

Your Guide to Selecting the Right Hospitality Course for You - Complete Hospitality Training

Canonical: <https://cht.edu.au/news/your-guide-to-selecting-the-right-hospitality-course-for-you/>

Details:

Choosing a hospitality course is five decisions, taken in order. Take them out of order and you can end up enrolled in something excellent that does not do what you needed.

This guide gives you the structural facts — unit counts, core ratios, delivery states, CRICOS registration, funding eligibility — that decide whether a course fits. Those facts sit in the national training package and the regulator's register, not in marketing copy, and they are the ones almost never put in front of you.

1. What is the outcome you actually want?

Be specific, because the answer changes everything downstream.

| If your goal is | Start at | | --- | --- | | A job in a bar or cafe now | A licensing short course — RSA, food handling | | A first hospitality career | SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality | | Restaurant floor work specifically | SIT30722 Certificate III in Hospitality (Restaurant Front of House) | | To run a kitchen | The cookery line — SIT30821 , then SIT40521 | | To supervise or manage | SIT40422 Certificate IV, then SIT50422 Diploma | | To run events | SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management | | To leave hospitality eventually | The BSB business qualifications — more portable | | Skilled migration | The occupation matters more than the course — see below |

2. How big is the course, really?

This is the single most useful comparison nobody makes for you, and the spread is enormous. A qualification's size is the number of units of competency in it; its core ratio is how much of that is fixed and how much you choose.

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%

Read that table twice. BSB40520 is twelve units with five core. SIT40521 is thirty-three units with twenty-seven core. They are both Certificate IV. The AQF level tells you the complexity expected of you; it tells you almost nothing about the workload.

The core ratio matters just as much. At 39–46%, the Diploma of Hospitality Management and the two Certificate IIIs let you shape the qualification around a job you actually want. At 80–82%, the cookery and kitchen management qualifications are largely prescribed — because a cook has to be able to cook everything, and the training package does not let a provider trade that away. If you want breadth of choice, do not pick the cookery line and then complain about the timetable.

Electives are not free choice either. Under the packaging rules they must be guided by the job outcome sought, local industry requirements, and the complexity of skills appropriate to the AQF level, and every elective must contribute to a valid, industry-supported vocational outcome. Some units carry prerequisites — SITHCCC026 Package prepared foodstuffs requires SITXFSA005 first, for example — so the order is not always yours to choose.

Neither Certificate III in Hospitality has any entry requirements.

3. Which state will you work in?

This decides more than people expect, and it is the question most course pages never ask.

Delivery is state-restricted. A qualification being on an RTO's scope does not mean it is available everywhere. For us:

| Qualification | States delivered | | --- | --- | | SIT30622, SIT30722, SIT40422, SIT20421, all business and community services qualifications | All eight states and territories | | SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery | SA, TAS, VIC, WA | | SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management | VIC, WA | | SIT50322 and SIT50422, both Diplomas | Victoria only |

If you are in Brisbane and you want the Diploma of Hospitality Management, that is a relocation decision, not an enrolment decision.

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, NSW's rules and SA's rules.

Food Safety Supervisor rules diverge the same way. New South Wales issues its own certificate, through providers on the NSW Food Authority's approved list under section 106H of the Food Act 2003 (NSW), and we are not on that list — so we cannot issue the NSW Food Safety Supervisor certificate. Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia issue no state certificate and require no state approval of the RTO.

Funding is state-based. We hold a Victorian Skills First contract. Delivery outside Victoria is fee-for-service, with no Victorian government subsidy attached.

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.

4. Are you an international student?

If yes, the field narrows sharply. Only a CRICOS-registered course supports a student visa, and we have exactly three:

| Code | Course | CRICOS | | --- | --- | --- | | SIT40422 | Certificate IV in Hospitality | 116358F | | SIT50322 | Diploma of Event Management | 118427D | | SIT50422 | Diploma of Hospitality Management | 115534C |

Neither dedicated cookery qualification is CRICOS-registered. That is why the culinary stream of SIT50422 is the only culinary route open on a student visa. See the visa checklist and the difference between the two SIT50422 streams.

Both Diplomas are Victoria only, which for an overseas student means Melbourne.

As an overseas student you also get a written agreement before any payment is accepted. Under the ESOS Act and the National Code it must list every tuition fee and the period it relates to, your payment options, whether you may pay more than 50% of tuition before the course starts, and every non-tuition fee — reassessment, deferral, late payment. It must explain refunds in plain English, including what happens if the course is not delivered and the role of the Tuition Protection Service . If you are being asked for money before you have that document, stop.

