

How Far Can a Hospitality Qualification Take You? - Complete Hospitality Training

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Details:

As far as AQF level 5 with us, and considerably further than that with the credit those qualifications carry. The honest answer has a ceiling, a set of doors, and a geographic limit — and it is worth knowing where each sits.

The ladder, and where our part of it ends

Australian qualifications sit on the Australian Qualifications Framework . We hold 17 current qualifications on our scope of registration, spanning four AQF levels:

| AQF | Level | On our scope | | --- | --- | --- | | 2 | Certificate II | SIT20322 Hospitality, SIT20421 Cookery | | 3 | Certificate III | SIT30622 Hospitality, SIT30722 Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House), SIT30821 Commercial Cookery, BSB30120 Business, CHC33021 Individual Support | | 4 | Certificate IV | SIT40422 Hospitality, SIT40521 Kitchen Management, BSB40120 Business, BSB40520 Leadership and Management, CHC43015 Ageing Support, CHC43415 Leisure and Health | | 5 | Diploma | SIT50322 Event Management, SIT50422 Hospitality Management, BSB50120 Business |

That is sixteen. The seventeenth, SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail , sits on the scope record but passed its end date on 28 June 2024 , so it is not an available option.

Note also that there are four BSB business qualifications on scope, not two: BSB30120 , BSB40120 , BSB40520 and BSB50120 .

On the provider itself: we have held RTO code 3722 since 1 June 1994 , and our current registration period runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 under the Australian Skills Quality Authority. We were registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority until we transferred to the national regulator on 8 September 2017 . All of that is checkable on the training.gov.au organisation record, and it is worth checking, because a registration that expires before your course finishes is a real risk to plan around.

The ceiling is AQF 5. We do not hold an Advanced Diploma (AQF 6) or anything above it. Any provider claiming a hospitality qualification takes you straight to a degree is describing articulation into another institution, not their own scope.

What AQF 5 does give you is a strong basis for credit into higher education . Many universities grant advanced standing for a relevant Diploma — the amount varies by institution and is their decision, not the RTO's. If a degree is the goal, ask the university what credit it gives for SIT50422 before you enrol anywhere.

The pathway does not stop at the diploma, although our delivery does. The training package names the further-study route from SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management as SIT60322 Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management , and beyond that higher education. SIT60322 is not on our scope of registration , so it is a genuine next step but one taken with a different provider — worth knowing before assuming a single provider can carry the whole pathway. Our verified scope reaches AQF level 5, the diploma, and no higher: 17 current qualifications , 81 current skill sets and 579 current units , all at the

extent "deliver and assess".

How far is each step, in units?

AQF level tells you the complexity expected of you. It says almost nothing about workload. Here is the real distance between the rungs on our scope:

Code	Qualification	Units	Core	Elective	Core ratio
BSB40520	Certificate IV in Leadership and Management	12	5	7	42%
BSB30120	Certificate III in Business	13	6	7	46%
SIT30622	Certificate III in Hospitality	15	6	9	40%
SIT30722	Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)	20	9	11	45%
SIT50322	Diploma of Event Management	20	13	7	65%
SIT40422	Certificate IV in Hospitality	21	9	12	43%
SIT30821	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery	25	20	5	80%
SIT50422	Diploma of Hospitality Management	28	11	17	39%
SIT40521	Certificate IV in Kitchen Management	33	27	6	82%

Two counter-intuitive facts fall straight out of that table. A Certificate IV can be larger than a Diploma : SIT40521 is 33 units, SIT50322 is 20. And a Certificate III can be larger than a Certificate IV : SIT30821 is 25 units, BSB40520 is 12. If you are planning a sequence, plan it on unit counts.

The AQF also sets an expected volume of learning : Certificate II typically 0.5–1 year, Certificate III typically 1–2 years, Certificate IV typically 0.5–2 years, Diploma typically 1–2 years. The requirement is that the volume is sufficient for a graduate to achieve the learning outcomes, which is why "accelerating or shortening training" is a risk the regulator names rather than a feature to shop for.

What each level actually signals

The levels are not just length. They describe autonomy.

Certificate II — you carry out defined routine tasks under direct supervision.

Certificate III — you work with some autonomy, apply judgement to known problems, and take responsibility for your own output. This is the level most operational hospitality roles sit at.

Certificate IV — you supervise others, plan work, and handle problems that are not fully predictable.

Diploma — you manage, apply specialised knowledge, and take responsibility for the output of others.

You can see that in the core units rather than the marketing. SIT30622 has six core units built around working in the industry and serving customers: SITHIND006 , SITHIND008 , SITXCCS014 , SITXCOM007 , SITXHRM007 and SITXWHS005 . SIT40422 has nine, and three of them are HR units — SITXHRM007 Coach others in job skills, SITXHRM008 Roster staff and SITXHRM009 Lead and manage people, alongside SITXMGT004 Monitor work operations and SITXWHS007 Implement and monitor WHS practices. That is a supervision qualification, and the core list says so.

