

Training for refugees under Smart and Skilled

From 1 January 2017, the NSW Government will change its Smart and Skilled eligibility requirements to support refugees and asylum seekers into training and jobs.

Smart and Skilled provides eligible students with an entitlement to government-subsidised training in many targeted priority areas. It's helping people get the skills they need to find a job to advance their careers and assist our State in addressing skills shortages.

Refugees

Refugees are currently eligible for Smart and Skilled funding if they are aged 15 years or older, are no longer in school or its equivalent, live or work in NSW, and hold one of the following visas:

- Emergency rescue visa
- Global special humanitarian programme visa
- In-country special humanitarian programme visa
- Protection visa
- Refugee visa
- Safe Haven Enterprise visa
- Temporary Protection visa
- Woman at Risk visa.

Fee-Free Scholarships

Fee-Free Scholarships mean that students can get training to get the skills they need to get the job they want, and their course fees will be covered.

Fee-Free Scholarships are currently available to holders of humanitarian visas. Asylum seekers are currently not eligible for Smart and Skilled and Fee-Free Scholarships.

To be eligible for a Fee-Free Scholarship, a student must be eligible to study a Smart and Skilled subsidised Certificate I, Certificate II, Certificate III or Certificate IV level qualification on the NSW Skills List.

Changes after 1 January 2017

Both refugees and asylum seekers will be eligible for Smart and Skilled funding and fee-free training.

To access all Smart and Skilled programs, individuals must meet other Smart and Skilled eligibility and hold one of the following visas:

- Emergency rescue visa
- Global special humanitarian programme visa
- In-country special humanitarian programme visa
- Protection visa
- Refugee visa
- Safe Haven Enterprise visa
- Temporary Protection visa
- Woman at Risk visa
- Bridging Visa A, B, C, D, E
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa
- Temporary Humanitarian Stay visa.

Holders of the above visas who meet other Smart and Skilled eligibility will be eligible for fee-free training under Smart and Skilled for qualifications up to Certificate IV level.

Holders of the above visas who are disabled, or the dependant of a Disability Support recipient, and meet other Smart and Skilled eligibility are exempt from any fees under Smart and Skilled.

From 1 January 2017, asylum seekers will also be eligible for subsidised training in higher level qualifications such as Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas under Smart and Skilled, as is the case for refugees.