5. What level, and can you skip part of it?

The AQF level describes autonomy, not just length: Certificate III is working with some independence, Certificate IV is supervising, Diploma is managing. Our ceiling is AQF 5 — there is no Advanced Diploma on scope.

The AQF also sets an expected volume of learning , independent of how the course is delivered: Certificate II typically 0.5–1 year, Certificate III typically 1–2 years, Certificate IV typically 0.5–2 years — the short end reserved for specialist qualifications that build on prior knowledge — and Diploma typically 1–2 years. The requirement is that the volume is sufficient for a graduate to achieve the learning outcomes. The regulator explicitly names "accelerating or shortening training without allowing students sufficient time for skill development and knowledge application" and marketing unrealistically short courses as known risks, which is why a suspiciously short course is a warning sign rather than a bargain.

Three things worth raising before you enrol:

Recognition of prior learning. RTOs must offer RPL under Standard 1.6 . It is a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements as anyone else faces, not a waiver — but if you have real workplace experience it can shorten the course.

Credit transfer, which is the cheaper and simpler of the two. Credit transfer is Standard 1.7 , and people routinely ask for RPL when this is what they actually need. Whole units you have already completed at any Australian RTO are credited without reassessment , on the strength of your Statement of Attainment — we verify the evidence and decide eligibility. Our policy is that credit transfer attracts no student fee , while RPL is not available through government funding and is a fee-for-service service. So if you hold the unit, ask for credit transfer and bring the paperwork; if you hold the skill but not the unit, ask about RPL and about what it costs. This is also what makes a short course a real building block: units completed inside a skill set credit-transfer into a full qualification later under Standard 1.7. 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 .

The pre-training review itself. It is not a formality, and it is where both of the above are raised. Under Standard 2.2 of the Outcome Standards for RTOs it must consider your language, literacy and numeracy, your digital literacy, and your individual requirements including physical skills, prior experience and any prerequisites or entry requirements — and it must inform whether you are appropriately placed in that training product. Name the instrument when you ask about it, because the National Code 2018 has a different Standard 2.2 , about an overseas student's English and entry qualifications. Use the review to argue your case, and to be told honestly if the course is wrong for you.

The unadvertised scope. We market around ten courses but hold far more on scope: 17 current qualifications , 81 current skill sets and 579 current units , every component at extent deliver and assess . Those skill sets reach well beyond hospitality — business and cyber, community services, health and infection control, retail, creative arts and horticulture. One of the seventeen qualifications, SIR30216 Certificate III in Retail, passed its end date on 28 June 2024 and is not available. If what you want is not on the courses list — aged care, individual support, leisure and health, business

administration — ask anyway. The workplace training pages cover the qualifications delivered in a workplace.

6. Check the provider, not the marketing

Five checks, all free, all using the regulator's records rather than the provider's website:

RTO code on training.gov.au — we are 3722

The qualification on that RTO's scope , and available in your state

CRICOS registration , if you need it — we are CRICOS 04242E

Liquor-regulator approval , in the states that actually operate a register

USI arrangements — 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.

A sixth check, once you are close: 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. More on this in what hospitality courses cost in Australia and the difference between a good and a bad course provider . Also worth reading: beware of RSA course scams .

7. What you must be told before you pay

This is the most useful list on the page, because it is enforceable rather than aspirational. Before enrolment, or before any fees become payable, a provider must give you:

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

the training product code and title

the duration , the modes of delivery , the location , and the dates and scheduling

whether licensing or occupational licence requirements apply — which, as section 3 shows, is where hospitality gets complicated

details of any third-party arrangements

the training support and wellbeing support services available to you

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

If you have not been given all of that, you are not yet in a position to choose. The placement line is the one people skip: unpaid placement hours plus travel is a real cost, and you are entitled to know it before you commit rather than in week three.

8. Who will actually teach and assess you

This is the check almost nobody makes, and the answer is a closed list. To deliver training and assessment without direction, which includes making assessment judgements about you, a person must hold under Standard 3.2 and the accompanying Credential Policy one of:

TAE40122 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, or its successor

TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment

TAE40110 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment

a diploma or higher level qualification in adult education or vocational education and training

a secondary teaching qualification plus TAESS00011, TAESS00019 or its successor, or TAESS00024 VET Delivered to School Students Teacher Enhancement Skill Set or its successor

For assessment only, TAESS00001 is added. Someone with relevant credentials but none of the above may deliver training and contribute to assessment under direction, but may not make assessment judgements. Everyone must also hold industry competencies, skills and knowledge relevant to and current in the training product, demonstrate current industry practice and maintain industry engagement — in hospitality, recent time in a real venue. The RTO must ensure and facilitate continuing professional development, and must validate its assessment practices and judgements regularly, with at least one validator holding a validation credential.

