# Head Start and School-Based apprenticeships and traineeships

## Frequently asked questions for students

### What are SBATs?

## School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs) combine senior secondary education (VCE, VCE Vocational Major, or Victorian Pathways Certificate) with part-time employment and skills training in a dedicated field.

### What is Head Start?

Head Start is a program that supports SBATs to balance school, training, work and life.

Head Start will help you identify your preferred apprenticeship or traineeship, match you with a suitable employer and support you through training and learning. The program will help you manage your well-being and support you to transition from school to employment and / or further training.

### What courses can I do as a Head Start SBAT?

There are more than 150 courses available as a Head Start SBAT. These courses lead to nationally recognised qualifications and cover a wide range of professions and industries including construction, agriculture, health and community services, engineering, fashion, media and arts, emerging technologies, hospitality, transport and logistics, travel and tourism, and so much more.

### Why Head Start?

Head Start will link you to a real job opportunity and allow you to:

* earn a fair training wage while you learn
* gain real paid work experience and skills to build the career you want
* undertake quality training with an approved training provider
* finish school
* access a range of supports

### Why finish school if I’m doing an apprenticeship or traineeship?

Research shows that school completion increases your chances of being employed in the years after school and the amount of money you earn over your lifetime.

School completion will also help you build the general skills and knowledge sought by employers.

### Who can enrol in Head Start?

Head Start is available at Victorian government schools to students who are:

* at least 15 years of age;
* enrolled in years 10, 11 or 12
* an Australian Citizen or permanent resident.

Non-citizens may be eligible under certain circumstances. To find out more speak with your Head Start coordinator.

### How long does it take to complete a Head Start SBAT?

The length of an SBAT varies and will depend on the qualification and its requirements.

Some students compete an SBAT while they finish their VCE, VCE Vocational Major or Victorian Pathway Certificate. Other students extend their training beyond school and enter a fulltime apprenticeship or traineeship when they finish year 12.

### What days will I work, train and go to school?

Every student’s SBAT is different. Your Head Start coordinator will work closely with you, your school, employer and training provider to plan and agree when you will attend school, training and work.

### What will I be paid?

You must be paid at least the minimum wage in the relevant award or agreement covering your employment position.

You will have access to the same entitlements as other employees, such as annual leave and sick leave.

The time you spend at training is also paid time but is calculated differently from actual working hours. For more details, speak with your Head Start coordinator or visit <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/apprentices-and-trainees>

### What if I have already chosen an employer?

Having an employer lined up is a fantastic start. Just make sure you work with your Head Start coordinator before you commit to a training contract. Your Head Start coordinator will help to organise arrangements in your best interests.

### Does it cost anything to do an SBAT?

Some SBATs may incur fees related to training. There are various Victorian government subsidies in place to remove or reduce SBAT training costs. Where fees do apply, these may be refundable to you by your employer at agreed points of the SBAT.

Contact your Head Start coordinator to find out what costs might apply for your SBAT and what assistance may be available.

### What if I change my mind about my SBAT?

Head Start thoroughly prepares you for your SBAT. You will start with a work trial with your employer before you make any commitment or sign a contract.

If at any stage you are having doubts or wish to withdraw from your SBAT, your Head Start coordinator will be there to help.

### To learn more about Head Start visit

[www.vic.gov.au/headstart](https://www.vic.gov.au/headstart)