TAFE Courses

What types of qualifications are offered at TAFE?

TAFE offers a wide range of nationally recognised qualifications such as:

- Certificates I, II, III and IV
- Diplomas
- Advanced Diplomas
- Associate Degrees
- Vocational Graduate Certificates
- Vocational Graduate Diplomas.

Find out more about these qualifications at http://www.aqf.edu.au/.

What can I study at TAFE?

Study areas at TAFE institutes include the following:

- Building and construction
- Business and management
- Community services and sports
- Creative arts
- Education and training
- Engineering, automotive and resources
- Environment and agriculture
- Hairdressing and beauty
- Healthcare and science
- Hospitality and tourism
- Information Technology
- Skills for education and employment.

Most TAFE institutes offer courses for Years 11 and 12 students while they are still at school. To find a list of ‘TAFE at school’ courses for each institute, access each TAFE institute from the TAFE Queensland home page at http://tafeqld.edu.au/ and click on ‘Study with us’.

Using TAFE to gain entry to university courses

TAFE provides several pathways to further study at university. The following are examples of these pathways.

Upgrading

At the end of Year 12, if you do not receive the OP/rank you need to gain a place in the university course you want; you can consider a number of upgrade pathways. One of these is upgrading through an advanced diploma or diploma at TAFE.

Once you have completed the course and applied through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC), you will be given a new selection rank. For example, for a completed diploma at pass level you will receive a QTAC selection rank of 82 (similar to OP 9). A completed advanced diploma at pass level will give you a QTAC selection rank of 91 (similar to OP 6).

For more information about this pathway, see the ‘Upgrading via tertiary study’ information sheet on the QTAC website at http://www.qtac.edu.au/InfoSheets/UpgradingViaTertiary.html.

TAFE/university pathways

Several TAFE institutes have negotiated partnerships with universities. The form of these partnerships includes:

- Dual TAFE/university qualifications (e.g. diploma/degree awards)
- Negotiated credit into a degree course from a TAFE diploma or advanced diploma.

What is the difference between TAFE and university?

TAFE is often referred to as ‘vocational education’ and is oriented towards a more practical type of study than university. TAFE courses are more focused on learning for work and sometimes learning at work. The teaching is based on supporting you to gain specific skills so there are usually more contact hours. The style of teaching at TAFE is more like school than university as there are smaller classes and more personal contact with your teachers.

Universities have a more academic focus. More time is spent on theories, so that you have a framework for analysing and solving problems in your field of study. Classes are a mixture of lectures (may have up to 300+ students depending on the size of the university and the field of study) and tutorials (20 - 30 students). Personal contact with lecturers is infrequent and usually by appointment. A key difference is that at university the learning environment is much less structured. You choose when to study and how hard to push yourself.

What financial assistance is available at TAFE?

TAFE fees depend on the course you study and the institute at which you study. Financial assistance is available in several forms.

- Concessions may be available e.g. for Indigenous students and Centrelink benefit recipients – see http://tafeqld.edu.au/study-with-us/enrolment-fees/course-fees/.

- Scholarships may be available. This information can be obtained from the TAFE Queensland institute you want to attend.

- VET FEE-HELP - this is an Australian Government study loan scheme available to eligible students studying approved certificate IV, diploma or advanced diploma courses. Under this scheme you defer payment of your course until you are employed and earning a specific level of income. Read more at http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/HELPpayingMyFees.


How do I apply for TAFE courses?

Apply for full-time (and some part-time) TAFE diplomas, advanced diplomas, and some certificate courses through QTAC. These courses are listed in the QTAC Guide and on the QTAC website at http://www.qtac.edu.au/.

Apply directly to a TAFE institute for all other TAFE courses. See the TAFE Queensland website homepage at http://tafeqld.edu.au/ for links to TAFE institutes and relevant contact information.