

What Is the Cost of Hospitality Courses in Australia? – Complete Hospitality Training

Canonical: <https://cht.edu.au/news/what-is-the-cost-of-hospitality-courses-in-australia/>

Details:

No prices are quoted here. Fees change, they differ by provider, and they differ enormously depending on whether you are domestic or international and whether government funding applies. A figure copied onto a page is wrong within months, and a stale figure is worse than none.

What this page does instead is explain what determines the cost, what you are legally entitled to be told before you pay, and which questions to ask — so you can compare providers on something other than a headline number.

Use CHT's current course listings to find the specific course and its published fee or enquiry path. Funding eligibility and the amount payable still depend on the person and course; confirm both before enrolling.

The five things that move the price most

1. Domestic or international. This is the largest single factor. Domestic students may access government-subsidised training; international students pay full fees and cannot access those subsidies. Only three of our courses are CRICOS-registered and therefore available to a student-visa holder at all: SIT40422 Certificate IV in Hospitality (CRICOS 116358F), SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management (118427D) and SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management (115534C).
2. Whether it is subsidised. Victoria's scheme is Skills First. Eligibility turns on residency, where you will physically study, your age, and crucially what you already hold. The detail is below, because this is where most people's assumptions break.
3. Qualification size. These are not comparable products, and the spread is wider than most people expect:

	Units	What it produces
A single unit — SITXFSA005, SITHFAB021	1	Statement of Attainment
A skill set — for example SITSS00069 Food Safety Supervision or SITSS00068 Food Handling	A small number of units	Statement of Attainment
BSB40520 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management	12	Testamur
BSB30120 Certificate III in Business	13	Testamur
SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality	15	Testamur

SIT30722 Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House)	20	Testamur
SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management	20	Testamur
SIT40422 Certificate IV in Hospitality	21	Testamur
SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery	25	Testamur
SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management	28	Testamur
SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management	33	Testamur

A single unit costs a fraction of a qualification, and SIT40521 at 33 units is nearly three times the size of BSB40520 at 12 — both of them Certificate IVs. Comparing by AQF level tells you nothing about cost. Comparing by unit count tells you a great deal.

1. How much of it is prescribed. A qualification with a high core ratio has fewer places to trim. SIT40521 is 27 core out of 33; SIT30821 Commercial Cookery is 20 core out of 25. By contrast SIT30622 is 6 core out of 15 and SIT50422 is 11 core out of 28, so there is more room to shape those around units you already hold.
2. Delivery mode and practical requirements. Self-paced online is typically cheaper than face-to-face. Courses with a practical component carry equipment and consumable costs. And several food and beverage units carry specified volumes of practical service that cannot be compressed: SITHFAB027 requires five service periods including one peak period; SITHFAB034 requires twelve , with full menu advice given in every one; SITHFAB030 requires three service periods and two cocktails by each of six methods, so twelve preparations minimum ; SITHFAB025 requires ten specified beverages on three occasions each. SITXFSA005 requires correct hand-washing, uniform and PPE use, personal hygiene practices and hygienic food service each demonstrated on at least three occasions . That volume of supervised practice is a real cost and it is why a suspiciously cheap practical course should worry you.

There is a floor under the time as well. The AQF sets a volume of learning for each level, independent of delivery mode — Certificate II half a year to one year, Certificate III one to two years, Certificate IV half a year to two years, Diploma one to two years — and the volume must be sufficient for graduates to achieve the learning outcomes . "Marketing unrealistically short courses" is a named compliance risk, partly because a student who cannot finish in the advertised time is then facing extension costs that were never in the quoted price.

Skills First: the eligibility gates that decide your fee in Victoria

Three threshold requirements, then the one that catches most people.

Residency — you must be an Australian citizen, a permanent visa holder, or a New Zealand citizen.

Commencement window — you must enrol and commence within the contracted window, currently through to 31 December 2026 inclusive.

Physical presence — you must undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria, or in a listed border-region postcode. The only exception is for a student temporarily interstate or overseas on a Practical Placement , and even then online training and assessment is capped at no more than 50% of total Scheduled Hours . There is no general online or interstate concession for a

funded student, and moving interstate mid-course is a compliance event.

Then the gate that disqualifies most people who ask: if you are 20 or over at the reference date, you must not already hold a qualification higher than Certificate I. If you already have a Certificate III, a Diploma or a degree, you are generally outside Skills First for a subsidised place. This single rule explains most of the disappointment around government-funded training, and it is almost never stated plainly.