SIT50422 goes further again. Its eleven core units include SITXFIN010 Prepare and monitor budgets, SITXMGT005 Establish and conduct business relationships, SITXCCS016 Develop and manage quality customer service practices, and SITXGLC002 Identify and manage legal risks and comply with law. The step from Certificate III to Certificate IV changes your job description; the step to Diploma adds budgets, contracts and legal risk.

Where the roles actually are

The training package descriptors name them, and they are more specific than most course pages:

SIT40422 — bar supervisor or team leader, concierge, duty manager, food and beverage supervisor or team leader, front office supervisor or team leader, housekeeping supervisor or team leader, gaming supervisor or team leader, shift manager.

SIT40521 — chef, head chef: a cook with supervisory or team-leading responsibility, operating independently or with limited guidance and using discretion on non-routine problems.

SIT50422 — departmental or small business manager in restaurants, hotels, motels, catering operations, clubs, pubs and cafes.

What the qualification is worth in pay terms

This is the most concrete answer to "how far can it take you", and it is better than most people expect. Under MA000009 , MA000119 and MA000058 , a relevant AQF Certificate III or higher, used at work, sets a minimum classification of Level 4 . The fast food award, MA000003 , has no equivalent provision. So the floor applies in three of the four places a hospitality job can sit.

Which award covers you is decided by the premises, not the job title :

| Award | Code | Premises it covers | Level 4 floor? | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Hospitality Industry (General) | MA000009 | Hotels, pubs, taverns, motels, resorts, casinos, caterers, accommodation | Yes | | Registered and Licensed Clubs | MA000058 | Not-for-profit registered clubs — RSL, bowls, golf, sporting, community | Yes | | Restaurant Industry | MA000119 | Standalone restaurants, cafes, night clubs , reception centres, roadhouses | Yes | | Fast Food Industry | MA000003 | Takeaway, food courts, food sold mainly to be eaten away from the counter | No |

Two coverage traps worth knowing before you plan a destination. Clubs are not MA000009 — clause 4.4(d)(i) of that award expressly excludes clubs registered or recognised under State or Territory legislation, so a registered club sits under MA000058 , and only where it is both registered under a liquor, gaming, associations or corporations statute and operating not-for-profit for members and the community. And night clubs are not MA000058 — a night club is a commercial venue, so it falls under MA000119 . A food-court outlet is MA000003 while the cafe two doors down with tables is MA000119 , because the test is sit-down service rather than the menu.

Three details about the floor itself, because it is a pay entitlement rather than a courtesy. MA000009 and MA000119 require you to actually make use of the skills derived from those competencies, so it is not automatic on completion. MA000058 omits the words "or higher" and adds that the Fair Work Commission may require the employee to demonstrate they utilise the relevant skills. And the dispute route differs: clause 40 under MA000009 , clause 34 under MA000119 , and referral to the Fair Work Commission under MA000058 .

No pay rates are published here — award rates re-set every 1 July, so use the Fair Work Ombudsman's Pay and Conditions Tool with the correct award code. See working hours, rosters and public holidays and what jobs hospitality management graduates do .

Two doors most people do not know are open

The scope is far wider than the marketing. Our website promotes roughly ten courses, nearly all hospitality. The registered scope is 17 current qualifications , 81 current skill sets and 579 current units , every component at extent deliver and assess . The qualifications reach into aged care, individual support and leisure and health under the CHC package, plus four business qualifications under BSB; the skill sets reach further still — business and cyber, community services, health and infection control, retail, creative arts and horticulture. Someone who trained in hospitality and wants to move sideways can often do it with the same provider. Ask; do not assume the courses page is the whole list.

Skill sets are a real pathway, not a consolation prize. Eighty-one of them sit on scope and almost none appear in the marketing. Confirmed hospitality ones include SITSS00066 Kitchen Management, SITSS00068 Food Handling, SITSS00069 Food Safety Supervision, SITSS00070 Hospitality Compliance, SITSS00071 Responsible service of alcohol, SITSS00080 Espresso Machine Operation, SITSS00087 Mentoring and Supervision, SITSS00092 Event Coordination and SITSS00094 Sommelier. A skill set produces a Statement of Attainment, and its units credit-transfer into a full

qualification later. It is the cheapest way to test whether a direction suits you. One caution if you are using Victorian funding: the subsidised limit is two skill sets per calendar year, counted on commencement, so stacking short courses uses the allowance up quickly.

