

Textbook tips

Find out what you need

It's usually a good idea to wait until the first week of lectures to find out from your lecturers which texts are essential to purchase. If the books have been used in previous years, this will give you the option of buying second-hand books from noticeboards or the Student Association.

Check the edition

Check with the lecturer whether a new edition has been printed before buying an older text, as usually a new edition contains updated material.

Recommended reading

It's not necessary to purchase books labelled as 'Recommended Reading' in your subject guide. These can be accessed at the library.

Second-hand textbooks

Some second-hand textbooks are available through the Student Associations on each campus, or students may put ads on the noticeboards around campus. There is a free website offering second-hand textbooks for Australian university and TAFE students, where you can buy and sell textbooks. See www.textbookexchange.com.au

Share the cost

Sharing the cost of text books with friends is another option to save money. You can study together or borrow the book from each other over the teaching session.

Get in early

Try to source your books as early as possible. There are plenty of people looking for a bargain, so make sure you don't miss out!

Sell up

At the end of each session you can sell the books you no longer need, and use the money you get to buy more.

Avoid the fines

Make sure you return library books on time to avoid paying late fees. \$1 per day per book can add up to a very large fine if you're not careful, and if fines are not paid in full, you can't graduate.