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| HOD Senior School | Ms Jenny Duke e. jduke4@eq.edu.au |
| VETLO | Mrs Mary Hannaford VET@bribieislandshs.eq.edu.au |
| Located | Senior Hub B03 Library |

TAFE at Schools frequently asked questions

1) When can I start a TAFE at Schools Course?

All Year 11 and 12 students are eligible to participate in the TAFE at Schools Program. In some cases Year 10 students may be considered to begin TAFE in Semester 2 when a limited selected of courses is offered by TAFE. You must attend a Queensland High School for the duration of the program. The TAFE at Schools course must be completed while the student is still attending school. This will limit Year 12 students to courses which may be completed within 2 semesters.

2) How does it fit in with school timetable?

This is determined on a case-by-case basis. Usually the student will attend TAFE one day per week. The timetable will be modified to reflect this. The student will be expected to communicate with the subject teachers in order to catch up on any work missed out. There will also be an opportunity provided to the student to attend after school tutorials in the library in order to get additional subject assistance. Students can simply turn up to these sessions.

3) How long does the course take?

In general, Cert II Courses take 1-2 Semesters, Cert III Courses take 2-3 Semesters and Cert IV Courses take 3-4 Semesters. However, specific course information can be on the Course Guide.

<https://TAFEqld.edu.au/courses/ways-you-can-study/TAFE-at-school.html?>

4) How much does it cost?

Students undertaking a nationally accredited qualification at TAFE Queensland Brisbane as part of their senior studies may pay substantially reduced or, in some cases, no tuition fees at all. However, there are material fees for all programs and an administration fee per calendar year and you'll need to meet these costs. Whilst there are some exceptions, most Cert II Courses are free (they are covered under VETIS funding – see Q18) and most Cert III and IV courses have an associated fee. Each student is entitled to one use of their Vet in Schools funding.

For specific fee related information please visit the TAFE at School website. Ensure that you note the TAFE at Schools pricing. A fee table is also provided overleaf (based on 2022). Please note though that this is subject to change.

https://TAFEqld.edu.au/search-results.html?ways_to_study=TAFE+at+School

5) How do I enrol?

Firstly, speak to VETLO or HOD Senior School. They will ensure that the chosen course is the right choice for you or that the course is not full. Get your USI Number (details below question 13). You then apply to enrol into the chosen course. The VETLO will then be asked by TAFE to approved your enrolment. If you are successful in gaining a place on the course, necessary paperwork must be completed and fees must be paid to TAFE Brisbane. Usually an email is sent from TAFE late in Term 3 or early Term 4 with further instructions relating to this.

6) Can I do any TAFE Course?

No. You are limited to the selection of courses offered under the TAFE at Schools Program.

7) How do I find out more about the courses offered?

https://issuu.com/TAFEbrisbane/docs/21-2272_tq_tas_guide_2022_final_lr

Information on TAFE is regularly dispersed at Senior Assembly. Emails regarding courses and intakes are also regularly sent to Senior Students.

8) What's the difference between TAFE and Skillstech?

TAFE QLD and TAFE Skillstech have amalgamated to form TAFE Brisbane. Skillstech traditionally cater for the more hands-on trade and technical training. For example, Cert II in Construction, Automotive – Heavy and Light Vehicle, Electrotechnology are all provided through Skillstech. Current TAFE guides have amalgamated both organisations and course information.

9) How does doing a Cert help me to get a QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education)?

Completion of a TAFE Course allows you to gain credits towards the QCE. The number of credits are listed under course details. In general, Cert I = 2-3 Credits, Cert II = 4 Credits, Cert III = 6-8 Credits Cert IV = 8 Credits.

10) Can I get into University if I go to TAFE and I'm not an ATAR Student?

TAFE offers post-school Pathway opportunities for those students who have completed a Certificate. You will be guaranteed entry into a Diploma course, completion of which may in turn guarantee acceptance into partnering Universities. Detailed pathway options are outlined in the course guide and on <http://TAFEbrisbane.edu.au/study-with-us/school-students/university-pathways/#break>

11) Where are the TAFE Brisbane Campuses?

