



About Australian School-based Apprenticeships

Young Australians can get a head start on their careers by beginning an Australian Apprenticeship while they are still at school. Australian School-based Apprenticeships are a great career option for Years 11 and 12 students as they can get credits towards a vocational qualification while completing their senior secondary certificate and earn a wage, all at the same time.

What is an Australian School-based Apprenticeship?

An Australian School-based Apprenticeship is a mix of academic, vocational and technical education and training and paid employment. A student's school studies, training and work all fit together. It provides students with valuable employment skills and hands-on industry experience.

Australian School-based Apprenticeships lead to nationally recognised qualifications, normally at Certificate II or III level. For many students, it is also a good way to keep open the option for further education and training.

What will it involve?

You will take part in a combination of school, paid work with your employer and training. Your training arrangements could involve on – or off-the-job training or a combination of both so that you can do the type of training that suits your learning needs.

You will learn a trade or occupation at Certificate II or III level depending on where you do your Australian School-based Apprenticeship. You will also study subjects relevant to your training as part of your senior secondary school certificate. These include English, science, mathematics, information technology and other courses that could give you the option of going on to university.

How long will it take?

Australian School-based Apprenticeships generally take 18-24 months to complete, but with the opportunity to work extra hours after school, on weekends and during school holidays, you may become qualified even sooner. A Certificate III level qualification may require further study and work with your employer after you complete Year 12. A Certificate III level trade qualification takes three to four years full-time to complete.



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Will I be paid?

Australian Apprentices are employed under a federal or state award or agreement. As an Australian School-based Apprentice you will be paid a training or apprenticeship wage for the time you spend training on the job with your employer.

How do I find an Australian School-based Apprenticeship?

Decide which career path best suits you - Australian Apprenticeships are available in over 500 occupations. You could do some vocational or work experience in an industry you may be interested in to help you decide which occupation to follow. You may be able to convert any current part-time job you have into a school-based apprenticeship, depending on school arrangements.

Discuss Australian School-based Apprenticeships with your career advisers or teachers and ask them to help you investigate your training and career options. They are there to help you develop a structured career development program.

Write or brush up your resume and find an employer willing to take you on a school-based apprentice or trainee. The AMA ATS will be able to help you as well.

Where can I do an Australian School-based Apprenticeship?

Your school career advisers and teachers will be able to tell you if you are able to do an Australian Apprenticeship at your school or college. In some areas, you can do a trade Australian School-based Apprenticeship at the Certificate III level at an Australia Technical College.

For more information

Contact the AMA ATS on (08) 9273 3042, call the Australian Apprenticeships referral line on 13 38 73, visit the Australian Apprenticeships website at www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships or the Australian Technical Colleges website at www.australiantechnicalcolleges.gov.au for more information.