

## Vocational Programs

Students should consider including a vocational course in their study package. It can broaden their career outlook and provide for development in a range of skills relevant not just to one career area but to future employment in general.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is a term used to describe education and training arrangements designed to prepare people for work or to improve the knowledge and skills of people who are already working.

It also describes one of the three major sectors of education and training, the other being school and higher education sectors.

VET programs offer students a wide range of educational experiences leading to or directly involved with work and career opportunities. These can range from Certificate 1 through six levels of the Australian Qualifications Training Framework (AQTF) to Advanced Diplomas.

## Employment Pathways

UCSSC LG provides Vocational Education and Training (VET), which is responsive to the challenging needs of students in today's workforce.

Students can select work-based programs, which are designed to articulate into further study and assist students to obtain employment upon graduation.

These courses have been developed in partnership with industry, unions and employers.

As a nationally accredited Registered Training Organisation (RTO) the college is able to structure work-based training, which has been approved at a national level.

Students are able to graduate with full or partial VET qualifications that are recognised across Australia.

## Vocational education involves courses that:

- are developed for students to meet the needs and standards of industry (employers)
- are competency based. That is, students demonstrate their skills in the workplace (or simulated workplace) environment
- may have a period of 'on-the-job' training with an employer
- count towards the Year 12 Certificate, have national recognition and provide pathways to further education and employment.

## Students who undertake vocational courses

- Gain practical work related skills that employers recognise
- Gain credit transfer and/or advanced standing into other training courses
- Gain a nationally recognised vocational qualification and the internationally recognised Year 12 certificate
- Make valuable contacts with Employers
- Try out a possible career choice before finishing Year 12
- Prepare themselves for the world of work

## Vocational Courses

In keeping with the national trend towards vocational training, UCSSC Lake Ginninderra has successfully established a range of vocational courses.

These incorporate nationally recognised competencies which will articulate with further training options and directly into the workforce in those areas.

Successful completion of these courses can lead to a nationally recognised Certificate I or II being awarded. Partial completion can lead to the awarding of a Statement of Attainment.

## The following vocational courses are available at UCSSC Lake Ginninderra:

- Automotive Technology
- Business Administration
- Furniture Construction
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Metal Engineering
- Outdoor Education
- Sport Recreation and Leadership
- Tourism

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

If you already have experience that may be relevant to the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Program you are enrolling in, you are entitled to seek acknowledgment of this experience through the Recognition of Prior Learning process, known as "RPL".

The main focus for RPL is what you know, not how or where you learnt it. RPL recognises skills, knowledge and attitudes that you have learnt from life experience, work experience and other training/education. RPL will identify whether your current skills and experience are similar to that required by the course that you will do.

If you apply for RPL you will be asked to supply evidence to support your application. This evidence may include examples of relevant life experiences, work experiences, details of studies or training, and references from people who can confirm your claim.

Your VET teacher will provide both advice and print information about the steps involved in achieving RPL status.



## Australian School Based Apprenticeships (ASBA)

A student at school participating in a traineeship or apprenticeship is called an ASBA (Australian School Based Apprentice). ASBA's are part-time and incorporate all the features of full-time traineeships and apprenticeships.

They include:

- A training agreement that is signed by both the employer and the trainee or apprentice and is approved by the Office of Training and Adult Education
- A formal training program with training delivery supported by a registered Training Organisation (RTO) that leads to a nationally recognised qualification
- Paid employment under an appropriate industrial arrangement.

Because the trainees and apprentices are at school, their apprenticeship programs need to be flexible enough to accommodate the students' school, work and training needs.

The time spent at school, at work and in training needs to be agreed between the employer, the student's parents (or guardian), the school and the training organisation.

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and Vocational Placement differ from Work Experience in that competencies contained in the vocational course are assessed 'on-the-job' during the placement.

Students are expected to complete these competencies as outlined by the course and teacher during the placement time. Most vocational courses have a Training Record Book that outlines the requirements of the 'on-the-job' assessment.

## Work Experience (WEX)

Work Experience is operated as part of the College's Careers program under the guidelines of the Education and Training Directorate

Most work experience placements occur in the non-teaching week/s at the end of each semester, but placements during a semester are also possible. As a result, over the two years at college, each student has several opportunities to do work experience.

Students wishing to undertake work experience should make an application to the college's Work Experience Co-ordinator at least six weeks ahead of the time they would like their placement to occur.



Students who wish to arrange their own placement should include details of their proposed placement in this application. To maximise the potential benefits of work experience it is recommended that students discuss their ideas for work experience with their parents and one of the college's careers advisers prior to requesting a placement.

For students under the age of eighteen, it is necessary for parents to sign the work experience application and the work experience agreement after the placement is arranged.

## Structured Workplace Learning and Vocational Placement

Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and Vocational Placement are operated as part of the Vocational Courses program. Students who are enrolled in a vocational course will have their SWL or Vocational Placement organised by their teacher through the Education Directorate.

