

To

The Australian Universities Accord Panel,

Dear Sir,

HECS/HELP is a loan programme that allows students to postpone their university tuition payments until they reach a certain salary level. However, the total amount of one's HELP loan grows each year in step with inflation. As many may be aware, this is deemed ribā (usury) under Shari'ah (Islamic Law) and is, by default, ḥarām. This is a critical concern for the country's 800,000 Muslims.

As a result, Muslims who want to attend university (or postsecondary education in general) must choose between taking out a financial loan or not attending university at all. This is a grave issue that discourages and stops Muslims from attending university, and as a result, the Muslim community suffers.

The achievement would be to implement or restructure HELP loans in such a way that they become Shari'ah compatible, with no participation of ribā (usury). The Australian government should enlist local Islamic experts who can engage in making HELP loans Shari'ah compatible with the Muslim community.

Thank you.

Regards,

Sazzad Hasan

Dārul Qur'ān, Sydney