The constraint nobody mentions

Delivery states are not uniform, and the scope record carries no state field at all, so this has to come from the provider. For us:

| Qualification | States delivered | | --- | --- | | SIT30622, SIT30722, SIT40422, SIT20421, business, community services | All eight states and territories | | SIT20322 Certificate II in Hospitality | SA, VIC, WA | | SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery | SA, TAS, VIC, WA | | SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management | VIC, WA | | SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management | Victoria only | | SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management | Victoria only |

So "how far can it take you" has a geographic answer as well as a vertical one. Both Diplomas — the top of the ladder — are Victoria only. If you are outside Victoria and planning on a Diploma with us, confirm before you build a plan around it. A Victorian Skills First funded place tightens it further: all training and assessment must be undertaken while you are physically present in Victoria or a listed border-region postcode, with a narrow exception for a Practical Placement capped at no more than 50% of Scheduled Hours.

Beyond Australia

Hospitality qualifications travel, but the mechanism is skills assessment rather than the certificate itself. We are a Trades Recognition Australia appointed provider for the TSS Skills Assessment Program and the Offshore Skills Assessment Program, limited to two occupations: Chef (351311) and Cook (351411).

Both are assessable in this field. Cafe or Restaurant Manager is not on the Core Skills Occupation List — a verified absence, not a gap in research. So the cookery pathway carries migration weight that the front-of-house management pathway does not. See skills assessment, and take advice from a registered migration agent rather than a training provider.

For overseas students the ladder is shorter still: only three of our courses are CRICOS-registered — SIT40422 (116358F), SIT50322 (118427D) and SIT50422 (115534C). Neither dedicated cookery qualification is CRICOS-registered, which is why the culinary stream of SIT50422 is the only culinary route on a student visa. See the visa checklist.

A realistic progression

SIT20322 Certificate II in Hospitality, SIT20421 Certificate II in Cookery, or a skill set, to test the water

SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality (15 units) — the operational foundation. Or SIT30722 (20 units) if you want restaurant floor work specifically, where RSA and cash handling are core rather than elective

SIT40422 Certificate IV in Hospitality (21 units) for supervision, or BSB40520 (12 units) if you want portability outside hospitality

SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management (28 units) — our ceiling, and a credit basis for higher education

The kitchen line runs separately: SIT20421, then SIT30821 Commercial Cookery (25 units, 20 core), then SIT40521 Kitchen Management (33 units, 27 core).

Each step credit-transfers into the next, and the overlap is real: SITXHRM007 is core in SIT30622, SIT30722, SIT30821 and SIT40422, while SITXCCS015, SITXFIN009 and SITXHRM009 are core in SIT40422, SIT50322 and SIT50422 alike. Ask about recognition of prior learning at every stage —

RTOs must offer it under Standard 1.6, and it is frequently under-used. Raise it at the pre-training review. See how a course in hospitality can take you anywhere .

About us

We are Complete Hospitality Training , RTO 3722, CRICOS 04242E. Level 3, 28 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, and 410 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010. Contact melbourne@cht.edu.au or +61 3 9654 1554 .

We link to the relevant course and regulatory sources in this guide. Check those sources for current requirements, and confirm course availability, delivery, fees and entry requirements with us before enrolling.

Source records and further guidance

We link the unit records and regulator guidance relevant to this page below. Check the current source before making an enrolment, licensing or employment decision.

SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management

SIT40422 Certificate IV in Hospitality

SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management

SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery

SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality

Hospitality Industry (General) Award 2020 (MA000009)

Restaurant Industry Award 2020 (MA000119)

Skills First (Victoria) — VET Funding Contract obligations

National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 — Standards 1 to 11

Unique Student Identifier (USI) requirements for RTOs

Can I get to a degree through CHT?

Not with us directly — AQF 5 is the ceiling and there is no Advanced Diploma on scope. A Diploma is a common basis for credit into a degree, but the university decides how much advanced standing it grants.

What is my Certificate III actually worth in pay terms?

Under MA000009, MA000119 and MA000058, a relevant AQF Certificate III or higher used at work sets a minimum classification of Level 4. That covers hotels and pubs, restaurants and cafes, and not-for-profit registered clubs. The fast food award MA000003 has no equivalent provision.

Is the Level 4 floor automatic once I graduate?

Not quite. Under MA000009 and MA000119 you must also make use of the skills derived from those competencies in the work you do. MA000058 drops the words "or higher" and adds that the Fair Work Commission may require you to demonstrate you use the relevant skills.

How long have you been registered, and until when?

It has held RTO code 3722 since 1 June 1994, and its current registration period runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2032 under ASQA. It moved from the Victorian regulator to the national regulator on 8 September 2017. Check the training.gov.au organisation record rather than taking any provider's word

for it.

How many qualifications do you actually hold?

Seventeen current qualifications, plus 81 current skill sets and 579 current units, every component at extent deliver and assess. One of the seventeen, SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail, is past its end date of 28 June 2024 and is not available, so sixteen are live options.

What is the difference between SIT20322 and SIT20421?

