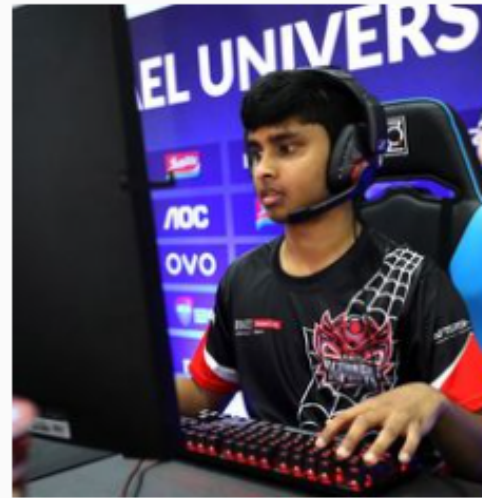


SSAF Annual Report - 2020



SSAF Delivery Partners:



Expenditure Summary



Student Services and Amenities Fees at RMIT

Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) at RMIT University are annually spent on the Australian Government's list of [Allowable Items](#). The services and amenities are delivered by RMIT University and the RMIT University Student Union (RUSU).

SSAF 2020 income & expenditure

Funds collected	\$13,861,994
Funds spent	\$12,186,144
Carried over to 2021	\$1,675,850

SSAF funded initiatives continue online

With the impact of COVID-19 in 2020 RMIT refined delivery of funded initiatives to meet social distancing requirements or be remotely delivered. Prioritisation of student health, welfare, and financial assistance funding was also enhanced.

All key services remained in place by shifting to 100% remote delivery, and in most cases these services increased their reach.

Your SSAF Your Say

Student input shaped SSAF spending in 2020 through:

- Co-design activity with Student Representatives
- Student focus groups
- Annual "Have Your Say Day" – student voice summit
- Survey feedback



Your SSAF covers a lot!

Here are some of the ways your SSAF has enhanced student life in 2020.

1. Wellbeing & Support	\$3,831,708
2. Career Development & Future Ready	\$2,745,504
3. Connection & Belonging	\$2,633,787
4. Student Rights, Representation & Study Assistance	\$2,975,145

Wellbeing & Student Support



Student Support

- RMIT Student Support Advisers supported 11,000+ international and domestic students with accommodation and financial affairs.
- RMIT Student Legal Service provided legal and referral advice to 2,700+ students both in-person and online.
- The RUSU Compass Team assisted 2,200+ students with mental health support, study support, financial support, rental rights and more.
- Weekly spiritual events and activities were delivered to foster an inclusive and respectful multi-faith community at RMIT.
- RMIT enhanced its Equitable Learning Service (ELS) by employing additional ELS advisers during peak periods.



"I loved being part of a collective of like-minded people who got together and kind looked after each other in these crazy times." Anonymous

Mental Wellbeing

- 9,100+ professional online counselling appointments were provided to RMIT students.
- 3,000+ students connected through the 'RMIT Together' initiative designed to support students during times of online learning.
- RUSU delivered a 'Take the Night Off' free dinner support program for Postgraduate, HDR students and their families.
- RMIT & RUSU collaboratively delivered online Calm Zone activities supporting student wellbeing during peak assessment time.
- Digital resources launched by RMIT Wellbeing encouraged support seeking behaviour through University Mental Health Day, R U OK? Day, Mental Health Week and 16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.
- Online Bystander Intervention and Mental Wellbeing Essentials training modules were developed providing students with resources to manage their wellbeing and support others.



"Thank you so much for being there for me. It means more than I can say." Anonymous

Food Services

- RUSU Realfoods provided over 23,500+ healthy meals to students living in student accommodation.
- The RMIT Multifaith Chaplaincy Team distributed 3,500+ food and care packages to students.
- RUSU's Grocery Voucher Assistance Program provided aid to 1,800+ students in immediate need.
- The RUSU Compass Virtual Marketplace initiative delivered fresh grocery meal boxes to 750 students along with supporting recipe cards and demonstration videos.



Career Development & Future Ready



Mentoring & Employment

- 3,000+ career mentoring experiences were delivered online with 1200+ industry professionals from a wide range of global companies, government organisations, as well as non-for-profits and SMEs.
- 250+ RMIT students gained employment through the Jobs on Campus program.



"My mentor gave me great insight to now focus on achieving my goals" Olivia M



"The biggest benefit I've found from the internship, is expanding my skills, and making connections." Sam C

Skill Development

- RMIT Future Edge program helped 3,700+ students build 21st century job-ready skills through a variety of facilitated events and workshops.
- RMIT supported 8,000+ students to complete Careers and Work Ready micro-credentials preparing them to enter the workforce.
- 190+ students participated in training opportunities via the RUSU Volunteer Program including accredited Food Safety Handling, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Customer Service training.
- The RMIT & RUSU Club Leadership Development Program provided face-to-face and virtual professional development sessions for 130+ RMIT and RUSU club leaders.
- RMIT delivered Pride in Sport LGBTIQ+ awareness training for club leaders.

Career Assistance

- The RMIT Final Year Graduate Program delivered 27 work-ready boot camps and facilitated personalised career consultations to 2,250+ final year students.
- 2500+ students received specialised career support from RMIT Job Shop including career counselling, support finding employment, resume consultations and industry workshops.
- To enhance employment opportunities for RMIT students living with a disability, a specialised careers service was launched delivering; tailored assistance, Work Integrated Learning and employment opportunities.

