



Fee-Free TAFE for agriculture

February 2024



Overview

Australian agriculture and its processing are critical to Australia's economy. The production of high-quality Australian food and fibre plays a significant role in supporting global food security. The agriculture sector is always evolving and will need ongoing access to new and updated skills to succeed into the future.



Fee-Free TAFE

Fee-Free places are now available for students keen to commence a career in agriculture, as well as for existing workers looking to upskill.

Over \$1.4 billion has been committed across the Commonwealth and state and territory governments from 2023 to 2026. This will occur through two tranches. Fee-Free TAFE supports training across priority industries. This includes those experiencing skill shortages as well as areas of emerging growth, including agriculture.

Fee-Free TAFE provides opportunities for Australians to access fee-free training in areas of skill needs. It allows them to develop and upskill by studying short courses, certificates, or diplomas.

Agriculture will continue to be a priority sector under the second tranche of Fee-Free TAFE. As the VET system is demand driven, it is not possible to provide definitive numbers of places for agriculture over the second tranche. Check with your local TAFE on the availability of agriculture courses under Fee-Free TAFE at the websites below.



Eligibility

All Australians who are keen to commence a career in agriculture, as well as existing workers looking to upskill, are encouraged to apply for a Fee-Free TAFE course. The following **priority groups** are also encouraged to enrol as States and Territories look to support local needs and initiatives:

- First Nations Australians
- young people (17-24)
- people who are out of work or receiving income support payments
- unpaid carers
- women facing economic insecurity
- women undertaking study in non-traditional fields
- people with disability
- certain categories of visa holders.

Each State and Territory has eligibility criteria that meets local needs.



Courses

Explore a broad range of exciting courses in agriculture such as:

- handling highly sophisticated agricultural technology
- specialised livestock production
- digital agronomy
- agribusiness management

and more.



More information

Contact your State and Territory TAFE or vocational training provider for further details on enrolment, eligibility and course availability using the websites listed below.

For employers and agriculture businesses interested in more information, contact your State and Territory via the websites below.

ACT [Fee-Free TAFE : Canberra Institute of Technology \(cit.edu.au\)](https://cit.edu.au)

NSW [Skills NSW - Explore Fee Free training](#)

NT [Free training courses | NT.GOV.AU](https://nt.gov.au)

QLD [Fee-Free TAFE | TAFE Queensland \(tafeqld.edu.au\)](https://tafeqld.edu.au)

WA [FEE FREE TRAINING EXTENDED INTO 2024! That's over 130 free training courses! | Jobs and Skills WA](#)

VIC [Free TAFE for more Victorians | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://vic.gov.au)

TAS [Fee-Free TAFE is back in 2024 | TasTAFE](#)

SA [Fee Free TAFE Courses \(tafesa.edu.au\)](https://tafesa.edu.au)

You can also explore hundreds of in-demand job pathways with further details on Fee-Free TAFE at: www.yourcareer.gov.au/fee-free-tafe





Frequently asked questions

When can I enrol in a Fee-Free course?

Fee-Free course enrolments are open until 31 December 2026*.

If I'm not in the priority groups, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, you can still apply, and we encourage you to contact your local State and Territory TAFE for details on eligibility and course offerings.

Why is eligibility different across States and Territories?

States and Territories have developed eligibility criteria that provides access to training for vulnerable cohorts to support local needs.

How long will the courses be Fee-Free?

Fee-Free places are available for learners enrolling in 2024, subject to funding availability, and will remain free for eligible learners for the duration of the course*.

What qualifications are offered?

A wide range of training is on offer, with opportunities for learners to upskill through a short course, a certificate I, II, III or a diploma. Contact your State and Territory TAFE for details.

Who can deliver Fee-Free training?

Fee-Free TAFE training is primarily being delivered by public TAFEs and public dual sector institutions. In specific circumstances, training may be delivered by other providers to train specific groups or sectors, including First Nations community-owned registered training organisations. Further details on the range of Fee-Free courses and training providers are available from the State and Territory websites above.

What does 'Fee-Free' mean?

'Fee-Free' means that your tuition fees are covered, subject to funding availability, and will remain free for the duration of the course*.

Will I have to pay fees or other expenses?

While tuition fees are covered under Fee-Free TAFE, specific details on additional costs (e.g., field trips, materials and equipment) will be available from your TAFE or vocational education and training provider.

Will Fee-Free places be offered mid-year?

Some courses begin at different times throughout the year, depending on local training capacity, and will remain free for the duration of the course. Contact your local TAFE for details on course enrolment and start dates. I am studying now, what does this mean for me?

Contact your local TAFE for specific details, with a variety of State and Territory initiatives also supporting enrolments that meet local needs.

*NT has different requirements regarding enrolments and completion dates

