Australian School-based Apprenticeships

Australian School-based Apprenticeships are a great career option, allowing young Australians to commence training for a vocational qualification and earn a wage while completing their secondary certificate.

What is an Australian School-based Apprenticeship?
An Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASbA) is an Australian Apprenticeship undertaken part-time while you are still at school.

An Australian School-based Apprenticeship provides you with hands-on industry experience and the ability to work towards or complete a nationally recognised qualification while undertaking your secondary school certificate.

What does an Australian School-based Apprenticeship involve?
An ASbA combines secondary school subjects, paid work and on or off the job vocational training. You can undertake training in a traditional trade or other occupation at Certificate or Diploma level.

Australian School-based Apprentices will need to negotiate time-release from their school subjects to attend work and training.

The number of hours an ASbA needs to be employed per week differs between States and Territories.

How long does an Australian School-based Apprenticeship take?
An Australian Apprenticeship can take from one to four years to complete. Depending on your qualification, you may be able to complete your training when you finish their schooling, or you may need to finish after you graduate.

You may be granted credit for any skills you already have and any prior experience in the workplace, potentially reducing your training time.

How are Australian School-based Apprentices paid?
Australian Apprentices are employed under a federal or state award or agreement. You will be paid a wage which varies depending on a number of factors including your year of training, the type of Australian Apprenticeship you are doing and the industry or occupation.

You have the same rights to superannuation, workers’ compensation and other entitlements or requirements as all other workers in Australia. Awards and conditions are set independently of the Australian Government by the Fair Work Commission.

How do I find an Australian School-based Apprenticeship?
If you are still at school discuss Australian Apprenticeships with your career advisors or teachers.
Investigate your training and career options at:

- www.aapathways.com.au
- www.myskills.gov.au
- www.myfuture.edu.au
- www.naen.com.au

Visit your local Apprenticeship Network provider who will provide advice and assistance to help you. Alternatively, you can find an employer willing to take you on as an Australian Apprentice by:

- looking in the job vacancy ads in your local paper or on the web
- contacting a jobactive organisation in your region
- contacting employers in the industries you’d like to work in; and
- contacting a Group Training Organisation.

Once you’ve found an apprenticeship, ask the employer to call their local Apprenticeship Network provider.

The Apprenticeship Network provider will work with you and your future employer to identify the training and support you may need throughout your apprenticeship, help you to sign-up to the training contract, and assess your eligibility for an Australian Government incentive or Trade Support Loans.

Can I, or my employer, receive any financial support during my Australian School-based Apprenticeship?

You may be eligible for a Trade Support Loan.

Your employer may be eligible to receive incentive payments under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

Both the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program and the Trade Support Loans Program are subject to eligibility criteria.

To find out more about incentives or loans contact your local Apprenticeship Network provider.

Where can I find out more?

For more information about Australian School-based Apprenticeships visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

For general employment information

To find a jobactive organisation visit https://jobactive.gov.au/


For wages information visit the Fair Work Ombudsman website www.fairwork.gov.au

For Superannuation information visit www.ato.gov.au

For information on Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY visit www.humanservices.gov.au

Information on assistance for people with disability visit www.jobaccess.gov.au