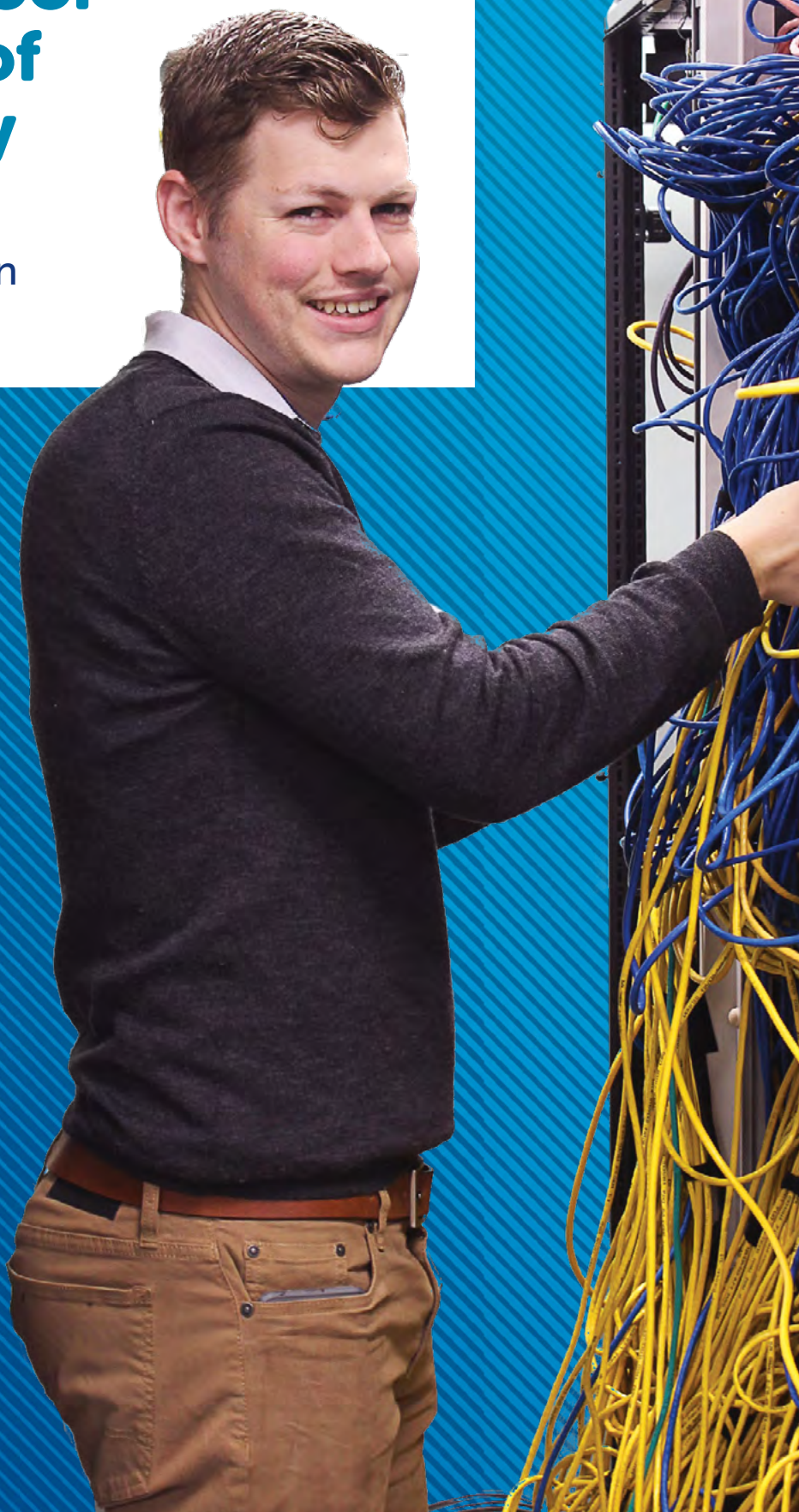


Open the door to a world of opportunity

Your guide to
Vocational Education
and Training





What is VET?

Opportunities through learning

Vocational education and training gives you the skills you need to get the job you want, now and in the future.

Vocational education and training (VET) offers you a huge range of opportunities to get the skills and knowledge that will set you up for life.

VET is the education option that offers a practical alternative to university through standalone qualifications, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships that let you learn in the workplace while in paid employment. It leads to nationally recognised qualifications that range from Certificates I–IV to Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas.

You can train for a career in a wide range of fields. There are VET courses in some of the largest industry growth areas, as well as for jobs with a shortage of labour.

