

# MAJOR CHANGES AFFECTING THE VICTORIAN TAFE SYSTEM

## FROM 1 JULY 2009

### SKILLS REFORM

The Victorian Government's Skills Reform aims to give Victoria a better vocational education and training system by encouraging more people to become qualified at a higher level, especially in skills areas where jobs can't be filled. Skills Reform will take effect from 1 July 2009 with changes to course fees and eligibility criteria. These changes will apply to students commencing a new TAFE course offered by Victoria University.

Web [www.skills.vic.gov.au/tafestudents](http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/tafestudents)  
SMS 'skills' to 134688 Hotline 131823

Generally, the changes to eligibility criteria won't affect you if you are under 20 years old on 1 January in the year you commence your course, EXCEPT you need to be aware of the implications for subsequent study.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All government funded TAFE places are dependent on you satisfying citizenship criteria.

#### 1. If you are under 20 years

You will be eligible for a government funded TAFE place at any qualification level.

#### 2. If you are 20 years and older

You will be eligible for a government funded TAFE place below Diploma level.

#### 3. If you are 20 years and older and interested in doing a TAFE course at Diploma level and above

You will only be eligible for a **government funded** place if you are enrolling in a qualification higher than the highest qualification you have previously completed. For example, if you already hold a Diploma, you won't be eligible for a government funded place in a Diploma course. But you would be eligible for a government funded place in an Advanced Diploma, Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma course if available.

Completion of year 12 counts as equivalent to a Certificate II qualification.

If you are not eligible for a government funded place in the course of your choice, there are other options including a full-fee place for which you will pay higher fees. Ask VU about your options.

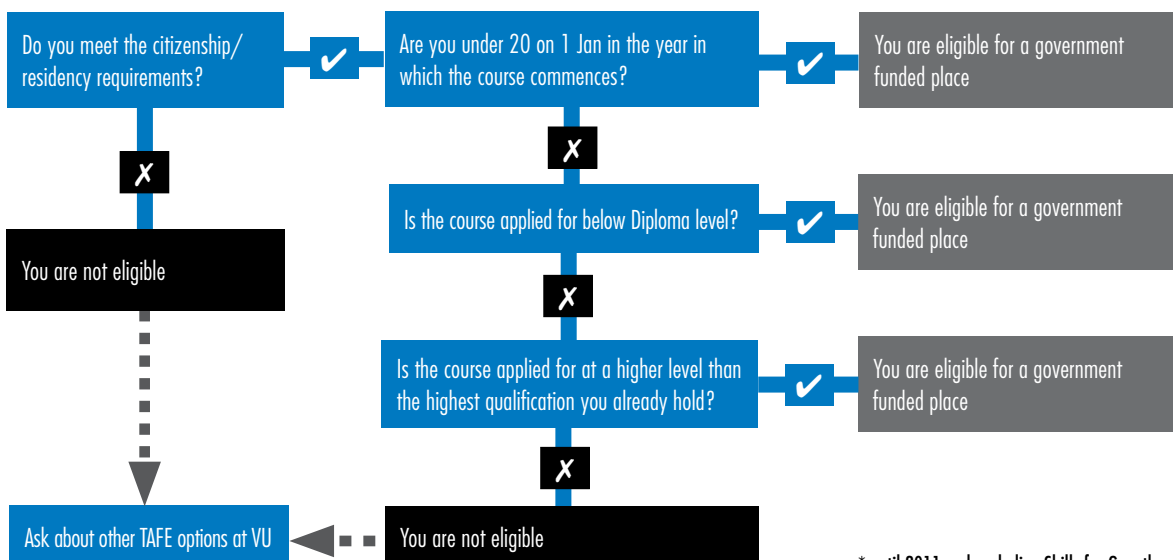
For eligibility requirements, refer to [www.skills.vic.gov.au/tafestudents/studentfaqs](http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/tafestudents/studentfaqs)

*Note: a government funded place is one where the Government pays most of the tuition fee for your course, but you will still pay some of the fee according to the new fee schedule.*

#### 4. If you are doing a TAFE course as a Skills for Growth referral

**Government funded** places are available at all qualification levels for the Skills for Growth program, subject to additional eligibility criteria. Specialist advisors will be working with employees and employers on this program and they will be able to provide you with further information.

