Leaving school and thinking about vocational training?

From 1 January 2015, Smart and Skilled will give you the chance to gain the skills you need to get a job and advance your career. Under Smart and Skilled you can choose the training qualification and approved training provider that best suits your needs.

Smart and Skilled offers choice

Choose your training

Eligible school leavers can enrol in government subsidised courses up to and including Certificate III. Higher level qualifications (at Certificate IV and above) may also be available in targeted priority areas. Courses that help improve your reading, writing and numeracy are also available under Smart and Skilled.

Choose your training provider

You can choose to go to TAFE NSW or another approved private or community training provider.

Choose your own career pathway

There are many pathways to a successful career. Smart and Skilled offers you a range of options to help you choose your own career pathway.

For example, you can:

- enrol in a Smart and Skilled course to help you find a job. Smart and Skilled courses receive government funding because they help people get relevant job skills
- do an apprenticeship or traineeship that combines employment and work-based training with formal training to help you build your career
- choose a higher level course to increase your skills and advance your career prospects. All Smart and Skilled qualifications are nationally recognised and supported by employers and industry
- complete a qualification that provides an alternative pathway into university or further studies.

Who is eligible for Smart and Skilled?

You are eligible for Smart and Skilled training if you:

- are an Australian citizen, permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder or a New Zealand citizen
- are 15 years or older
- have left school
- live or work in NSW
- do not already have a Certificate IV or above.

For more information about Smart and Skilled go to: www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au.
Which qualifications are available?

A wide range of Smart and Skilled courses are available, including:

- Foundation Skills courses (Certificate I and Certificate II courses)
- Entitlement courses up to and including Certificate III
- All apprenticeships and selected traineeships, and
- Higher level courses (Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma), subject to funding availability.

If you are not ready to do a full qualification you may be eligible for pre-vocational training which will help you access a full qualification at a later date. Further details will be released in 2015.

Please see the 2015 NSW Skills List (www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/nsw_skills_list.html) to find out what courses are subsidised under Smart and Skilled in 2015.

How much will a course cost?

Smart and Skilled fees vary depending on the course you study. This reflects differences in the cost of training and the course level. In general, lower level courses have lower fees.

- If you have a VET in Schools qualification it won’t affect your eligibility for Smart and Skilled or the fee you pay.
- Your choice of training provider doesn’t affect the fee you pay for any course.
- Student fees are set for the whole qualification, not year-by-year.
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students, students with a disability, and students who are Commonwealth welfare recipients or dependents of recipients will be eligible for fee concessions or exemptions.
- Students undertaking Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses (and a limited number of Certificate IV courses) will be eligible for VET FEE-HELP (a loan covering the cost of the course).


To find out more about Smart and Skilled

Go to the Smart and Skilled website www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au. From the end of October 2014 it will include a course finder to help you select Smart and Skilled courses and find out which training providers offer these courses, and a fees calculator.

You can also ask your school careers advisor for advice on how a Smart and Skilled course might work for you.