www.greens.org.nz/empowering-nz>

Youth mental health

Being a student can be tough. The Green Party's \$263 million youth mental health package includes free counselling for everyone under the age of 25, an overall increase for youth mental health service funding, and more funding for community initiatives. See <https://www.greens.org.nz/youth-mental-health-plan>

[www.greens.org.nz/
fair-deal-for-students](http://www.greens.org.nz/fair-deal-for-students)

The logo for the Green Party, featuring a stylized green leaf above the word "Green" in a white, serif font.

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