

VSL STUDENT ENTRY INFORMATION

In accordance with the *VET Student Loans Act (2016)*, students seeking to access an [Australian Government](#) VET Student Loan (VSL) must demonstrate academic suitability to undertake a high-level VET qualification. Only qualifications approved under the VET Student Loans program are eligible for a VSL. These approved qualifications are listed on the **TAFE NSW VET Student Loan Approved Course list** published on the [TAFE NSW VET Student Loans website](#).

This academic assessment is *in addition* to any course specific entry requirements that may apply for the specific course you are undertaking. For high-demand courses, where the number of applicants exceeds the available places, additional selection criteria may also apply. If you are unable to meet any of these requirements, you will not be eligible to apply for a VET Student Loan. Further information regarding relevant procedures is available in the *VET Student Loan Policy* and *VET Student Loan Procedure* on the [TAFE NSW website](#).

Ways to assess your academic suitability

To be eligible for a VET Student Loan to help pay for your fees, you **must** provide evidence to TAFE NSW that you meet one of the criteria below:

- you have completed your senior secondary certificate of education¹, awarded by an Australian authority or agency **or** an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) Diploma. Please provide a copy when you apply to enrol. A statement of outcomes meets this requirement only if it confirms that the student received the Senior Secondary Certificate. TAFE NSW is required to store this for five years after you enrol. **OR**
- you have completed an Australian Qualifications Framework qualification at Certificate IV level or above (or at a level in a framework that preceded the AQF, that is equivalent to level 4 or above in the AQF), that was delivered in English, or evidence of an approved Australian Government assessed overseas qualification². Please provide a copy of your certificate, if this was achieved at a provider other than TAFE NSW. This may be issued by your previous provider or through the national USI Registry at <https://www.usi.gov.au/students> (for qualifications from 2015). If you studied with TAFE NSW, just tell us where you studied and we can verify it for you. **OR**
- you complete a literacy and numeracy assessment using an approved assessment tool and display competence at or above Exit Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). TAFE NSW will use either the Basic Key Skills Builder (BKSB), the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), the Core Skills Profile for Adults (CPSA) or the Foundation Skills Assessment Tool (FSAT) to assess your skills. You will be given information during your enrolment and loan application about how to complete the assessment, which is free of charge.

TAFE NSW must be satisfied that this assessment is completed independently and that you demonstrate the required skills. You will be notified of your results as soon as practicable after the assessment is complete. A copy of your results will be stored for five years after you enrol and may be provided to the Australian Government if requested.

1. In NSW, you may obtain a copy of your Higher School Certificate from 1967 onwards for a standard cost where delivery is within 10 days, with an option for priority delivery at a higher fee. Go to the Board of Studies website for more information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/nesa/hsc/results-and-certificates/replacement-certificates>.
2. From 1 January 2019, overseas qualifications can be used to demonstrate academic suitability if there is evidence that the qualification is comparable to an AQF Certificate IV level or above. The evidence must be a document issued by an Australian Commonwealth or State Government Department or agency contracted by government for the purposes of assessing overseas qualifications, for example a state or territory overseas qualifications unit or the Australian Government Department of education, [Qualification assessment service](#). Please note that these agencies charge a fee for the assessment of overseas qualifications.

TAFE NSW will ensure that the process of assessing academic suitability will be conducted with honesty and integrity.

Note* Tertiary Preparation Certificate cannot be used in place of a Higher School Certificate. Tertiary Preparation (Certificate IV) can be used as evidence for completion of a Certificate IV. A NESA HSC Testamur which includes grades and performance is acceptable to demonstrate successful HSC completion. A NESA e-record does not meet the requirement and cannot be accepted.