VET is offered by a range of training providers (called registered training organisations), including TAFE NSW, private providers and adult and community education (ACE) colleges.

Some VET courses are subsidised by the NSW Government. For example, under Smart and Skilled, you pay only a fraction of the cost of your

course and the government pays the rest. There are also fee-free scholarships available. If you're eligible—for instance, you're under 30 and receive welfare benefits—you won't have to pay any fees at all.

Read on to find out more about what VET has to offer and learn about Smart and Skilled courses, or apprenticeships and traineeships.



'The experiences I've gained are incomparable, when looking back at the past two years I have been so lucky to have done things that others could only imagine doing. Sometimes I can start the working day off with a really mundane task, then by the end of the day I can be in a remote location dealing with a wildfire.'

Stella Crick

Finalist, 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year
Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management

Why VET?

A practical approach to education prepares you for the real world.



'Since completing my traineeship, my career has flourished. It's been eye opening to see how much of my course work applies to real industry. My training has also helped me develop self-reliance and resourcefulness to move into any role that's required of me.'

Madison Coelli

2017 Trainee of the Year
Certificate IV in Business Administration

Get the skills employers want

In today's competitive job market, it's important you have the right technical skills and qualifications. Employers all over Australia think highly of VET. They know VET delivers learning designed by industry experts that combines practical skills with the latest theories.

Get there faster and pay less

VET helps you take a faster, lower-cost route to completing a qualification and finding employment than getting a university degree.

Courses at Certificate I–IV level usually take between six months to two years. Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses range from one to two years.

Apprenticeships and traineeships let you earn while you learn, and take around three to four years to complete. VET is competency-based, which means you can successfully complete your qualification once you reach a set skill level—rather than after a fixed length of time—so you may even be able to fast-track your learning.

While fees for VET depend on your personal circumstances and the type of course you choose, they are generally lower than university fees.

And when you enrol in a VET course, the skills, knowledge and experience you have gained from your previous learning, work experience and life in general may be taken into account. You won't have to study subjects that you have already mastered, so your course fees and length are reduced even further.

Learning suited to you

With VET, you can learn by doing—in the way that suits you best. VET providers offer campus-based delivery as well as flexible, online and work-based learning.

Earn while you learn

If you choose an apprenticeship or traineeship, you can complete your training while you work. You'll do a real job for a real employer and earn a real wage while getting your qualification.

Build a career you enjoy

A VET qualification can lead to a well-paid career. It will give you the skills employers are looking for, the chance to get a good job and a bright future.

More than just a great way to get into the workforce, VET also allows you to progress to higher-level qualifications, building on your skills and knowledge as you go. You can also gain credits towards university entry via a VET pathway. Whatever you choose to do in life, VET can set you up for success.

Did you know?

MYTH 1 VET graduates earn lower wages than university graduates

REALITY The median full-time income for a VET graduate is \$56,000. The median salary for a bachelor's degree graduate is \$54,000.

MYTH 2 University graduates find work more easily than VET graduates

REALITY 69% of bachelor's degree graduates are in full-time employment (2017). 78% of VET graduates are employed after training and 82% of VET apprentices or trainees are employed after training.

MYTH 3 VET is no longer relevant in a globally competitive world

REALITY The Commonwealth Department of Employment (2016) found that VET provides training for nine out of 10 occupations predicted to have the greatest new job growth over the next five years.

Where can VET take you?

Discover your future now

VET qualifications lead to great jobs in hundreds of exciting industries. With courses available for so many careers, there's bound to be one that sparks your interest.



Discover your enterprising spirit in business

Work with numbers and new technologies, communicate with different stakeholders or lead your own team. Choose a career in accounting, financial planning, real estate, sales, marketing, management or business administration.



Take customer satisfaction to a new level

Train to be a chef, waiter or bartender, manage a five-star hotel, or join a travel agency and see the world.



Let your imagination run wild

Cultivate your talent and create a career in music, photography, design, digital media, fashion, visual arts, radio or television.



Build our growing economy

Join one of the largest industries in Australia. Design, install, repair or assemble products working as a builder, carpenter, electrician, plumber, fabricator or building designer.



Keep our country moving

Design, build, repair or drive big machinery as a mechanic, panel beater, maritime or aviation professional.



Explore your love of animals or the outdoors

Create a future in agriculture, fishing, water management or mining. Nurture your green thumb through forestry, conservation or horticulture, or handle, train and care for animals.



Care for your community

Support the wellbeing of Australians from pre-birth through to old age. Become a nurse or counsellor; nurture preschool children; help those with disabilities or work in drug and alcohol rehabilitation.



