

Higher Level Skills

RTO fact sheet

What is the Higher Level Skills program?

The Higher Level Skills program provides eligible individuals with access to a subsidised training place in selected certificate IV level or above qualifications and priority skill sets.

The aim is to assist individuals to gain the higher-level skills required to secure employment or career advancement in priority industries or to transition to university to further their studies. Employers may also be able to access training to address workforce development needs.

What training is available?

Subsidies are provided for a select number of certificate IV, diploma and advanced diploma level qualifications and priority skill sets critical to productivity within the workplace.

Qualifications and skill sets attracting a subsidy are identified based on national skills shortages, Queensland Government priorities, and other evidence relating to effective training pathways that support employment outcomes.

To view the subsidised qualifications and skill sets, visit the [Priority Skills List](#).

Restrictions and/or exemptions may apply to enrolment in certain subsidised courses based on industry advice and national training package requirements and these are detailed in the [Priority Skills List](#).

How does the program work?

The list of registered training organisations (RTOs) approved to deliver each subsidised qualification or skill set is published on the Queensland Skills Gateway — visit www.training.qld.gov.au/skillsgateway.

Individuals and employers are free to choose their preferred RTO from this list. The subsidy is paid directly to the RTO as training is delivered and reported to the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT).

How can RTOs participate?

RTOs must be pre-approved by DESBT as a pre-qualified supplier (PQS) to deliver training and assessment services. The PQS application fact sheet outlines the steps on how to [become a PQS](#).

What level of subsidy is available?

The subsidy represents the level of government contribution for a qualification, and varies between qualifications based on a number of factors.

The investment priority or importance of the training influences the size of the government subsidy.

Training in vocational areas that align with critical industry skills needs and government priorities will receive a higher government subsidy.

A higher subsidy will also be paid to support participation by disadvantaged learners and for training delivered locally in identified country and remote areas of Queensland, and Cape York and the Torres Strait.

Does the individual need to contribute to the cost of training?

Individuals undertaking training must contribute to their training costs through a co-contribution fee.

While the fee amount is determined by the PQS, it is expected that the co-contribution fee will be greater for higher-level training given the increased benefits that accrue to individuals and industry.



The co-contribution fee may be paid on behalf of the student by an employer or another third party, but cannot be paid or waived by the PQS or any organisation related to the PQS, unless approved by DESBT.

What outcomes are expected?

PQS will be measured on successful training completions and whether the training resulted in an employment benefit such as securing a job, career advancement or transition to university for further education.

Individuals and employers will need access to a range of information to ensure they make an informed choice about a subsidised training place.

To support this, PQS must meet a number of performance standards if they wish to participate and maintain their PQS status for the program — refer to the PQS Policy and PQS Agreement at www.training.qld.gov.au/pqs.

More information

For more information, including program and student eligibility rules, refer to the *Higher Level Skills Program Policy* at www.training.qld.gov.au/higherlevelskills.