For more information, talk to your school’s career advisor or visit
GET A HEAD START ON YOUR CAREER

Head Start is a program designed to help you begin an apprenticeship or traineeship while you’re still at school.

The program recognises that everyone learns differently, has different interests and career goals. Head Start lets you start learning skills for an apprenticeship or traineeship early – while still making sure that you get the real life knowledge that employers need by completing your VCE or VCAL.

When you finish school, you’ll have your VCE or VCAL as well as having finished (or be close to finishing) your training - giving you a head start on everyone else.

COURSES AVAILABLE

You can choose from apprenticeships and traineeships in key industries such as building, construction, community services and health, business and primary industries.

The types of courses available through Head Start will grow each year. Over time the focus will expand to new high-end, technology based courses to meet the growing needs of businesses.

Talk to your school career advisor to see what’s available.

HOW HEAD START WORKS WITH SCHOOL

Depending on what your employer needs, you’ll go to school some days and to work on the others. At a minimum, you will undertake paid employment for:

- one day per week in Year 10
- two days per week in Year 11
- three days per week paid in Year 12

You can also choose to complete Year 12 over two years.

WHAT DO YOU GET?

As a Head Start student, you’ll receive:

- career planning advice from your school career practitioner to help you find the right pathway for you
- a Head Start Pathway Plan tailored to you and your employer
- one-on-one support from your Head Start Coordinator to keep you on the right track
- quality training through a TAFE or Skills First provider
- a VCE or VCAL certificate
- significant progress towards, or completion of, a trade qualification
- fair payment for the days you work
- a pathway into a priority industry career.