Advance Australian innovation

Use your maths and science skills to address real-world problems in engineering, science or IT. Work with new technologies to fix what's broken, improve what works or create new innovations.

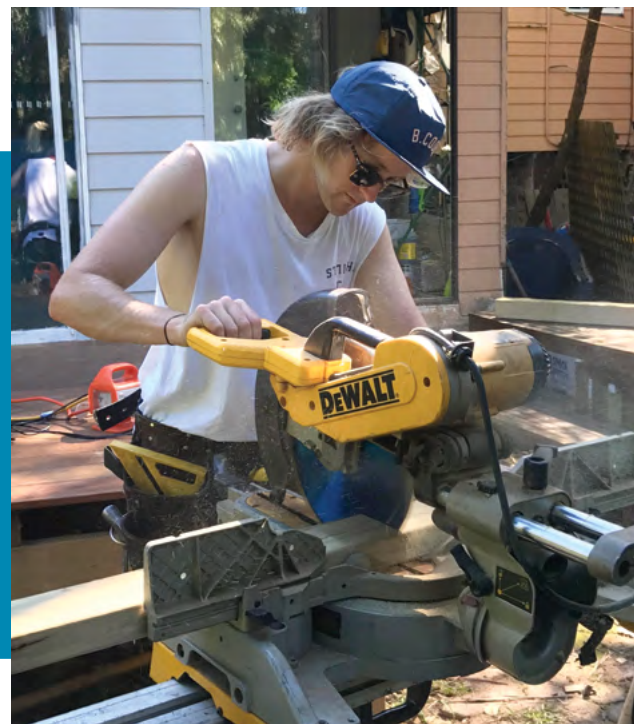
Visit vet.nsw.gov.au to find out more

'Once I realised I wanted to start a career in landscape construction, I spoke to my friends and employers in the industry, who all recommended that I start an apprenticeship rather than study at university. My course gave me the foundations to really understand all areas of the industry. I really enjoyed learning in detail about plants and their environments. I also loved the construction aspect of the course. The hands-on training we received was invaluable.'

Jordan Cahill

2017 Apprentice of the Year

Certificate III in Landscape Construction



Smart and Skilled

Providing you with choice and access to high-quality, affordable training.

What is Smart and Skilled?

Smart and Skilled is a NSW Government program that offers subsidised training for VET courses on the NSW Skills List. If you're eligible, you only pay part of your training costs—the NSW Government pays the rest.

The Skills List covers a wide range of qualifications in line with the skills needed by NSW employers, so these qualifications lead to real job opportunities. Apprenticeship and most traineeship qualifications are on the Skills List.

There are around 450 approved Smart and Skilled training organisations across NSW. These include adult and community education providers, private providers and TAFE NSW.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for Smart and Skilled funding if you are:

- 15 years old or over
- no longer at school
- living or working in NSW
- an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen.

Student fees

With Smart and Skilled, it doesn't matter which training organisation you choose, you pay the same fee. Your student fee covers the cost of the whole course, no matter how long it takes to complete. You may even be able to pay in instalments, depending on your training provider.

You don't have to pay any student fees if you:

- are Aboriginal and/or a Torres Strait Islander
- have a disability, or are the dependant of someone on a Disability Support Pension.

There are also Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarships available. For example, if you're under 30 and receive a welfare benefit you won't have to pay any fees. There are some other eligibility categories on smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au, and if you're in one of those, you won't have to pay a student fee.

If you receive a welfare benefit that's on the Smart and Skilled concession list, or are a dependant of someone who receives these benefits, and your course is at Certificate IV level or below, you may qualify for a discounted fee.

What are my VET options if I can't access government-subsidised training?

There may be a number of reasons why you can't access government-subsidised training under Smart and Skilled:

- You may not meet the eligibility criteria
- Your preferred course may not be on the NSW Skills List
- There may currently be no approved Smart and Skilled provider for the course you want to do.

In these cases, you may decide to pay commercial fees for 'fee-for-service' training by TAFE NSW, adult and community education colleges or private training providers. Training organisations set their own fees for fee-for-service training, so it can be worthwhile shopping around to find the right course with a cost that you are happy with.

The national VET directory on the MySkills website at myskills.gov.au lets you search for fee-for-service training. Or check directly with your preferred training provider.

Where do I find out more?

Go to the Smart and Skilled website at smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au

Use the **Course finder** to find a Smart and Skilled course and an approved training provider in your area. Click the **Estimate your fee** button to check your eligibility and get an estimate of the fee for your course.

Explore over 100 job guides on this site that explain which jobs are in demand, what the job involves, the industries you could work in, the qualifications you'll need, and what you'll be paid.

