



Apprenticeships and traineeships

Information for parents and carers

Apprenticeships and traineeships are learning pathways that combine paid on-the-job training and formal study with a Registered Training Organisation. On completion of an apprenticeship or traineeship a person will be equipped with practical skills and a nationally recognised qualification.

Information and support is available on the [Apprenticeship Office](#)¹ website and the [Apprenticeship Support](#)² website.

What is an apprenticeship?

Apprentices are trained in a skilled trade and become a qualified tradesperson with a nationally recognised Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification. An apprenticeship is a structured training arrangement of usually 3.5 or four years duration. The training combines practical experience at work with complementary off-the-job training with a Registered Training Organisation.

What is a traineeship?

Trainees become skilled in a vocational area and receive a nationally recognised VET qualification when completed. The traineeship provides an understanding of the industry and the employment opportunities available. A traineeship is a training agreement between the trainee and their respective employer where the employer agrees to train the trainee in a specific industry, and the trainee agrees to work and learn. Traineeships usually last between nine to 48 months, depending on the industry area and certificate level undertaken.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships are paid employment training arrangements between a full-time school student and an employer.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships allow young people to combine their senior school studies with paid part-time employment and off-the-job training with a Registered Training Organisation. Students develop employment skills through hands-on industry experience within an actual workplace and study a nationally recognised qualification. The school based apprenticeship or traineeship becomes part of the student's broader education program.

Who are school-based apprenticeships and traineeships for?

This option is for students who are interested in pursuing a career pathway in a specific trade or vocation and also want to complete their senior schooling.

¹ <https://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/apprenticeship-office>

² <https://www.apprenticeshipsupport.com.au/Apprentices/What-is-an-apprenticeship>

Does the school need to endorse a student's training plan?

School-based apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities must be endorsed by the school as part of the student's overall school program.

Find out more about school-based apprenticeships and traineeships

School VET coordinators will be able to provide information and advice regarding school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. Further information can be found on the [Department of Training and Workforce Development](https://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/apprenticeship-office/apprenticeships-traineeships-for-secondary-school-students)³ website and the [Jobs and Skills WA](https://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/training/schools-and-school-students)⁴ website.

³ <https://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/apprenticeship-office/apprenticeships-traineeships-for-secondary-school-students>

⁴ <https://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/training/schools-and-school-students>