

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) STAGE 6

The role Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses play in helping students prepare for further education, training, employment and lifelong learning is widely recognised by key stakeholders in education.

Students in NSW have the option of studying VET courses at school or through TAFE NSW or other training providers.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) package and endorse courses based on qualifications from National Training Packages or accredited courses. VET courses can only be delivered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that meet national standards and have the relevant qualification and units of competency on their scope of registration.

For NSW school students VET is 'dual accredited'. Students receive recognition towards their school qualification (Record of School Achievement or HSC), as well as a Nationally Recognised VET qualification (Certificate or Statement of Attainment).

Some VET courses include an HSC examination which provides the opportunity for students to have this HSC examination mark contribute towards the calculation of their Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Further information and advice about VET courses and students with special education needs is available on the NESA website: www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au

Course information is available on the Catholic Schools Office internet site – <http://vet.lism.catholic.edu.au/>

Industry Curriculum Frameworks (Board Developed Courses)

Courses within Industry Curriculum Frameworks (Frameworks) count as Board Developed unit credit for the HSC. Frameworks include an HSC examination which provides the opportunity for students to have this HSC examination mark contribute to the calculation of their ATAR.

These include the following frameworks (not all will be available at your school).

- Automotive
- Business Services
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Entertainment Industry
- Financial Services
- Hospitality
- Human Services
- Information and Digital Technology
- Metal and Engineering
- Primary Industries
- Retail Services
- Tourism, Travel and Events

Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed Courses

Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed courses (VET BECs) count as Board Endorsed unit credit for the HSC but do not contribute towards an ATAR. Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed courses include (not all will be available at your school).

- Early Childhood Education and Care
- Furniture Making Pathways
- Fitness

Workplace Learning

Work placement is a mandatory component of Industry Curriculum Framework and some Board Endorsed vocational education and training (VET) courses. Work placement provides students with the opportunity to develop industry skills and knowledge relevant to the VET course undertaken as part of their studies for the NSW Higher School Certificate. The mandatory work placement requirement is approximately one week each year (70 hours total). Students undertaking courses as part of a school-based traineeship will meet the mandatory work placement hour requirements through the on-the-job training component of the traineeship.

Work Placement is coordinated across NSW by Work Placement Service Providers. Work Placement Service Providers are non-government, not for profit organisations contracted to support and coordinate mandatory work placements for students undertaking HSC ICF VET courses within a specified service region. Work Placement Service Providers work with local schools with secondary enrolments, TAFE NSW colleges and campuses, and employers to coordinate HSC ICF VET work placements for all eligible students within the service region.

Non-completion of work placement is grounds for withholding the HSC course. Schools and colleges are advised to follow the procedure for issuing 'N' determinations as outlined on the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Assessment Certification Examination (ACE) website.

Further information is available on the Catholic Schools Office, Lismore Diocese VET site <http://vet.lism.catholic.edu.au/workplace-learning/>

Course exclusions

Where there is significant overlap between a VET course and other VET or general education courses, there is an exclusion between the courses. Exclusions are generally applied at a course level rather than at the unit of competency level.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) are a great way for students to set themselves up for the career they want while completing their HSC. Students are paid for real work experience, while gaining a nationally-recognised VET qualification and contributing towards their HSC studies. Students can commence an apprenticeship (Stage 1) or complete a traineeship while at school (Year 10, 11 and/or 12).

Students undertaking courses as part of a school-based traineeship will meet the mandatory work placement hour requirements through the on-the-job training component of the traineeship.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) and credit transfer within VET Courses

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and credit transfer acknowledge evidence of a student's achievement of competencies or learning outcomes. They allow students to have their previous learning – both formal and informal – count towards VET courses and AQF VET qualifications.

Externally Delivered VET (EVET) Courses

For students in Years 11 and 12, Externally-delivered VET (EVET) courses may be available to those who wish to complete a VET qualification that is not delivered at their own school.

EVET courses are available at:

- TAFE Colleges (previously known as TVET)
- Private Providers

Schools have responsibility for managing applications and students must always discuss their options with their school Leader of Learning VET or Career Adviser. For students in systemic Catholic schools, where a course is available at their school, students must attend this course rather than with another provider.

When applying for an EVET course, students and their parents will need to show that:

- Career pathway planning is integral to the student's course selection
- The student understands the commitment required, including:
 - The completion of all course requirements, including mandatory work placement
 - Regular attendance. Students are responsible for arranging their own travel and meeting the travel costs
 - Time-tabling issues which may require students to catch up on class work missed at school

Course availability will vary between TAFE campuses and not all course will be available. Check with the school's Leader of Learning VET or Career Adviser.

Applications are made online to the Catholic Schools Office. Once applications have been received and approved, the relevant TAFE campus will be advised, they will contact the school to confirm details, determine viability of running courses (subject to there being sufficient student numbers) and notify schools of course schedules, days and times.

Once enrolments have been confirmed, the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Lismore will invoice schools for the student levy. EVET course fees for students are \$250 per HSC unit billed annually.

For further information regarding Vocational Education and Training courses available at your school visit the Catholic Schools Office, Lismore Diocese VET site <http://vet.lism.catholic.edu.au> or contact the Leader of Learning VET at your school.