There are also volume limits. A maximum of two subsidised AQF qualifications and two subsidised skill sets per calendar year, and a maximum of two subsidised programs at the same time. The count is on commencement, not completion, and a program merely scheduled to start later in the same year counts from the moment you enrol. The limits are checked live at enrolment rather than reconciled at the end of the year, which is the part with a price attached: a second subsidised qualification in the same calendar year may not be funded at all, and the commencement that breaches a limit becomes fee-for-service. Foundation Skills are excluded from the count. If you are stacking short licensing courses — RSA, food handling, food safety supervision, espresso — you will hit the two-skill-set limit quickly.

Use the Victorian Government's own online eligibility indicator as the authoritative check on your own position. Then ask the provider to confirm in writing: in Victoria the provider, not the department, determines eligibility and carries the evidentiary burden, so a careful provider will ask you for documents.

Eligibility to enrol is not the same as eligibility for subsidy. You may be perfectly able to enrol fee-for-service while being ineligible for a subsidised place. One concrete example: a student enrolled in any school — government, non-government, independent or Catholic — is not eligible for Skills First subsidy unless they are a school-based apprentice or trainee, but is not barred from enrolling and paying fees. Our RSA accepts enrolments from age 15, and a 15-year-old is almost certainly still at school, so that enrolment is fee-for-service.

Concessions and waivers you may not know exist

If you are eligible for Skills First, two further mechanisms can reduce the fee, and neither is discretionary:

A concession must be offered to eligible students, and the concession fee is capped at no more than 20% of the standard tuition fee. That is a mandatory reduction, not a marketing discount.

A full fee waiver must be offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, Youth Access Initiative students, students from the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre, and young people on community-based orders.

Ask directly whether you fall into any of these categories. Providers are compensated for the waivers through funding loadings, so there is no reason for them to be reluctant.

What else reduces the cost

Credit transfer, which is free. This is the most reliably overlooked saving on this page. Credit transfer is Standard 1.7: whole units you have already completed at any Australian RTO are credited without reassessment, on the strength of your Statement of Attainment, and our policy is that credit transfer attracts no student fee. If you did an RSA or a food safety unit at another provider years ago, that unit should not be charged for twice. Bring the Statement of Attainment to the enrolment conversation, not after it. 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.

Recognition of prior learning, which is not free and not subsidised. RPL is Standard 1.6 , a different mechanism: a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements as the unit itself, not a waiver. It can still reduce what you pay overall by reducing the units you sit, but two cost facts matter. First, it is an assessment service, so it has its own cost. Second, and more importantly on a funded place, RPL is not available through government funding — it is fee-for-service only. So a subsidised student asking to have workplace experience recognised is asking for something outside the subsidy, while a subsidised student asking for credit transfer on a unit they already hold is asking for something free.

Both are raised at the pre-training review , which every learner completes under Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs . Name the instrument if you ask about it: the National Code 2018 has a different Standard 2.2, about an overseas student's English and entry qualifications.

Bundling. A skill set that shares units with a qualification you later enrol in costs less overall than paying for the same content twice, because the units credit-transfer under Standard 1.7 and produce a Statement of Attainment in the meantime. It also means one fewer commencement against your annual skill-set limit. Ask the provider exactly which units a given skill set contains before you assume an overlap.

Employer funding. Common in hospitality, particularly for licensing-linked training the venue needs anyway. The credential stays yours regardless, attached to your USI.

Apprenticeships and traineeships. A training contract changes the funding position entirely, and you earn while training.

What you are entitled to be told before you pay

This is the part of the cost question that is actually enforceable. Before enrolment, or before any fees are payable, a provider must give you:

a full and accurate schedule of fees , including any prepaid fees

the training product code and title

duration, modes of delivery, location, dates and scheduling

whether licensing or occupational licence requirements apply

details of any third-party arrangements

the training support and wellbeing support services available

every obligation to acquire materials or equipment, undertake a work placement, or travel and pay for accommodation to attend a placement

any cost of obtaining a USI, or of withdrawing from training

how to lodge an enquiry, and how long you should expect to wait for a reply

Ask for the total cost in writing, with tuition and every other applicable fee identified. For a Skills First place, the 2026 rules require a clear refund policy before enrolment and, before training starts, written documentation showing that the program is subsidised and the total cost to you, including tuition after the government contribution and any concession or waiver, plus any other applicable fees for services, amenities, goods or materials.

If you are an overseas student the protection is stronger again. Under the ESOS Act and the National Code the written agreement must be entered into concurrently with or prior to accepting any payment , and must list:

every tuition fee and the period of study it relates to

your payment options

whether you may pay more than 50% of your tuition fees before the course commences

all non-tuition fees — reassessment, deferral, late payment and any others

the refund terms : the amounts that are repayable and the amounts that are not, the process for claiming a refund, and who may receive a refund

a plain-English explanation of what happens if the course is not delivered, including the role of the Tuition Protection Service

It must carry the Australian Consumer Law statement, must be in plain English, and links may only supplement it rather than replace its content. The provider must retain it, with receipts, until two years after you cease to be an accepted student — so it remains available to you if a fee dispute arises later.

