Create your future now

Apprenticeships and traineeships in NSW

Open the door to a world of opportunity
Why should I become an apprentice or trainee?

An apprenticeship or traineeship will give you the skills employers need while you’re being paid to get a nationally recognised qualification.

Open the door to a world of opportunity

Apprenticeships and traineeships open the door to gaining essential skills, experience and training.

You may not have much experience when you start an apprenticeship or traineeship, but you may well end up in continued employment when you finish. So you’ll be gaining your independence while learning the skills that will set you up for life.

Along with skills you can take to a different job, they’re a great way to start your professional career. You can even begin your apprenticeship or traineeship while you’re at school.

Earn while you learn

There’s no substitute for learning on the job. Instead of paying to learn future job skills, you’ll do a real job for a real employer and earn a real wage.

When you graduate, you won’t be worrying about a big debt. You may be eligible for a Fee Free Apprenticeship or Fee Free Traineeship through our Smart and Skilled program.

For apprentices, your employer may pay or reimburse your training cost depending on your award.

Get the skills employers want

In today’s competitive job market, it’s important to have the right skills and qualifications.

Employers all over Australia hold apprenticeships and traineeships in high regard. They know you’ve completed a structured program designed by industry experts.

Learn in a way that’s best suited to you

You’ll spend most of your time at your workplace learning by doing.

Working alongside experienced and qualified professionals who’ll be your coaches and mentors, you’ll be set targets to ensure you’re progressing at a suitable rate.

You’ll also train with a registered training organisation to study for a nationally recognised qualification.

Build the life you want through a career you enjoy

Whatever you decide to do in life, your apprenticeship or traineeship will set you up for success.

You’ll be issued with a Certificate of Proficiency that’s held in high regard by many employers nationally. Once you’ve finished, you may want to keep working for the same company, find a new employer, study a uni degree or start your own business. Whatever you choose, you won’t regret the valuable job skills you’ve gained, which are transferable across many industries, and will serve you for the rest of your life.

What are the benefits?

- a pathway from school to work
- get paid while you train
- quality, hands-on training valued by employers
- available for anyone who have finished Year 10 with some exemptions
- don’t need your HSC
- full-time or part-time
- gain a nationally recognised qualification
- good career opportunities
- benefit from the same conditions as other employees, like sick leave and holiday pay
- depending on your skill level, you may progress through your apprenticeship or traineeship more quickly

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Get your start in life

Bridge the gap between formal education and industry practice by learning on the job.

How does it work?
Apprenticeships and traineeships include:

- paid employment under an industrial arrangement
- a training contract between you and your employer
- structured workplace training
- formal study and skills development through a registered training organisation, which may take place on their campus or at your workplace
- a nationally recognised qualification
- issue of a Certificate of Proficiency on completion of the apprenticeship or traineeship.

Apprenticeships and traineeships are available to anyone of working age, and most can be done full-time or part-time.

You may choose to work with your current employer, a small business or a government organisation. You might also work for a Group Training Organisation that employs you and places you with a host employer—a bit like a recruitment agency.

As a part of your apprenticeship or traineeship, you’ll sign a training contract with your employer to work and learn under their supervision. Training Services NSW administers these contracts.

Your contract also includes training through a registered training organisation. You can choose from TAFE NSW, an adult or community education provider, a private provider, and in some cases, your school.

You may be eligible for financial support from the NSW Government or the Australian Government. This could include public transport concessions and travel/accommodation assistance, car registration rebates and scholarships, etc.

For more information search financial help at:

www.training.nsw.gov.au
www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Discover more
Contact your nearest Training Services NSW office: www.training.nsw.gov.au or 13 28 11.

Apprentice or trainee— what’s the difference?
As an apprentice, you’ll spend three to four years learning a traditional trade such as building and construction, automotive, cooking, engineering, hairdressing or manufacturing. You’ll graduate as a qualified tradesperson.

As a trainee, you’ll spend one to three years, depending on your industry and qualification, learning a vocation in areas such as agriculture, information technology, hospitality, business, digital media or financial services.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

Get a head start before you leave school

More than just a part-time job, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships set you up for your career while you’re doing your HSC.

How does it work?
You will do a full traineeship, or stage 1 of an apprenticeship as part of your HSC.

The study and work you do will give you credit towards your HSC and a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

Spend one day a week and some of your school holidays on the job with your employer—and get paid! During the rest of the week, you’ll be doing your HSC subjects and the formal training with a registered training organisation such as TAFE NSW, a private or community provider or your school.

