

Skills First Program

(Version 1.0) from 2017 Restricted VET Funding Contract - Schedule 1

Eligibility Criteria

Am I eligible for Skills First government - subsidised training place?

To be eligible in 2017, an individual must meet requirements as follows

- a. An individual must reside permanently in Victoria and meet one of the following citizen/residency status:
 - an Australian citizen; or
 - a holder of a permanent visa; or
 - a New Zealand citizen; and
- b. An individual must enrol and commence training in a course or qualification provided by the RTO between the 1 January 2017 to the 31 December 2017 inclusive be:
 - under 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of the commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognized training; **or**
 - over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognized training in a Foundation Skills List course; **or**
 - over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognized training as an Apprentice (not Trainee); **or**
 - over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in Training in the Victorian Certificate of Education or the Victorian Certificate of Allied Learning (Intermediate or Senior); **or**
 - over 20 years of age (as at 1 January in the year of commencement of training) and seeking to enrol in nationally recognized training in a course that is at a higher qualification level than the highest qualification held at the time of the scheduled commencement of training.

In addition to meeting the requirements eligible to:

- commence a maximum of two government subsidized through the Skills First Program in a calendar year. Where an individual is enrolled in a course(s) that is scheduled to commence at a later date in that calendar year; this course(s) must be counted for the purpose of this clause when assessing eligibility;
- undertake a maximum of two government subsidised courses at any one time;
- commence a maximum of two government subsidised courses the same level with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) in their lifetime; and
- commence a maximum of two government subsidised accredited courses with the title 'Course in...' in their lifetime.

If you are eligible for a funded place you will need to bring the following supporting documents to the interview.

1. Proof of Australian Citizenship/Residency

Please bring one of the following documents to the interview to provide proof of Australian Citizenship/Residency:

- A 'green' Medicare card
- A current Australian/New Zealand passport
- An Australian Birth Certificate (not an extract)

- A Naturalisation Certificate
- Formal documentation issued by the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection confirming permanent residency
- A proxy declaration for individuals in Exceptional circumstance as per (refer to the 2017 Guidelines for determining Student Eligibility and Supporting Evidence Guide available at GEST reception).

2. Under 20 years old

If you are under the age of 20, you will need to bring one of the following documents plus your Citizenship/Residency document to the interview:

- A current drivers license/learners permit
- A 'keypass' identity card
- A proof of age card

The Skills First Program provides an entitlement to a government subsidised place in accredited vocational education and training for all courses, subject to eligibility guidelines. Students who are not eligible for a Skills First funded place may choose to undertake the course as a Fee for Service training option. If you are not eligible for the Skills First Program and do not meet any other funding criteria, then you are still able to undertake your qualification with GEST on a full fee paying basis.

Student Handbook

The GEST Student Handbook is available on our website under the Training Tab/how to enrol and handbooks link and contains detailed information on all aspects of the training, assessment and operations at GEST

For further information please contact Gippsland Employment Skills Training Inc. on (03) 5127 4544 or e-mail frontdesk@gest.com.au