



Adult education

In Australia, education is seen as a life-long process. Even when people are adults, they can continue their studies or even go to school for the first time. Attending school and learning to speak, read and write English is important and will assist you to fully participate in Australian life and feel comfortable living in Australia. English skills are also essential for finding work and are linked to better job opportunities.

Learning English – The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)

The Australian Government helps you learn English free of charge through the AMEP and encourages you to take this opportunity. You are entitled to study English for up to 510 hours but you must register within six months of arrival or you may lose this entitlement. If you have young children, free child care can be arranged for children under school age while you attend classes. Flexible learning options are available for clients that work, look after small children or other family members. For example, clients may be able to study from home or with the help of a home tutor or attend part time or out of hours classes.

For more information, go to www.education.gov.au/amep

Education options

Adults who wish to continue their education have a variety of options available. Financial assistance in the form of income support may be available for study and this will depend on your income and other assets. For more information about these financial support schemes, contact the Department of Human Services, or go to www.humanservices.gov.au

Completing high school

If you are over 18 years of age and have not finished high school, you may study at a **Technical and Further Education (TAFE)** college and complete a Certificate IV which is the equivalent of a high school level of education.

Learning a vocational skill or trade

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is for students who want vocational, technical or trade skills including carpentry, plumbing, hairdressing, landscape gardening, business services, tourism and hospitality. Some students do vocational training at TAFE colleges. A high school diploma is required and fees are charged for tuition and books. Students may qualify for the VET Student Loans to initially cover the tuition costs.

For more information, go to www.studyassist.gov.au



Other students do VET training as part of an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships combine practical work with formal training and, once completed, provide students with a nationally recognised qualification. One of the advantages of apprenticeships is that students receive a wage while they are training. The fees charged for courses can vary between institutions. Entry is based on the skills required to undertake the program or assessment. You can get the contact details of TAFE colleges in each state and territory from your caseworker or proposer.

Attending university as an undergraduate student

There are public and private universities in Australia. There are Commonwealth subsidised places and full fee paying places at universities. Most universities have student intakes in January/February and July/August depending on the courses. Some universities also run summer programs. To enter university you may need to take a number of exams to demonstrate your level of English and prior studies. Tertiary bridging courses may also be necessary before enrolling in a degree program. University in Australia is expensive; however, students may qualify for the **Higher Education Loan Program (HELP)** to initially cover the tuition costs. If using the HELP scheme, students gradually pay off their education after they begin earning an income at a certain level. For more information, go to www.studyassist.gov.au

Attending university as a postgraduate student

Qualifications gained overseas will need to be officially recognised by the university you want to attend. The Department of Education and Training provides information on how to have post-secondary overseas academic qualifications recognised in Australia. Some trades or professions offer 'bridging' courses to convert a person's qualifications to Australian standards. For more information, go to www.internationaleducation.gov.au and search for 'Qualifications recognition'.

Attending community education courses

Community colleges offer a variety of personal interest courses such as cooking, languages, dancing, photography and many more. These courses do not provide any formal qualifications but are useful in learning basic skills like how to use a computer, which helps you with employment, or do bookkeeping. There are also courses that can help develop skills that are useful in applying for jobs. Community education courses are offered on evenings and weekends at local schools and colleges and are a good way to meet other people. Some migrant resource centres and migrant service agencies also hold programs for learning English, health, wellbeing and other skills.

Education for the whole family

Local public libraries are very good sources of information. You can join a library free of charge and can borrow books, magazines, videos and CDs. Most libraries have free internet access. You may be only able to use the computer for a short time and you may need to book this service in advance. It is important to follow the library rules and return books and magazines on time or there will be a small fine.

Child care

If you work, study, attend training or are unable to take care of your children for a short time during the day there are many types of full time and part time child care options available. Your caseworker or proposer can help in finding suitable child care. Government information about child care services and regulations, financial assistance, services for special needs children and children from various cultural backgrounds is available at the MyChild website.

For more information, go to www.mychild.gov.au

Revised edition (April 2018)



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Delivered by International Organization
for Migration on behalf of the Australian
Department of Social Services

