



Fee-Free TAFE for agriculture

February 2023



Overview

Australian agriculture and its processing are critical to Australia's economy and 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 existing workers looking to upskill.

With \$1 billion committed across Federal, State and Territory Governments, this supports training across priority industries experiencing skill shortages and areas of emerging growth, including agriculture.

In 2023 there are 180,000 Fee-Free TAFE places available across a range of industries. Fee-Free TAFE provides opportunities for Australians to access fee-free training in areas of skill needs, and build skills and upskill by studying short courses, certificates, or diplomas.

Around **13,200 new Fee-Free TAFE places** have been nationally allocated for agriculture in 2023:

- 6,900 for New South Wales
- 2,000 for Victoria
- 1,900 for Western Australia
- 1,000 for South Australia
- 900 for Queensland
- 350 for Tasmania
- 150 for the Northern Territory



Eligibility

All Australians who are keen to commence a career in agriculture, as well as existing workers looking to upskill, are encouraged to apply. 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 and supports training for in-demand jobs.



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 https://cit.edu.au/study/fee_free_tafe

NSW <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses#eligibility-criteria>
<https://skills.education.nsw.gov.au/nsw-fee-free>

NT <https://nt.gov.au/learning/adult-education-and-training/free-training-courses>

QLD <https://tafeqld.edu.au/courses/apply-and-enrol/subsidised-training/fee-free-tafe>
www.cqu.edu.au/courses/future-students/your-journey/enquire/course-fees/subsidised-training/fee-free-tafe-places-for-queenslanders-in-2023

WA <https://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/skillsready>

VIC <https://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe>

TAS <https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/fee-free>

SA <https://www.tafesa.edu.au/courses/fee-free-tafe-courses>

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 2023*.

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 2023, subject to funding availability, and will remain free for eligible learners for the duration of the course*. Federal, State and Territory Governments are also collaborating to develop a longer-term Skills Agreement to support vocational education and training, with further details to be available later in 2023.

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 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.

Federal, State and Territory Governments are also collaborating to develop a longer term 5-year Skills Agreement to support vocational education and training, with further details to be available later in 2023.

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 enrolment and completion dates.