Closest campuses are at Caboolture, Bracken Ridge and South Bank with some students also attending Grovelly and Eagle Farm. (TAFE Redcliffe campus no longer offers TAFE at Schools courses). The location for each course is listed on the TAFE Brisbane Guide. TAFE Skillstech is located beside the TAFE Campus in Bracken Ridge at Norris Rd. Travel arrangement to and from the TAFE Campus is the responsibility of the student.

12) What are the TAFE Term dates?

TAFE term dates align with QLD school term dates. Most courses begin in Term 1. There are also a limited number of courses offered to students at mid-year.

13) Why do I need a USI (Unique Student Identifier) for TAFE?

The USI was introduced nationally on 1st January 2015 for all students studying VET or TAFE qualifications. You cannot get Statements of Attainment or Certificates unless you have a USI. From 2017, your primary login ID to TAFE will be your USI number. In order to get a USI please go to www.usi.gov.au and follow the prompts. Please provide this USI number to Senior Schooling office by emailing it to VET@bribieislandshs.eq.edu.au.

14) Can I do a TAFE course if I'm going for an ATAR?

Yes, you can do a TAFE Course however we recommend that this decision is made in conjunction with Senior Schooling team and also may be subject to Principal's approval. Please note that only Certificate III level courses or higher can count towards an ATAR and the Certificate III or IV achieved will get a similar or lower ranking to that of an ATAR applied subject. Additionally, students must be completing 4 other General Subjects to be eligible for an ATAR. It is recommended that the TAFE course be completed by the latest at the end of Year 11 in order that the student concentrate on the other General Subjects in Year 12. Another consideration to be taken into account related to how subjects are scaled. If students are trying to maximise their ATAR we recommend picking 6 general subjects and not doing TAFE.

15) What if I don't like the course I pick?

If the student decides that the course selected is not right course for them, they have the option of returning to school. Depending on how much of the TAFE course has been completed, partial credits may be attributed towards the students' QCE. The timetable will be changed back to reflect that the student is no longer attending TAFE.

16) Can I get a "Studyline" if I go to TAFE.

A "studyline" is allocated when a student can drop a subject in various circumstances. A studyline is not allocated to a TAFE student during the first term of study in the event that the student changes his/her mind about attending TAFE. This minimises the potential that the student falls behind on this subject. A studyline may be allocated in the second term of the TAFE course. However, this is dependent on the students' progress, attendance and behaviour at both school and TAFE. TAFE attendance, progress and behavioural records are available online to the Senior Schooling Team. Students in Year 10 are not eligible to get a studylines for TAFE.

17) What is Trade Taster?

Trade Taster is a program run by TAFE Skillstech which is offered to Year 10 students in Term 2 and Term 3. This program runs 1 day a week over a 6-8 week period and gives the students a "taste" of numerous trades. This program is hugely popular and usually books out QLD wide within 30 minutes of nominations opening. Nomination day is usually mid term 1. This program is well advertised to our Year 10 students. If you are a Year 10 student (or Parent of) and would like to go on a waitlist for this, please email VET@bribieislandshs.eq.edu.au along with your USI number.

18) What is VETIS Funding and what happens if I'm already using my VETIS Funding?

VETIS (VET In Schools) Funding is available to all Queensland students for one Vocational Educational Course. Usually TAFE Cert II courses are covered by VETIS funding. There may be some equipment/uniform expenses that you need to cover. Cert III Courses and higher have associated fees. Payment plans may be organised directly with TAFE.

Where the complication arises is if a student is doing a VET course through Bribie Island SHS which uses VETIS funding. An example of this would be the Cert III Fitness. This course uses VETIS funding. If a student participating in this course chooses to then do a TAFE VETIS funded course (usually a Cert II) they may be required to pay course fees up to \$4,000. If you are doing a Certificate school-based course and also want to do a TAFE Cert II course you have the option of using VETIS funding for TAFE and paying a reduced fee for the above course. The associated fee is in the vicinity of \$400 –Cert III Fitness. (Subject to change). We would encourage relevant students to strongly consider this option and to make the Senior Schooling office staff aware of the situation.

19) How do I find out more?

TAFE have a number of Open Days which are advertised through the TAFE website and which the Senior Schooling team advertise. TAFE options are also discussed during the SET Planning process in Semester II of Year 10.



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