



Are your work rights at risk?

As an international student, you have rights in the workplace. These rights deserve to be protected. Here are some warning signs to be aware of.



You do not get your payslips

This means you have no record of the hours you work. Make sure you always receive a payslip (hard copy or electronic) within one working day of getting paid.



You get money taken out of your pay

Sometimes you may accidentally break something at work or customers may leave without paying. Employers can't take money from your pay to cover this.



You are asked to apply for an ABN

An ABN is an Australian business number. You usually only need one if you are running a business. For most jobs, you only need a Tax File Number. An employer shouldn't ask you to get an ABN as a condition of employment.



You are asked to give back some of your pay

If an employer pays you the correct, legal amount and then asks you to give some of your pay back in cash, this is a "cashback scheme". This is not allowed.



You get paid in food and housing

It is illegal for employers to offer food or housing in place of money. Free food is fine but only if it is on top of your actual pay.

If you see any of these warning signs, contact the Fair Work Ombudsman for help.