



## Choosing the right qualification for you

Things to consider before you enrol in a course



Before you enrol in a course, there are several things you need to consider to determine which course best suits your needs. The information below will assist you with what you need to consider when making the decision to enrol in a course.

### Accredited institutions

- ✓ Ensure you are enrolling with an accredited institution that offers qualifications accredited by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The AQF provides the framework for education qualifications in Australia.
- ✓ Ensure the course or qualification is accredited and recognised by the relevant professional industry body.
- ✓ Most institutions host their own open days or attend career/skills expos where you can speak with their staff directly.

### Price

- ✓ Compare the same qualification at several institutions to find the one that's right for you and represents the best value for money. If there are price differences, ask if you will receive additional training, support or mentoring as part of the course.

### Incidental fees

**The price listed for a course is for the tuition only. Additional costs cannot be deferred to a HECS loan (including VET FEE-HELP).**

- ❓ Will you have to purchase textbooks, laptops/specialist equipment? For example, some science courses will require you to purchase protective equipment (i.e. lab coat, glasses etc).
- ❓ If your course requires an external placement (i.e. nursing, aged care, hospitality), will you have to purchase a uniform that identifies your education institution?
- ❓ How will you pay for travel, accommodation and meals whilst attending residential schools, internships or professional placements?

- ❓ Check if you will require immunisations, criminal record clearances, or attainment of a first aid certificate to complete your course.

### Course delivery

- ❓ Check if your institution offers flexible study methods—one may be more suitable than the other, depending on your family/work commitments. Similarly, consider whether part-time or full-time study will suit you better.
- ❓ On-campus study: do you have the transport and time to attend lectures/tutorials?
- ❓ Online/distance education: do you have the relevant equipment and self-discipline for this mode? The institution can advise you of the minimum IT/internet/speed connection required.
- ❓ If you start as a full-time student but need to adjust your commitment to part-time, will you be able to do so (and vice versa)?

### Job prospects

- ✓ Consider what your job prospects could be once you've completed your qualification.
- ❓ Ask if the institution offers job placements or internships as part of the course. What are its graduate outcomes like? How many graduates did the institution produce over the last few years and are those graduates employed now?

### Payment options

- ❓ Check if you are eligible for a HECS loan (including VET FEE-HELP) for your tuition. Otherwise, ensure you can pay your tuition upfront.
- ✓ Ensure you can pay for any incidental fees upfront.

### Need more information?

- ✓ Don't forget to visit the **Be a savvy student and Transitioning to tertiary study** pages.
- ✓ Read the suite of **Be a savvy student** factsheets.
- ✓ Visit **www.ato.gov.au** for information about how to apply for a tax file number (TFN) and protecting your personal information.



This factsheet relates to the education institutions listed on [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au).