What the provider must be able to produce, and for how long

On a Victorian subsidised place the fee paperwork is not optional and it is not short-lived. A provider must be able to produce evidence of your eligibility, evidence of any concession or fee waiver, your Statement of Fees , evidence of participation, evidence of the pre-training review, and evidence that the fees it reported as charged were actually received — including the invoices or statements issued to you and bank-generated transaction statements of the accounts the money was paid into. Those records are retained until three years after you complete or withdraw .

The consequence attached to that is unusually sharp. If a record is not made available on request, for contract purposes it is deemed not to exist, and the activity it would have evidenced is deemed not to have occurred. That is the reason a funded enrolment asks for more documents than a short fee-for-service course, and it is also the reason an informal, off-the-books discount is a bad idea for you rather than only for the provider: reported fee revenue is reconciled against the provider's actual bank deposits, so a fee recorded but not received is visible.

The practical student-facing version is to keep your own copies of the written cost information, invoices and receipts; those documents settle a disagreement about what you agreed to pay.

What is often not in the advertised price

Ask about these explicitly:

Materials, uniforms and equipment — cookery and barista courses in particular

Re-assessment fees if you are not competent first time

Certificate re-issue

Travel and accommodation to attend a work placement , and unpaid placement hours

Overseas Student Health Cover , for international students

State licensing steps. In Victoria an RSA certificate does not exist until the LCV Learning Hub pre-training survey, the SHARPR module and a post-training survey are complete, on top of the unit. In NSW the Food Safety Supervisor certificate fee is capped by regulation and charged separately from the training fee — confirm the current cap with the NSW Food Authority, and note that we are not on the NSW Food Authority's approved provider list , so we cannot issue that certificate.

Victorian RSG is free approved training: online modules through RSG Online and venue-arranged sessions with venue support workers. National SITHGAM training does not replace it. See the official training requirements and our RSG guide .

What a fee should buy

Whatever you pay, you should receive a nationally recognised credential — a Statement of Attainment for a unit or skill set, or a testamur for a qualification — issued by a Registered Training Organisation

and linked to your Unique Student Identifier . Certification must be issued within 30 calendar days of the completion of your assessment , provided all agreed fees are paid, and your USI must not be printed on the document itself.

For nationally recognised training, a Unique Student Identifier (USI) is generally required before a qualification or Statement of Attainment can be issued , unless an applicable exemption applies. See the official USI exemption guidance . A USI is free at usi.gov.au . If you already have one, recover it rather than creating another. We check the issuing RTO and the unit codes when verifying a credential; a USI request alone does not establish whether a provider is legitimate. See beware of RSA course scams and the difference between a good and a bad course provider .

Questions worth asking any provider

What is the total fee, itemised into tuition, administration and amenities, including materials?

Am I eligible for a subsidy , in my specific circumstances — and can you confirm that in writing?

Do I qualify for a concession or a fee waiver ?

Can credit transfer cover any unit I already hold — and is it free?

Would RPL reduce what I pay, and what does the RPL assessment itself cost?

What is the re-assessment fee, and the certificate re-issue fee?

What does the work placement require of me in unpaid hours, travel and accommodation?

Is the qualification delivered in my state ? Both CHT Diplomas are Victoria only; commercial cookery is SA, TAS, VIC and WA; kitchen management is VIC and WA.

If it is licensing-linked, are you approved by the relevant state regulator — not just an RTO?

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.

SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management

SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality

SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management

SIT50422 Diploma of Hospitality Management

BSB40520 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Queensland)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Western Australia)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (South Australia)

Responsible Service of Alcohol training requirements (Tasmania)

Food Safety Supervisor certificate requirements (New South Wales)
Responsible Service of Gaming (RSG) training requirements (Victoria)
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
Outcome Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2025 (full text)
Unique Student Identifier (USI) requirements for RTOs

Why will you not publish a price?

Because a fee printed on a page ages badly, and a stale figure is worse than none. Fees also vary by funding status, concession entitlement, RPL outcome and delivery mode, so any single number would be wrong for most readers. Confirm the current fee directly.

Is the course free if I am eligible for Skills First?

No. Skills First subsidises a place; it does not usually eliminate the fee. A concession reduces the tuition fee to no more than 20% of the standard rate, and specific cohorts get a full waiver. Anything advertised as simply "free" deserves a request for the total cost and any other applicable fees in writing.