As a school-based apprentice you’ll:
- finish one of an apprenticeship by the end of your HSC
- work part-time (a minimum of 100 days* paid work over two years)
- attend training each week delivered by TAFE NSW or a private/community training organisation
- be qualified after your HSC

As a school-based trainee you’ll:
- finish a Certificate II or III by the end of your HSC
- work part-time (a minimum of 100 days* paid work over two years)
- attend training each week delivered by your school, TAFE NSW or a private/community training organisation
- be qualified after your HSC so you can begin full-time work, or further training or study.

Where do I start?
Discuss your options with your careers adviser or your employer (if you already have a part-time job).

Discover more
At www.sbatinnsw.info and www.training.nsw.gov.au or contact your nearest Training Services NSW office on 13 28 11.

*For some trades (e.g. electrical and electronics) it may be as high as 180 days. See www.training.nsw.gov.au
The possibilities are endless

Did you know you can start nine out of the top 10 in-demand occupations with a traineeship or apprenticeship?

We're expecting to see jobs growth for sales assistants; aged and disabled carers; child carers; accountants; electricians; clerks; contract, program and project administrators; chefs and waiters in the next few years. But there are also plenty of other exciting industries you can join as an apprentice or trainee.

A
Arts, Entertainment and Media
including film & television, music and stage production, museum practice

Automotive
including light & heavy vehicle, manufacture, repair, servicing, maintenance and sales

B
Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing
including barber, make-up artist, salon assistant or manager, cosmetics retail

Building and Construction
including bricklaying, carpentry, plumbing, painting and plastering, tiling, stonemasonry, pool and spa construction, rigging, demolition, sign writing

Business Services
including sales, marketing, business administration, project management, human resources, library and information services

C
Community Services and Health
including aged care, child care, pathology, dental, Aboriginal health, disability, youth work, optical, health administration

Corrections
including direct offender supervision in custodial centres, detention centres and the community

D
Finance and Insurance
including bookkeeping, accounting, finance, mortgage and insurance broking and banking services

Food and Meat
including baking, butchery, wine making, meat and other food processing, aquaculture and pharmaceutical manufacturing, abattoir work

Forestry Industries
including wood products, pulp and paper, saw doctoring and wood machining

Funeral Services
including funeral, embalming, cemetery and crematorium services

G
Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Care
including farming, production and retail nursery, arboriculture, beekeeping, sports turf management, landscape design and construction, floriculture, shearing and wool classing, animal studies, pet grooming and veterinary nursing

I
Information Technology
including telecommunications, cabling, NBN construction, IT, digital media, networking and support

J
Manufacturing and Engineering
including glass and glazing, furniture and cabinet making, upholstery and soft furnishing, flooring, picture framing, boat building, vehicle manufacture and repair, engineering fabrication, electrical engineering, drafting, laboratory operations, chemical manufacturing, plastics, rubber or manufactured mineral products, aircraft maintenance and repair, locksmiths, jewellery making, clock and watch repair

K
Mining and Civil Construction
including road, bridge and tunnel construction, drilling, surfacing and underground mining, traffic management, emergency response and rescue

L
Property Services
including surveying, communications, appliance servicing, cleaning, waste management, property computer systems equipment, maintenance and management, refrigeration, air conditioning, electricity gas and water supply, antennae installation.

M
Public Sector
including government administration, regulation and investigation

N
Racing
including jockeys, stable hands, strappers, greyhound trainers and attendants, track maintenance and administration

Retail and Wholesale
including retail and wholesale sales and management, floristry, retail pharmacy

S
Sport and Recreation
including personal training, coaching and officiating, management of sports facilities, sporting associations or indoor/outdoor activities

T
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
including sail making, shade and canvas product manufacture, fabrics and leather, repairing machines, fashion design and production, saddlery, shoe manufacture and repair, dry cleaning

Transport and Distribution
including bus, train, truck, boat and air drivers, pilots, cabin crew, deck hands, marine surveyors, operations managers, warehousing and logistics

U
Utilities and Electrotechnology
including electrical engineers, lift mechanics, electricians, electronics and communications, appliance servicing, computer systems equipment, refrigeration, air conditioning, electricity gas and water supply, antennae installation.

