



FACT SHEET: SUPPORTING ARTICULATION INTO UNIVERSITY DEGREE COURSES

There are a number of ways Diploma qualified educators can gain recognition for existing qualifications for entry into a Bachelor's degree, or from a degree to a postgraduate qualification in early childhood education. The status, pathways and processes for recognition will vary. The best starting point is to approach your local university and ask for information.

A pathway to university through an Registered Training Organisation's (RTO) program may enable you to reduce your study load and/or the length of your university course and may reduce your fees or HECS debt. An RTO may have a pathway agreement with a local university. If you are offered a place at a university, you may be able to apply for credits/advanced standing for the units you have completed in a Diploma or Advanced Diploma at the time of enrolment.

Demystifying university study

Embarking on formal study at an RTO, TAFE or university is life-changing but it can also be stressful for individuals. To assist them, a Director could:

- Invite a representative from the local RTO, TAFE or university to a staff meeting to describe what the process of studying at that organisation involves, what support is provided to students and the contact details of relevant people
- Arrange a tour of the local RTO, TAFE or university
- Invite a student who has completed their studies, or who is currently studying, to speak to staff about the reality of studying
- Discuss individual fears and perceptions: look at barriers and ways to overcome them
- Discuss study skills and writing skills. See what support the institution provides to assist with writing skills, critical thinking etc.

What is credit transfer?

Students who are able to demonstrate appropriate prior training or experience can be granted a credit transfer (also referred to as an exemption or course credit). A credit transfer is when a university (or training provider) allows a student to count previous education or training in a similar field or topic towards part of a degree or other qualification. This can reduce the number of subjects the student has to complete to gain a qualification.

The student will need statements of academic achievement to support their request for credit.

Students should visit the relevant institution's website or contact the institution by telephone or email. Some university websites have an online tool to assist a student estimate how much credit they might be able to gain towards a university degree.

What kinds of things might count?

A student may be able to receive credit towards a degree based on recognition of studies from a completed or partially completed program or qualification including:

- Study undertaken in recognised tertiary institutions in Australia, including universities, colleges, RTO, TAFE and other post-secondary education institutions
- Study at recognised overseas institutions
- Credentialed programs provided by recognised professional bodies, employers and other authorities where appropriate certification is available
- Demonstrable experience
- Relevant work experience and professional development activities
- Informal learning acquired through life experience.

This means the student does not have to repeat a course she/he has completed elsewhere. It is best to ask about credit transfers at the institution where the student wishes to enrol as well as the organisation/institution that provided the course the student wishes to have recognised.

The requirements of the National Quality Standards

From January 2014, centre based services educating and caring for children preschool age or under must meet the requirement for an early childhood teacher. Prospective students wishing to undertake a Bachelor degree in early childhood education should check with the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority that the qualification meets the requirements of the National Quality Standards (see: <http://acecqa.gov.au/educators-and-providers1/qualifications>).