What is an apprenticeship or traineeship?

Bridge the gap between study and work by learning on the job.



Apprentice or trainee—what's the difference?

As an apprentice, you'll spend three to four years learning a traditional trade such as building and construction, automotive, cooking, engineering, hairdressing or manufacturing. You'll graduate as a qualified tradesperson.

As a trainee, you'll spend one to three years, depending on your industry and qualification, learning a vocation in areas such as, but not limited to, agriculture, information technology, hospitality, business, digital media or financial services.

An apprenticeship or traineeship will give you the skills employers need while you're being paid to get a nationally recognised qualification.

Many young people find they lack the experience to get a job, but can't get a job to develop enough experience.

Apprenticeships and traineeships are more than a foot in the door to gain essential skills, experience and training—they're a great way to start your career.

You can even begin your apprenticeship or traineeship while you're at school.

Working alongside qualified professionals who'll be your coaches and mentors, you'll be set targets to ensure you're progressing at a suitable rate.

You'll also go to a registered training organisation to study for a nationally recognised qualification. All NSW apprenticeships and many traineeships are eligible for government-subsidised training under Smart and Skilled.

Also, student fees for apprenticeships and traineeships have been capped at **\$2,000** for apprenticeships and **\$1,000** for traineeships.

Whatever you decide to do in life, an apprenticeship or traineeship will set you up for success.

You'll graduate with a recognised qualification that's held in high regard nationally and in many countries overseas.

Whatever you choose, you won't regret the valuable job skills you've gained, which are transferrable across many industries, and will serve you for the rest of your life.

Why should I be an apprentice or trainee?

- A pathway from school to work
- Get paid while you train
- Quality, hands-on training valued by employers
- Available to anyone 15 years and older
- Don't need your HSC
- Full-time or part-time
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification
- Good career opportunities
- Benefit from the same conditions as other employees, like sick leave and holiday pay.

Where do I start?

For free advice, contact your local apprenticeship network provider using the 'find an AASN' search on the Australian Apprenticeships website at australianapprenticeships.gov.au. This website is a good starting point if you want to discover more about apprenticeships or traineeships.

Talk to a training advisor at your nearest Training Services NSW office. Call **13 28 11** or visit training.nsw.gov.au



Alana Semrani
Finalist, 2016
School-Based
Apprentice/Trainee
of the Year

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

Get a head start before you leave school.

More than just a part-time job, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships set you up for your future while you're doing your HSC.

Experience a hands-on approach to your HSC while accessing training your school may or may not be able to offer.

The study and work you do will give you credit towards your HSC and a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

Spend one day a week and some of your school holidays on the job with your employer—and get paid! During the rest of the week, you'll be doing your HSC subjects and your formal apprenticeship or traineeship training with a registered training organisation such as TAFE NSW, a private or community provider, or your school.

As a school-based apprentice, you'll finish stage one of an apprenticeship by the end of your HSC. You'll continue as a second year apprentice after your HSC.

As a school-based trainee, you'll finish a Certificate II or III by the end of your HSC. You'll then be qualified so you can begin full-time work or go on to further training or study.

'I chose the IT industry because I love it. I love the challenge of learning new and complex skills, and the fact that every day is different. There is really no end of opportunities or directions to grow in. I chose this training path because it offered me a chance to gain real-world practical experience while learning about my chosen industry.'

James Wishart

Finalist, 2017 Trainee of the Year
Certificate IV in Information Technology Support



Where do I start?

Discuss your options with your school careers adviser or your employer (if you already have a part-time job).

Discover more at

<https://www.sbatinnsw.info/>
or contact your nearest Training
Services NSW office on **13 28 11**.

Discover your future now

Vocational Education and Training (VET)
vet.nsw.gov.au

Training Services NSW
NSW Department of Industry
13 28 11
training.nsw.gov.au

Smart and Skilled
1300 772 104
smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au

MySkills
myskills.gov.au

Australian Apprenticeships
13 38 73
australianapprenticeships.gov.au

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships
1800 009 310
<https://www.sbatinnsw.info/>

About Training Services NSW

Training Services NSW, within the NSW Department of Industry, oversees government-funded VET programs in NSW, including Smart and Skilled.

Training Services NSW also administers NSW apprenticeships and traineeships and, through its regional office network, provides advice and support for apprentices and trainees at the local level.

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Busting myths source: *Perceptions are not reality* report, Skilling Australia Foundation, May 2017 - saf.org.au/perceptionsarenoreality

For more information

 info@training.nsw.gov.au

 13 28 11

 training.nsw.gov.au

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 NSW Department of Industry

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