

HOW MUCH IS IT?

In 2025 the CSSF is \$370.50 per Equivalent Full Time Student. There are some students who do not pay this fee, including those studying fully distance, online courses, Level 1 or 2 courses and youth-specific programmes.

WHY DO I CARE? HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?

As part of the Ministry of Education’s direction, institutions have to report on how these fees are charged and spent. This is available in the Ara annual report and on the Ara website.

Institutions must include students or their representatives when deciding on the following:

- maximum amount that students will pay
- types of services delivered
- procurement of these services
- method for authorising expenditure on these services.

To find out more, or if you want to contact your Student Council, email studentvoice@ara.ac.nz.

WHAT DOES IT PROVIDE?

By law, tertiary organisations can charge a Compulsory Student Services Fee (CSSF) to help fund the costs of delivering student services. These services are listed under specific categories:

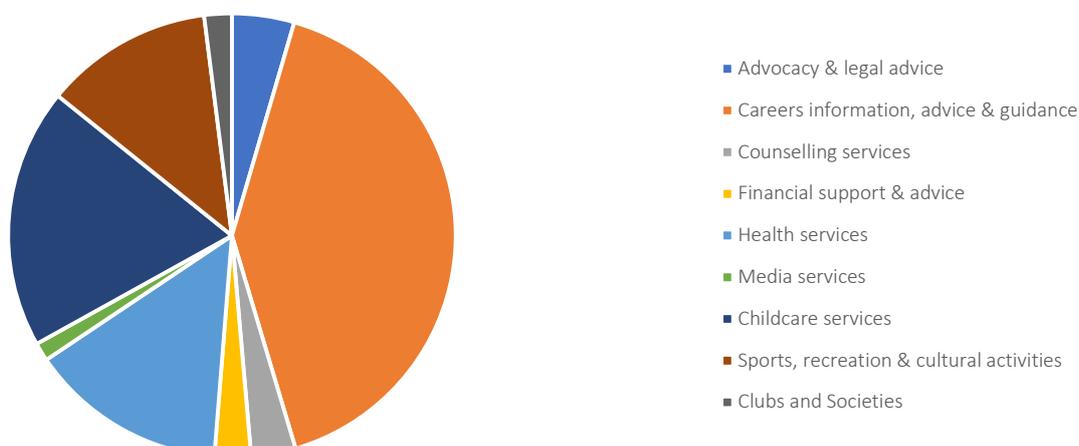
- advocacy and legal advice
- careers info, advice and guidance
- employment information
- counselling services
- financial support and advice
- health services
- media
- childcare services
- clubs and societies
- sports, recreation and cultural activities.

It does not include services such as academic support, learning services, disability services, library or targeted support such as youth. These areas get separate funding from the government and other funding streams.

SETTING THE 2025 CSSF

The CSSF is set in consultation with students, during 2024 the Ara Student Council (a group of up to eleven learner’s representative of the wider learner population) consulted with students through specific focus groups and opportunities to gather direct feedback from students. The Council seeks feedback on the quality and need of services for learners across a variety of channels: student voice, student experience survey, satisfaction surveys, programme/course representative meetings, and face-to-face feedback gathered group individual aspects of the services. As a result of this consultation process, the Student Council proposed the 2025 CSSF to be increased by 5.86% from the 2024 fee, an increase in alignment with the Tertiary Education Commission’s Annual Maximum Fee Movement rate. This resulted in an increase of \$20.50 in the CSSF from \$350 in 2023 to \$370.50 in 2024.

COST AND DESCRIPTION OF 2025 STUDENT SERVICES:



COST AND DESCRIPTION OF 2025 STUDENT SERVICES

CSSF Category	Description	Total Cost of Services	Cost covered by Levy
Advocacy and legal services	Ara contracts an external agency to provide an independent advocate to directly support you to resolve issues impacting directly on your study or on your ability to study. It also covers the management of student complaints and resolutions including some legal costs. These services are available for all students.	\$188,946	\$120,783
Careers and employment information	Ara provides career development advice and guidance as well as employment information. Career development may start prior to enrolment through assisting you to work through what you want to do and where you could pursue relevant study. You are supported throughout your study to develop the wide range of skills and attributes that will maximise your advantage in the employment market. You have access to both CareerHub and Student Job Search for finding employment. Resources are available to enable you to work independently, attend workshops and seminars or drop-in sessions and to have one-to-one guidance where necessary	\$1,319,349	\$843,386
Advice and guidance	Student advice and guidance includes all student advisors who offer support to you which enables you to succeed in your studies and to access services that assist with solving problems you may face. This covers help with Studylink through to knowing what is available at Ara and externally and where to find it. This may include a listening ear and support with solutions for matters related to accommodation, personal, spiritual, cultural, financial, justice, health and study concerns. Student advisors can be found in Student Central on your campus.	\$401,303	\$256,531
Counselling services	Ara provides you with access to free counselling sessions through our health services. Contracts for counselling cover the whole region and are available virtually and in-person.	\$134,683	\$86,095
Financial support and advice	You can access support when applying for scholarships, grants and the Ara financial hardship resource.	\$110,979	\$70,943
Health services	The Christchurch city campus has a health centre with doctors and nurses available for Christchurch students to access as needed. In addition, the health centre coordinates health promotion events and services that encourage proactive wellbeing and health management to students at all sites. Ara has agreements in place for southern campus students to access lower cost (sometimes free) nursing and medical consultations	\$601,153	\$259,631
Media	Ara encourages and supports online learning and communities. This holds all key relevant information for students. Ara invested in further online developments: MyAra is an online web and phone app acting as a hub for students to access relevant academic, support services, information, and announcements. MyGPS is a tool that has been developed to assist you with developing your career skills, attributes and experiences while studying in preparation for securing permanent and relevant work on completion of your qualifications. Ara Student Life are Facebook and Instagram pages for the student experience. Waha kōrero is a termly student newsletter designed by students, showcasing campus events, student advice, graduate stories and relevant topics.	\$56,315	\$35,999
Childcare services	There are two early learning centres on the City campus. Ara owns and operates the Ara Early Learning Centre and leases facilities to Te Waka Huruherumanu ki Ōtautahi bilingual centre. Ara provides discounted fees to the early learning centre opposite the Timaru campus.	\$796,651	\$48,999
Events, sports, recreation, and cultural activities	Ara provides a range of free student events, recreation and activities throughout the academic year at all sites. The events are structured to support student wellbeing and success, ie exam breakfasts. In addition, both Christchurch City and Timaru campuses have gymnasium facilities. You can buy a membership to the Christchurch city weights and fitness space at low cost. All other classes and facilities have no charges including use of balls, racquets etc. Ara supports the development of student groups, clubs and societies, as well as the development of a highly effective student voice and student council. Cultural events include celebrations of many language weeks, Mahuru Māori, a celebration of many diverse cultures of Ara students and mark many key ethnic, cultural and spiritual celebrations.	\$595,719	\$277,390
	2025 total costs of listed services and support		\$4,205,009
	2025 total CSSF contribution (47% of total costs)		\$1,999,556
	2025 total Ara contribution (27% of total costs)		\$1,128,758
	2025 total direct user contribution (26% of total costs)		\$1,128,758