

Vocational Education and Training Pathways (VET Pathways)

VET is all about practical, hands-on training that prepares students for specific jobs or industries. VET programs let students learn by doing. In these courses, students get to show what they can do in real-world situations. This style of learning is called competency-based training. They demonstrate their skills and knowledge, while on the job and through competency-based assessment activities to complete a nationally recognised qualification. Vocational courses are designed to give your child the skills they need to succeed in the workplace, right after they finish school.

Australian School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

The main difference between an apprenticeship and a traineeship is the types of jobs they cover and how long they take:

- **A traineeship** can cover a wide range of jobs and can be either part-time or full-time. Typically, it lasts between one to two years.
- **An apprenticeship** is for skilled trades and usually takes about four years to complete.

Here's an important thing to know: These opportunities are funded by the Queensland Government, so there's no cost to the student.

For apprenticeships and traineeships, your child's employer will sign a training contract that will be registered with the Department of Employment, Small Business, and Training. This is facilitated through an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network. This agreement means they'll work and train together for a certain period. The employer, the training organisation, and your child will come up with a plan for the training in consultation with the school. Students can combine a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship with studying for their QCE and/or ATAR.

VET opportunities are great for students in Years 11 & 12. They can start their vocational training, earn money, and gain valuable experience while still in school. The work can happen outside or during school hours, depending on what the employer needs in consultation with the College.

When choosing a course students should consider if the course leads to the job they want, or if the course can be used for a variety of roles.

Here are some examples of industries and roles they might explore:

- Agriculture, Animals & Conservation
- Automotive, Transport & Maritime
- Business & Financial Services
- Construction & Electrical (like carpentry, plumbing, or electrical work)
- Creative & Beauty
- Digital, Technology & Telecommunications
- Energy & Utilities
- Government Sector & Education



- Health & Community Services
- Manufacturing & Production
- Resources, Mining & Processing
- Retail, Hospitality & Recreation

If your child wants to aim higher, they can consider non-trade qualifications like diplomas. These are more in-depth and can prepare them for university or for working in their chosen field. Completing certain qualifications can even improve their chances of getting into the university program they want.

Some universities are recognising Certificates III, IV, and Diplomas as direct entry into a range of university degrees.

VET pathways can open endless possibilities and open doors to exciting careers and opportunities for your child's future.

