

Higher Level Skills program



What is the Higher Level Skills program?

The Higher Level Skills program is a key initiative under the Queensland Government's five-year training reform action plan, *Great skills Real opportunities*. The aim is to assist individuals to gain the higher-level skills required to secure employment or career advancement in a priority industry, or to transition to university.

Are you eligible to participate?

This program is open to any Queensland resident aged 15 years or over, who is no longer at school and is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident (including humanitarian entrants), or a temporary resident with the necessary visa and on the pathway to permanent residency. Prospective students must not have or be enrolled in a certificate IV or higher-level qualification, not including qualifications completed at school and foundations skills training.

How can you participate in the program?

You can only access the Higher Level Skills program subsidy once, so it is important that you take the time to carefully consider your training options and compare different providers and their fees before committing to a course of study.

From 1 July 2014, the Queensland Skills Gateway will display the courses available under the Higher Level Skills Program and will also provide information about what they cover, the careers they can lead to and the training providers approved to deliver them.

For information on choosing a training provider, read the [training consumer tips](#) on the Department of Education, Training and Employment's training website.

What level of subsidy is available?

The investment priority or importance of the training determines the size of the government subsidy. Training in vocational areas that aligns with critical industry skill needs and government priorities will receive a higher government subsidy.

A higher subsidy will also be paid to support participation by disadvantaged learners (concessional students). More information on concessional student status is detailed in the *Higher Level Skills Program Policy* at www.training.qld.gov.au/higherlevellskills.

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Do I need to contribute to the cost of training?

Given the increased benefits that you can gain from higher-level training, you are required to contribute to the cost of your training through a student co-contribution fee, payable to the training provider.

The amount of fees varies depending upon the course you undertake and the training provider you choose.

The fee may be paid on your behalf by an employer or a third party but cannot be paid by the training provider.

Accessing VET FEE-HELP

You may be eligible to access VET FEE-HELP to cover all or part of your contribution when accessing subsidised training for a diploma, advanced diploma, or selected certificate IV level qualifications listed below:

- Certificate IV in Aged Care
- Certificate IV in Disability
- Certificate IV in Building and Construction (Building)
- Certificate IV in Engineering
- Certificate IV in Small Business Management.

In order to access a VET FEE-HELP loan, you will need to ensure the training provider you enrol with is VET FEE-HELP approved. VET FEE-HELP approved training providers can help to organise the loan.

For more information on VET FEE-HELP, visit www.studyassist.gov.au.

More information

For more information on the Higher Level Skills program, including eligibility requirements, subsidy information and program-related documents, visit www.training.qld.gov.au/higherlevelskills.