They are different qualifications, both current. SIT20322 is Certificate II in Hospitality; SIT20421 is Certificate II in Cookery. Neither supersedes the other, and picking the wrong one puts you on the wrong line.

Which award will I be under if I work at a club?

MA000058 Registered and Licensed Clubs, not MA000009 — the hospitality award expressly excludes registered clubs at clause 4.4(d)(i). The club must be both registered under the relevant statute and operating not-for-profit for members and the community. A night club is different again: that is commercial, so MA000119.

Do I have to start at Certificate II?

No. Neither Certificate III in Hospitality has any entry requirements, and RPL may apply from the start. The pre-training review establishes the right starting point, and under Standard 2.2 it must consider your language, literacy and numeracy, your digital literacy and any prerequisites before you are placed in a course.

Is a Certificate III enough to get work?

For most operational hospitality roles, yes. Certificate IV is the supervision step, and it is the point at which three of the nine core units become HR units.

Which is the bigger jump, Certificate III to IV or IV to Diploma?

It depends which ones. SIT30622 to SIT40422 is 15 units to 21 and adds supervision. SIT40422 to SIT50422 is 21 to 28 and adds budgets, business relationships and legal risk. But SIT30821 to SIT40521 is 25 to 33 with the core ratio rising from 80% to 82% — that one is a workload jump more than a change in kind.

Why does the kitchen line have so few electives?

Because 20 of the 25 units in SIT30821 and 27 of the 33 in SIT40521 are core. A cook has to be able to cook everything, and the packaging rules do not let a provider trade that away. If elective freedom matters to you, the hospitality and business lines have far more of it.

Can I switch from hospitality to aged care?

We hold CHC33021, CHC43015 and CHC43415 on our national scope and, according to our current delivery information, deliver them in all eight states and territories. It is not advertised, but it is there. Ask at contact (/contact/).

Can I study retail with CHT?

Not as a qualification. SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail is on the scope record but its end date of 28 June 2024 has passed. Retail skill sets remain on scope.

Can I do a Diploma outside Victoria?

Not with us. Both SIT50322 and SIT50422 are delivered in Victoria only. Commercial cookery is SA, TAS, VIC and WA; kitchen management is VIC and WA.

Will Victorian funding take me all the way up the ladder?

Unlikely. Once you hold a qualification higher than Certificate I and you are 20 or over at the reference date, you generally fall outside Skills First for a subsidised place. Volume limits also cap you at two subsidised AQF qualifications per calendar year. Check the Victorian Government's own online eligibility indicator and read Victoria's government funded hospitality training ([/news/launch-your-hospitality-career-with-victorias-best-government-funded-hospitality-training/](#)).

Does my qualification expire if I stop for a few years?

No. Qualifications and Statements of Attainment do not expire, and every result stays attached to your USI for life. Training packages do get updated, so a qualification can be superseded — SIT40422 supersedes SIT40416 and is not equivalent to it, while BSB40520 is equivalent to BSB42015. Equivalence decides whether a gap assessment is needed. A qualification can also carry an end date, which is what has happened to SIR30216.

Is a skill set worth less than a qualification?

It is smaller, not lesser. It produces a Statement of Attainment carrying the NRT logo and the full title and national code of every unit, and those units credit-transfer. For a licensing requirement a skill set is often exactly the right instrument. We verify evidence of equivalent prior completion, check the training-product requirements and any licensing or regulatory restrictions, and document the decision before granting credit. See ASQA's credit-transfer guidance (<https://www.asqa.gov.au/for-providers/standards-for-RTOs/practice-guides/quality-area-1-training-and-assessment/RPL-and-credit-transfer-practice-guide>).

What is the fastest route to running a kitchen?

The cookery line, and there is no way around its size: SIT30821 then SIT40521, 58 units between them with 47 of those core. SIT40521 is the qualification whose descriptor names chef and head chef. Practical service volumes in individual units cannot be compressed either.

How do I find out what you can deliver for me?

Look up RTO 3722 on training.gov.au — the organisation record for the registration period and trading names, the scope listing for qualifications and units — then ask the provider for the delivery states, since the scope record does not carry them. Read the workplace training pages ([/workplace-training/certificate-iv-in-kitchen-management/](#)) for what each qualification contains, then submit an expression of interest ([/eoi/](#)) and ask for a pre-training review. Your guide to selecting the right hospitality course ([/news/your-guide-to-selecting-the-right-hospitality-course-for-you/](#)) works through the same decision in order.

What comes after the Diploma of Hospitality Management?

The training package names SIT60322 Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management as the further-study pathway, and higher education beyond that. SIT60322 is not on our scope of registration, so that step is taken with another provider.

How high does your own scope reach?

To AQF level 5, the diploma. Its scope holds 17 current qualifications, 81 current skill sets and 579 current units of competency, every one at the extent "deliver and assess", and nothing above diploma level.