### Eligibility for government funded TAFE places from 1 July 2009\*



\* until 2011 and excluding Skills for Growth

## TAFE TUITION FEES

### I am already enrolled in a TAFE course. Does Skills Reform affect my course fees?

If you commenced your course prior to 1 July 09 and study is continuous, your existing tuition fee rate will be maintained until 31/12/2012, or until you complete or withdraw from the course.

If you take an unapproved break from your course then wish to re-enrol in the same course leading to the same qualification after 1 July 2009, the new fees will apply.

If you enrol in another course that commences after 1 July 2009, the eligibility criteria and Skills Reform fees will apply to the new course.

### What fees will I pay if I enrol in a TAFE government funded course that commences after 1 July 2009?

What you pay will depend on the level of TAFE course you are enrolling in or if you are undertaking your training as an apprentice/trainee.

#### Tuition Fee Structure

Under Skills Reform, government funded places are grouped into categories with a different hourly rate of tuition fees accordingly:

COURSE CATEGORY		FEE PER STUDENT CONTACT HOUR		MINIMUM FEE	CONCESSION FEE*	MAXIMUM FEE	
		SEMESTER 2 2009	2010			SEMESTER 2 2009#	2010
FOUNDATION	Basic general education, English language and preparatory courses, VCAL (Foundation)	\$1.08	\$1.08	\$50	\$50	\$250	\$500
SKILLS CREATION	Certificate I and II, VCE, VCAL (Intermediate and Senior)	\$1.37	\$1.40	\$105	\$105	\$438	\$875
APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS	Any course taken as part of a training contract, at any level	\$1.37	\$1.37	\$57	\$57	\$452	\$903
SKILLS BUILDING	Certificate III and IV	\$1.41	\$1.62	\$120	\$120	\$500	\$1,000
SKILLS DEEPENING	Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma	\$2.71	\$3.25	\$225	N/A	\$750	\$2,000

\* concessions do not apply to TAFE Diploma and above courses

# for the six months between July and December 2009, the annual maximum tuition fees have been halved to reflect the pro rata 6 month period

The Victorian Government sets the minimum and maximum TAFE tuition fee you pay each year. The tuition fee is worked out for each individual student based on the number of hours you are enrolling in, any other study you have already done that year and the course category.

#### Material and Ancillary Fees

You may also be subject to other fees such as student services, amenities, materials and equipment fees. You will be informed about all fees applicable prior to enrolment.

#### Refunds

If you formally withdraw from your course, you may be eligible for a refund provided you have provided timely notification.

#### Will there be any TAFE tuition fee concessions under Skills Reform?

If you hold a Commonwealth Health Care card or meet certain other requirements, concessions on tuition fees are available for all courses except Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas.

The concession tuition fee is the same as the minimum fee, which varies from \$50 up to \$120 per year, depending on the course.

If you are an Indigenous student you will pay only the minimum fee.

For further information on TAFE course fees, concessions and refunds, please refer to [www.vu.edu.au/courses/fees-and-scholarships](http://www.vu.edu.au/courses/fees-and-scholarships)

#### VET FEE-HELP

VET FEE-HELP is an Australian Government loan scheme for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, as part of the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP). If you are studying at the Diploma and above level, you may be eligible to apply through your training provider for VET FEE-HELP assistance to defer the cost of your studies.

#### Is there financial assistance to pay my tuition fees?

At Diploma level and above, financial assistance will be available to students in the form of VET FEE-HELP which is only available through registered VET FEE-HELP providers.

#### When will I have to start repaying the VET FEE-HELP debt?

You will have to start repaying your VET FEE-HELP debt once you earn income above a certain level.

Ask Victoria University about VET FEE-HELP, phone 03 9919 6100.

Web [www.deewr.gov.au/VETFEEHELP](http://www.deewr.gov.au/VETFEEHELP) or phone 13 38 73.

#### FAQS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Web [www.vu.edu.au/futurestudents](http://www.vu.edu.au/futurestudents)

FAQs [www.vu.edu.au/gotovu](http://www.vu.edu.au/gotovu)

Phone 03 9919 6100

Visit Student Service Centres

Information is subject to change. June 2009