



# Vocational Degree

Skills focused degree level qualifications for the vocational education and training (VET) sector

## What is the Vocational Degree?

The Vocational Degree is a new, nationally recognised qualification type in the [Australian Qualifications Framework \(AQF\)](https://www.aqf.edu.au) (aqf.edu.au). It is purposefully designed for the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

The learning outcomes of a Vocational Degree are comparable to the existing Bachelor Degree delivered in the higher education sector, but qualifications will have a greater focus on advanced skill attainment, and the application of specialised knowledge and technical skills.

## What is the AQF?

The AQF is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training. It includes the learning outcomes for each AQF level and qualification type and the specifications for the application of the AQF in the accreditation and development of qualifications.

The Vocational Degree is located at Level 7 on the AQF, the same level as a Bachelor Degree.

## Why was the Vocational Degree introduced?

The Australian Government's White Paper on [Jobs and Opportunities: Working Future](https://www.treasury.gov.au/review/employment-whitepaper) (treasury.gov.au/review/employment-whitepaper) was released on 25 September 2023. The White Paper found that people will increasingly need higher-level tertiary skills as jobs require more employees with advanced levels of technical knowledge and skills.

The largest growth is expected to be at the skill level of a Bachelor Degree or higher.

The Vocational Degree leverages the strengths and organisational expertise of the VET sector to deliver skills-based, industry focused qualifications. The Vocational Degree has been designed to enable all modes of training delivery, including apprenticeships, and provide students with industry experience to build a contemporary, agile skill set.

## **When can I enrol in a Vocational Degree course?**

New qualifications will be developed where there are genuine skills needs and demand from industry. This will take some time; however, some TAFE Centres of Excellence and Jobs and Skills Councils have commenced scoping activities.

As with all VET qualifications, Vocational Degrees can be developed by Jobs and Skills Councils through the training package process or by TAFEs as accredited courses.

## **Where can I find more information?**

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations will update the department's website as more information becomes available on Vocational Degree qualifications.

Information about the AQF and the Vocational Degree specifications can be found on the [AQF website](http://aqf.edu.au/help-qualifications/vocational-degree) (aqf.edu.au/help-qualifications/vocational-degree).