I already have a Certificate III. Can I get funded training?

Generally not under Skills First if you are 20 or over at the reference date, because the rule is that you must not already hold a qualification higher than Certificate I. Check your own position against the Victorian Government's online eligibility indicator. Fee-for-service enrolment is usually still available.

Can I do a funded course online from interstate?

No. A Skills First student must undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria or a listed border-region postcode. The only exception is a short period while on a Practical Placement, capped at no more than 50% of total Scheduled Hours.

How many subsidised courses can I do in a year?

Two AQF qualifications and two skill sets per calendar year, and no more than two subsidised programs at once. The count is on commencement, and a course you have merely enrolled in for later in the year already counts. Because the limits are checked live at enrolment, a second subsidised qualification in the same calendar year may simply not be funded — and the commencement that breaches a limit becomes fee-for-service.

Is credit transfer free, and is it the same as RPL?

They are different mechanisms with different prices. Credit transfer is Standard 1.7 — whole units already completed at any Australian RTO credited without reassessment, on the strength of your Statement of Attainment, and our policy is that it attracts no student fee. RPL is Standard 1.6 — a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements, not a waiver, and not available through government funding, so on a subsidised place it is fee-for-service. If you hold the unit, ask for credit transfer. If you hold the skill but not the unit, ask what the RPL assessment costs. We first verify the evidence and equivalence, check that the units fit your training product, and check for licensing or

regulatory restrictions 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>).

Does a bigger qualification always cost more?

Usually, because you are paying for more units. But compare unit counts rather than AQF levels: SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management is 20 units while SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management is 33.

Are skill sets cheaper than qualifications?

Smaller, so usually yes, and they are real credentials rather than lesser ones. We hold 81 current skill sets, including SITSS00068 Food Handling, SITSS00069 Food Safety Supervision, SITSS00070 Hospitality Compliance, SITSS00071 Responsible service of alcohol and SITSS00080 Espresso Machine Operation. Ask which units a given skill set contains, because that determines both the price and what will credit-transfer later under Standard 1.7.

Will RPL make it much cheaper?

It can, but it is a genuine assessment, it carries its own cost, and it is not available through government funding. It also depends on the qualification: there is more room to move in SIT30622 (9 of 15 units elective) than in SIT40521 (6 of 33).

Does my employer paying change who owns the certificate?

No. The credential is issued to you and recorded against your USI regardless of who paid.

Is an interstate certificate cheaper than re-sitting?

An RSA Statement of Attainment is a national training record, but permission to serve alcohol depends on the destination's rules. NSW permits eligible temporary interstate workers; permanent movers and security or RSA marshal roles must meet NSW training and competency-card requirements, using bridging where eligible. Victoria offers bridging to eligible interstate holders. SA applies approved-provider rules to training from 1 November 2020, with earlier training not required to be repeated solely for that change. QLD and WA require suitable national RSA evidence. Tasmania distinguishes staff from licence holders; the ACT and NT have local currency and refresher requirements. Check the regulator before your first shift. See RSA recognition by jurisdiction (*/rsa/*), NSW's rules (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/business-and-economy/liquor-and-gaming/training/rsa-bridging>) and SA's rules (<https://www.cbs.sa.gov.au/sections/LGL/RSA-approved-providers>).

What if I withdraw?

Ask before you enrol. Withdrawal costs are among the things a provider must disclose up front, and refund entitlements for overseas students must be set out in the written agreement — including the amounts repayable and not repayable, the process for claiming, and who may receive a refund.

How long does a provider keep my fee records?

On a Victorian subsidised place, until three years after you complete or withdraw — covering your Statement of Fees, the invoices issued to you and bank-generated statements of the accounts the fees

were paid into. For an overseas student the written agreement and receipts are kept until two years after you cease to be an accepted student. Keep your own copies anyway, and note that a record not produced on request is deemed not to exist, with the activity deemed not to have occurred.

Who can I complain to if I think I have been overcharged?

Every RTO must run a complaints process with procedural fairness and published timeframes, and an appeals process with independent review at no or low cost. Start with the provider's published process — ours is at [policies \(/policies/\)](#) — and ask to be told all avenues for independent review.

Where do I get your actual numbers?

From us. See [contact \(/contact/\)](#) or submit an expression of interest ([/eoi/](#)) and ask for the itemised fee schedule and a funding eligibility check. The [courses list \(/courses/\)](#) and the [workplace training pages \(/workplace-training/diploma-of-hospitality-management-hm/\)](#) set out what each course contains, and your [guide to selecting the right hospitality course \(/news/your-guide-to-selecting-the-right-hospitality-course-for-you/\)](#) works through the decision in order.