The assessment itself is governed too, by four Principles of Assessment and four Rules of Evidence:

| Principles of Assessment | What it means for you | | --- | --- | | Fairness | Your needs are accommodated, reasonable adjustment is available, and reassessment is allowed where necessary | | Flexibility | Assessment suits the context, the product and you, and assesses your skills regardless of how or where you acquired them — the principle RPL rests on | | Validity | Assessment includes practical application components, so you demonstrate the skill in a practical setting | | Reliability | Evidence is interpreted consistently, so the outcome is the same whichever assessor you get | | Rules of Evidence | What it means for you | | --- | --- | | Validity | The evidence relates to what is actually being assessed | | Sufficiency | Its quality, quantity and relevance let the assessor make an informed judgement | | Authenticity | It is genuinely your own work — which is why a workplace supervisor signs a placement log, not you | | Currency | It demonstrates skills and knowledge you hold now |

Reasonable adjustment is a real entitlement, not a favour: you must have channels to disclose a disability at enrolment and at any point afterwards. The one limit is that an adjustment must not jeopardise the integrity of the training product or the industry standard.

If funding is the deciding factor

Victorian Skills First subsidy has three gates before anything else is considered. You must be an Australian citizen, a permanent visa holder or a New Zealand citizen. You must enrol and commence within the contracted commencement window, currently through to 31 December 2026 inclusive. And you must undertake all training and assessment while physically present in Victoria or in a listed border-region postcode — there is no general online or interstate concession for funded students.

There is exactly one exception to that last gate, and it matters if you are weighing an online or interstate option: a student temporarily interstate or overseas for a Practical Placement may be trained and assessed online during that period, capped at no more than 50% of total Scheduled Hours. Moving interstate mid-course is otherwise a compliance event, not an administrative detail.

The gate that catches most people: if you are 20 or over at the reference date, you must not already hold a qualification higher than Certificate I. Anyone who already has a Certificate III, a Diploma or a degree is generally out. There are also volume limits — a maximum of two subsidised AQF qualifications and two subsidised skill sets per calendar year, and no more than two subsidised programs at once, counted on commencement, not completion, with a program merely scheduled for

later in the same year counting from enrolment, and Foundation Skills excluded. The limits are checked live at enrolment.

If you are eligible, two mechanisms 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 — a mandatory reduction, not a discount. A full fee waiver, meaning complete exemption from tuition fees, 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. Providers are compensated through loadings, so ask directly whether you qualify.

Eligibility to enrol and eligibility for subsidy are different questions. You may be able to enrol fee-for-service while being ineligible for subsidy. Check your own position against the Victorian Government's online eligibility indicator, which is the authoritative source, and then ask the provider to confirm in writing. See Victoria's government funded hospitality training.

One reason the paperwork is heavy: the provider must be able to produce evidence of your eligibility, of any concession or waiver, your Statement of Fees, evidence of participation and evidence of the pre-training review, and it retains those records until three years after you complete or withdraw. If a record is not made available on request, for contract purposes it is deemed not to exist and the activity is deemed not to have occurred — which is why a verbal assurance about subsidy is worth nothing, and why you should keep your own copies.

If migration is the goal

The occupation matters more than the qualification. Through Trades Recognition Australia, only Chef (351311) and Cook (351411) are assessable in this field. Cafe or Restaurant Manager is not on the Core Skills Occupation List — a verified absence that catches people who assume a management qualification is the stronger migration play. It is not.

Our Trades Recognition Australia appointment covers Chef and Cook only. See skills assessment, and take advice from a registered migration agent rather than a training provider.

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.

Should I start with a short course or a full qualification?

A licensing short course if you need to work now; a qualification if you want a career. Short-course units credit-transfer into a qualification later under Standard 1.7, with no reassessment and no student fee with us, so starting small is rarely wasted effort. 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>).

Which is bigger, a Certificate IV or a Diploma?

Not always what you would expect. SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management is 33 units; SIT50322 Diploma of Event Management is 20. Compare unit counts, not AQF levels.

Why does the cookery course have so few electives?

Because 20 of its 25 units are core, and 27 of the 33 units in Kitchen Management are. Cooking competence is not something the training package lets a provider trade away for timetable convenience.

What is the difference between SIT20322 and SIT20421?

They are two different Certificate IIs, both current on our scope. SIT20322 is Certificate II in Hospitality; SIT20421 is Certificate II in Cookery. Neither is a newer version of the other.

Can I do a Diploma outside Victoria?

Not with us. Both SIT50322 and SIT50422 are delivered in Victoria only. The Certificate IIIs, SIT40422 and the business qualifications are delivered in all eight states and territories.

