

# Free TAFE courses Important information for BSSC students & parents

The Victorian Government announced a [Free TAFE initiative](#) which means **some** TAFE courses will have free tuition costs in Victoria, commencing January 2019. The BSSC Pathways Team has compiled a list of common questions to help students, parents and teachers to understand this.

**Which courses are free? Where can I study them?** You can view a list of the free TAFE courses (across Victoria) [here](#). **Important:** Bendigo TAFE offers [some](#) but not all of these courses. The names of all providers offering the courses can be seen on the side bar.



**I just need to apply, right?** No. Demand for the free courses will be extremely high. There are limited spaces and there will be a selection process. You will need to sit a TAFE language and numeracy test and attend an interview.



**I don't know what I want to do after Year 12... I should just enrol in a free TAFE course.**

Wrong thinking. You shouldn't apply for a course just because it's free. Do you know where it will lead, in terms of employment? Are you motivated to study it? Have you explored what the occupation is like and if it suits you?

**So, anyone can do these free courses?** No, there is eligibility criteria: you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or a NZ citizen) + you must be under 20 years old.

**If I don't like the free course I'm doing, I will just swap for another free course.** Wrong. Once you enrol in a free TAFE course, you will not be able to enrol in another free course, even if you didn't finish your first course.

**When and how do I apply?** If you are planning to study in 2019, you should apply NOW. Some TAFE courses require you to apply via the [VTAC website](#), others require you to apply directly to the institution. [Bendigo TAFE](#) handles their own applications. If you are considering applying for any course, speak to BSSC Pathways staff, who have detailed information to assist you.

## UNI vs. TAFE

**I'm planning to go to Uni, but if I don't get in, I will just apply for a free TAFE course.**

Wrong thinking! By the time you find out if you got accepted into university (mid-January), it could be too late to apply for certain TAFE courses. Discuss alternative pathways with the BSSC staff now.



**So the free course means it's all free?** No. Only the tuition is free. You'll still need to pay for other fees, such as student services fees or materials fees.

**How long are the courses free for?** We don't know. The government has announced the initiative starts in 2019. They have not announced if it will continue or not.

**Where do I go for help?** All BSSC students can access free advice from the Pathways staff. Please make an appointment with us so we can help you. Call into the office. Or if you are a parent, call the School on 5443 1222 and ask to speak with the Pathways Office.

# HELP

BendigoTAFE



Chisholm

Federation TRAINING

Federation UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

gotafe

holmesglen

KANGAN INSTITUTE

MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC

RMIT UNIVERSITY

SOUTH WEST TAFE

Sunraysia INSTITUTE of Technical and Further Education

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

the Gordon

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY POLYTECHNIC

William Angliss Institute Specialist centre for foods, tourism, hospitality & events

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