Find out more:
Meet
Courtney Harrison
NSW Training Awards Ambassador

Vocation
Automotive Mechanical Technology (Light Vehicle) Certificate III
Trained by
TAFE NSW
Employed by
Dieselequip

Courtney Harrison is an Apprenticeship and Traineeship Ambassador in NSW. When she took a taster course in automotive in Year 10, she knew she was hooked. “I got a book, learnt everything I could about engines, did an apprentice aptitude test and smashed it. That’s when I decided to do a school-based apprenticeship.”

Courtney worked at Dieselequip while she studied for her HSC and trained for her apprenticeship. She then continued her apprenticeship while studying at TAFE NSW. “I was juggling a lot, but with the right attitude, instructors and family support, I achieved my goal. I’ve gone beyond the expectations I had for myself. When I started, my only goal was to complete.”

Courtney is now a qualified diesel mechanic. She’s also looking forward to giving back through teaching. She wants to encourage other young people to achieve their goals.

“Don’t settle. You can achieve whatever you want. If you work hard and you’re focussed, you can overcome any obstacle.”

Meet
Liam Muldoon
NSW Training Awards Ambassador

Vocation
Certificate IV in Automotive Mechanical Diagnosis
Trained by
VET
Employed by
Lismore City Council

Liam Muldoon is also an Apprenticeship and Traineeship Ambassador in NSW. When he came up against a barrier in his career, VET has helped him overcome it. Challenges such as advances in technology or COVID-19 push me to improve and change. I’m still employed because VET has set me on a very successful career path.

Liam has been involved with VET since starting his automotive apprenticeship in 2003. His study choices have given him a unique range of skills that employers love. “At school, if you didn’t do year 12 and go to uni, people thought you were wasting your potential,” says Liam. “I bought into that. I plodded along, got by. I applied for uni because I was told to, but uni wasn’t for me. So I talked to my local job network about apprenticeships. I had no idea in what – I loved surfing and cars. Luckily there was an automotive apprenticeship going. That was the beginning of my career.”

“I got my heavy mobile plant certification, moved to the Hunter Valley and worked with WesTrac,” says Liam. “It was absolutely incredible. Good money, heaps of work, a whole other industry.”

Liam was then employed by Goldfields as a fly-in-fly-out underground mining technician in WA. “I’d fly in for a week on, fly out for a week off,” says Liam. “I worked on cool things in a gold mine 1.5 kms below the surface – amazing stuff! I met incredible people.

Liam studied a Certificate IV in Automotive Mechanical Diagnosis. Despite juggling the demands of work and a young family, his efforts paid off. Liam was awarded ‘Vocational Student of the Year’ at the 2017 NSW Training Awards and became a VET Ambassador.

Liam now works for Lismore City Council as a heavy diesel mechanic. “I love being on the tools,” says Liam. Liam recently got his Certificate IV in Training and Assessing so he can also teach VET Automotive trades.

“I want to give back to a system that’s given a lot to me. Everything I’ve achieved has been because of VET.”

“Don’t settle. You can achieve whatever you want. If you work hard and you’re focussed, you can overcome any obstacle.”
How do I become an apprentice or trainee?

Find an industry you love
Apprenticeships and traineeships are available in over 500 careers so there'll be one that sparks your passion.

Explore
www.vet.nsw.gov.au
www.skillsroad.com.au
www.joboutlook.gov.au
www.myfuture.edu.au

Find an employer
Search job vacancy ads in your local paper and online.

Search
www.jobsearch.gov.au
www.careerone.com.au
www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au
www.skillsroad.com.au
Talk to friends and family to see if they know of any opportunities.
Apply for a job through a Group Training Organisation. Group Training Organisations employ apprentices and trainees and place them with host employers. It’s a great way to experience a variety of workplaces.

Visit
Contact employers in the industry you’d like to work in. Remember, approaching a business with an up-to-date resume shows initiative.

AusAppPathways is a free app that helps you research apprenticeships and traineeships based on your interests. Download at www.ausapp.com.au or visit www.aatinfo.com.au

Take a quiz to see if you’re suited to the career you’re exploring at www.aapathways.com.au (Search under career resources).

Match your skills using the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Search at https://online.training.nsw.gov.au/vtu/pto/ptoEnquiry.do?command=goToVTOSearch (Click the ID link in the left column.)

Explore the job guides at www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au to see what the job involves, the industries you could work in, the qualifications you’ll need, and what you’ll be paid.

The Australian Apprenticeships Pathways YouTube channel hosts videos featuring the job-hunting experiences of people like you at: www.youtube.com/aapathways

For free advice contact your local apprenticeship network provider using the find an AASN search at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Talk to one of our training advisors at your nearest Training Services NSW office. Call 13 28 11 or visit www.training.nsw.gov.au

Now I’ve found a job, what do I do?