Do I need a food safety certificate before I start?

Not to enrol. But hygiene is built in: SIT30622 requires one unit from its Hygiene elective group — SITHIND005 or SITXFSA005 — while SIT30722 and SIT30821 have SITXFSA005 as core, so it is not optional there.

Is my RSA valid if I move interstate?

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>).

Can I get a course recognised if I already work in hospitality?

Yes, through RPL under Standard 1.6, assessed against the same evidence as anyone else. It is a real assessment, not a shortcut, it is not available through government funding, and you should raise it at the pre-training review. If you already hold the actual units, ask for credit transfer under Standard 1.7 instead — that one is free and requires no reassessment. 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>).

What is the difference between RPL and credit transfer?

RPL (Standard 1.6) is a genuine assessment against the same evidence requirements as the unit, for skills you hold without the paperwork. Credit transfer (Standard 1.7) is the recognition of whole units you have already completed at any Australian RTO, without reassessment, on the strength of your Statement of Attainment. With us, credit transfer attracts no student fee; RPL is fee-for-service and not funded. Ask for the right one by name. 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 must a provider tell me before I pay anything?

The full fee schedule including prepaid fees; the training product code and title; duration, delivery modes, location and dates; whether licensing requirements apply; any third-party arrangements; the support and wellbeing services available; every obligation to buy materials or equipment, undertake a work placement, or travel and pay for accommodation to attend one; any cost of getting a USI or withdrawing; and how to lodge an enquiry and how long to expect to wait. Section 7 above is the list.

Who is allowed to assess me?

Only someone credentialled under Standard 3.2 and the accompanying Credential Policy — TAE40122, TAE40116 or TAE40110, a diploma or higher in adult education or VET, or a secondary teaching qualification plus a specified VET skill set; assessment only adds TAESS00001. Others may teach and contribute to assessment under direction but cannot make the judgement. All of them must also hold current industry skills in the training product.

How is my assessment supposed to be judged?

Against four Principles of Assessment — fairness, flexibility, validity, reliability — and four Rules of Evidence — validity, sufficiency, authenticity, currency. In practice: reasonable adjustment and reassessment must be available, your skills count regardless of how or where you got them, assessment must include a practical component, and the outcome should not depend on which assessor you drew.

How do I know a course is nationally recognised?

It has a national code you can look up on training.gov.au, it is on that RTO's registered scope, and it produces either a qualification testamur or a Statement of Attainment carrying the NRT logo, the RTO's registration code, and the full title and national code of every unit. Non-accredited training must be clearly distinguished from nationally recognised training — that is a regulatory obligation on the provider, not a courtesy.

Are short courses and skill sets real credentials?

Yes. A skill set produces a Statement of Attainment on the same terms as a qualification, and its units credit-transfer under Standard 1.7. We hold 81 current skill sets, including SITSS00069 Food Safety Supervision, SITSS00068 Food Handling, SITSS00071 Responsible service of alcohol and SITSS00080 Espresso Machine Operation.

When should I receive my certificate?

Once you have been assessed as meeting the requirements, certification must be issued within 30 calendar days of the completion of assessment, provided all agreed fees are paid. Your USI must not be printed on the document.

Can I study a funded course online, or from interstate?

Not as a general matter — a Skills First student must be physically present in Victoria or a listed border-region postcode for all training and assessment. The single exception is a student temporarily interstate or overseas for a Practical Placement, where online delivery is capped at no more than 50% of total Scheduled Hours.

Does the provider decide whether I get funding?

In Victoria the provider determines eligibility and carries the evidentiary burden — it must hold evidence of your eligibility, of any concession or waiver, your Statement of Fees and evidence of the pre-training review, and retain them until three years after you complete or withdraw. That is why the paperwork feels heavy. It is also why you should never accept a verbal assurance about subsidy: a record that cannot be produced is deemed not to exist.

What if the course turns out to be wrong for me?

Every RTO must run a complaints process with procedural fairness and published timeframes, and an appeals process that includes independent review at no or low cost. You must be told all avenues for independent review. Read the policies (/policies/) before you enrol, not after.

Can I change direction later without starting over?

Usually. Units credit-transfer between qualifications under Standard 1.7, and several units appear in more than one — SITHIND008, SITXCCS015, SITXFIN009 and SITXHRM009 recur across the hospitality Certificate IVs and Diplomas. Early study is rarely wasted.

Where do I start if I am still not sure?

Submit an expression of interest (/eoi/) or use contact (/contact/) and ask for a pre-training review conversation before you commit to anything. The resources (/resources/) page and the news index (/news/) cover most of the recurring questions.