My Future Edge

"Future Edge helped provide a structure to my career progression and has helped me land my dream job as a Marketing Assistant with the RMIT Global Experience Office!"

- Pamela Stanley
Bachelor of Business (Marketing) (Applied)

Connection & Belonging

THANKS
SSAF

Preparing & Celebrating

- RMIT & RUSU delivered 16 orientation events for 13,500+ students including Celebrations, RUSU's Welcome Bash, Indigenous Culture Virtual Campus Tours, Clubs Expos and more.
- How2RMIT online university induction sessions in Semester 2 supported 1,200+ students.
- RMIT Mates peer-to-peer mentoring program supported 600+ students and facilitated over 50 social activities across the year.
- RUSU hosted 24 online English Conversation Workshops for international students, with activities to build peer support and social connection.
- RMIT delivered the inaugural virtual 'Grad Week', hosting 19 live online events including the 'Grad Live' celebration with 35,200+ live stream views and reaching 430,000+ people across social channels such as Weibo, Insta and LinkedIn.



Creative & Sport Activity

Weekly creative and sport programs helped students connect, relax, stay healthy and develop skills, such as:

- Big Sing Thing Choir, Dance and Ukulele classes.
- Online Fitness Challenges, Live workouts and Healthy Habits online series.
- Esports and online games.
- Active Outdoors - Bike Tours and Paddle Boarding.

Student-led creative initiatives:

- Break & Create - good mental health program for students during the assessment period.
- Public Art Trail - student-developed participatory artworks.
- Bust a Groove - Global online dance competition in collaboration with RMIT Vietnam.
- Snatches - theatrical performances live screening via YouTube.

Sports highlights included:

- RMIT Sports Leadership 6-week series, featuring talks from five world champion sports leaders.
- RMIT Redbacks Esports team won the inaugural UniSport Australia Esports Championship.

"Fantastic initiative and great to hear from elite athletes about their journeys." Anonymous



UNI FREQUENCY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY RUSU

Clubs & Student Media

- RMIT & RUSU supported 160+ student-led clubs to deliver social events, virtual welcome activities, podcasts, mentoring programs and more.
- 40+ RMIT students participated in creating radio programs, television shows and podcasts through SYN Media, including the Uni Frequency Radio Show collaboration with RUSU.
- RMIT Catalyst Magazine produced 5 editions of "Seasons for Growth" featuring student editors and contributors.
- RMITV hosted the Isolation Film Festival and gave students the opportunity to produce four TV series for YouTube and Channel 31.



HEALTHY HABITS

RMIT SPORTS VIDEO SERIES HOSTED BY MICHAEL SERPELL



Student Rights, Representation & Study Assistance



Student Rights

- The RUSU Student Liaison Team managed thousands of enquiries referring students to information and resources for support at RMIT.
- RUSU Student Rights Officers provided advocacy support for 900+ student cases.
- Postgraduate and HDR students were supported by a dedicated specialist RUSU Student Rights Officer.
- Trained RUSU student representatives supported their fellow students by sitting on 56 appeals committee panels throughout the academic year.

"Being a student representative was a great opportunity to build my confidence and public speaking skills." Beatrice C



Student Representation

- 250+ students were trained to represent their classmates in providing course feedback at Student Staff Consultative Committees across all RMIT colleges.
- 28 elected student council representatives were trained and supported to represent all RMIT students on the RMIT Academic Board, Sustainability Committee, Health Safety & Wellbeing Committee and a range of other advisory groups.
- 50+ student representatives engaged with senior RMIT staff at the Annual Have Your Say Day and produced recommendations relating to 'Student-Centred Education', 'Iso Life' and 'Support Beyond the Classroom'.



Study Assistance

- 350+ 'Study KnowHow' workshops were delivered to 13,000+ students, covering topics such as Academic Writing, Study Skills, STEM and English for Uni.
- Academic Skills Advisors and Librarians provided 1,700+ students with tailored study support; including topic research, academic integrity, effective learning strategies and assistance with statistics.
- The RMIT Library launched an online assessment support module assisting 4,600+ students.
- RUSU hosted 6 'Sit & Write' sessions - a supportive group study event designed for PhD and Masters students.

"Thank you for your dedicated work, your actions have been valuable, transparent and helpful for us students. Anonymous"



Student priorities for SSAF in 2021



Top priorities

RMIT students shared their priorities for SSAF spending in 2021:

1. Mental health and wellbeing
2. Student hardship and financial support
3. Counselling services
4. Student clubs and communities
5. Career development and support

Highlighted initiatives

- Student 'Mental Wellbeing & Respect' Capability Framework
- Re-igniting RMIT & RUSU Clubs Program
- RUSU Food Support Initiatives
- Specialised Career Support Program for students living with a disability
- RMIT & RUSU 'Solidarity Art project'
- RUSU Postgraduate & International Student Support Programs

How to get involved

RMIT students can share their feedback about the way SSAF is spent. If you have feedback or you would like to be involved in bringing an idea to life, complete [this form](#).



Acknowledgement of Country

RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University. RMIT University respectfully acknowledges their Ancestors and Elders, past and present.

RMIT also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the lands and waters across Australia where we conduct our business.