Enrol with a registered training organisation
You and your employer should agree on the qualification that will meet your career goals and be suitable for their workplace.

Use the find an AASN search at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au to contact an apprenticeship network provider or contact a Training Services NSW office at www.training.nsw.gov.au or 13 28 11 for advice.

They’ll help you find the right training program and training organisation. You can choose from TAFE NSW, an adult or community education provider, a private provider or a school.

Sign a contract and create a training plan proposal
Once you’ve started work, your apprenticeship network provider will help you and your employer complete a training contract and any associated forms.

Lodge your contract and training plan proposal
Your apprenticeship network provider will lodge your training contract with Training Services NSW for approval and registration. They’ll also contact your training organisation so you can secure a place in your course. Once approved, you’ll receive a confirmation letter and a training contract ID number.

You’ll also need to fill out employment forms with your employer and enrol in the training organisation’s course.

Complete your training plan
In consultation with you and your employer, your training organisation will develop your training plan within 12 weeks of the approval of your Training Contract. This plan helps your employer understand what you’re learning in your formal study so they can align your workplace training with your study. It’ll also be reviewed and updated at least every 6 months.

Did you know about pre-apprenticeships and pre-traineeships?
If you’re not sure you’ll love your future career, you can try a pre-apprenticeship or pre-traineeship so you can be confident you’ve made the right decision.

Pre-apprenticeships and pre-traineeships are a quick way of discovering if a career is right for you. You don’t need to be employed and they’re fee-free. You’ll also show potential employers your commitment to work and study while learning basic skills such as literacy and numeracy and training in a vocation or trade.

If you love what you learn, you’re already on your way to achieving your full qualification.

Search under ‘pre-apprenticeships and traineeships’ at www.training.nsw.gov.au or contact your nearest Training Services NSW office on 13 28 11.
Smart and Skilled

Providing you with choice and access to high quality, free training

What is Smart and Skilled?
Smart and Skilled is a NSW Government program that offers subsidised training for courses on the NSW Skills List. All NSW apprenticeship courses and many traineeship courses are funded so you don’t need to pay a student fee.

There’s more than 360 approved Smart and Skilled training organisations across NSW. These include adult and community education providers, private providers and TAFE NSW.

Fee Free Apprenticeship and Fee Free Traineeship
The NSW Government is investing funding over five years to cover the course cost for 100,000 new apprentices and 70,000 new trainees.

In addition to the government subsidy, NSW Government will pay the student fee on behalf of apprentices and trainees who undertake Smart and Skilled funded training as part of their apprenticeship or traineeship. The fee will be paid directly to the approved Smart and Skilled training provider. The apprentice or trainee, and their employer will not be required to pay the fee.

Discover more

Who is eligible?
All NSW apprentices and most new trainees are eligible.

Full details on eligibility criteria can be found on www.vet.nsw.gov.au
Visit the course finder at www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au to find a free apprenticeship and traineeship course. You can also search for approved training organisations to see which one meets your needs.

www.vet.nsw.gov.au
Support

You're not alone
We want you to achieve your goals and we’re going to help you get there.
Training Services NSW provides assistance to all apprentices and trainees. You can rely on us to give you practical advice.
You can contact us for information about the availability and suitability of apprenticeships and traineeships, advice about entering an apprenticeship or traineeship, your obligations under your training contract, help with problems in the workplace, advice about your registered training organisation, and support for school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.
Contact your nearest Training Services NSW office: www.training.nsw.gov.au or 13 28 11.

If you have a disability
If you have a disability, you may be able to receive financial support to help you complete your apprenticeship or traineeship. Many employment agencies specialise in providing assistance. Search the disability management service providers at: Jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders
Your employer may also be eligible for financial support. This includes wage subsidies through the Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support program or assistance to modify or adjust your workplace through the Employment Assistance Fund.

If you’re an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person
If you’re an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, we’ll enhance your education and employment opportunities by offering you personal and cultural support.
As an apprentice or trainee, you may be able to join the Way Ahead program. Their experienced mentors can guide and support you to overcome some of the social and organisational pressures faced by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in the workplace.
Contact your nearest Training Services NSW office on 13 28 11 or visit www.training.nsw.gov.au and search Way Ahead.
We also offer programs for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who are starting a new career or business. Visit our website and search Aboriginal Services for more information.