



**NEPEAN**  
**COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Nepean Community College**

**Smart & Skilled Student Information**

## What Smart & Skilled Is

Smart and Skilled is a NSW Government program that provides **subsidised training** for eligible students. It helps people gain skills for work, further study, or career progression. Eligibility does **not** depend on your previous qualifications. Even if you already hold a Certificate IV, Diploma, or higher, you may still be eligible for subsidised training up to Certificate III.

Under the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled program, your training is **subsidised**, but it is *not always* completely free. Depending on your eligibility, your previous study, and the course you choose, you may still need to pay some tuition fees, incidental costs, or fees for later qualifications.

To ensure transparency, training providers are required under the [NSW Government Smart and Skilled Fee Administration Policy](#) to notify students of all potential costs before enrolment.

## Eligibility Requirements for Smart & Skilled Funding

To be eligible for Smart and Skilled subsidised training, you must meet **all** of the following:

### ✓ Age Requirement

- You must be **15 years or older**.

### ✓ Schooling Requirement

- You must be **no longer at school**.
- Exception: **registered home-schooled students** are eligible.

### ✓ Location Requirement

You must meet **one** of the following:

- Live in NSW
- Work in NSW
- OR identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and live in a **defined interstate NSW border area**

### ✓ Citizenship / Residency Requirement

You must be one of the following:

- Australian citizen
- Australian permanent resident
- New Zealand citizen
- Humanitarian visa holder
- Partner visa holder whose sponsor is a humanitarian visa holder (TAFE NSW clarification)

### ✓ Unique Student Identifier (USI)

- You must have a **USI** or be applying for one. We can help you with that.

### ✓ Apprentices & Trainees

- NSW apprentices and trainees may be eligible for subsidised training linked to their apprenticeship or traineeship.

### ✓ Previous Qualifications

- Previous qualifications **do not affect your eligibility**, but they **may affect your fee**.
- You can still access subsidised training up to Certificate III even if you hold higher qualifications.

### Why You May Have Fees

Smart and Skilled subsidises training, but it is **not always fee-free**. You may still have costs depending on your eligibility and course.

### Standard Student Fees

If you are not eligible for a fee-free scholarship, concession, or exemption, you will need to pay a set portion of the qualification cost. This fee is calculated for the **whole qualification** (not per term), and it is the **same at every approved Smart and Skilled provider**.

### Subsequent Qualification Fees

If you have completed any post-school qualifications, you may be charged a **higher Subsequent Qualification fee**.

### RPL and Credit Transfer Fee Adjustments

If you apply for RPL or CT **after** your enrolment is finalised, your tuition fee may be recalculated.

### Who May Be Eligible for Fee-Free Training

Depending on your circumstances, you may qualify for fee-free training or a fee-free scholarship. Common eligible groups include:

- Registered apprentices and new entrant trainees
- Young people eligible for a concession fee
- Students in out-of-home care
- Students experiencing domestic and family violence
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- Asylum seekers and humanitarian visa holders

### How to Confirm Your Fees Upfront

Before you enrol, your provider must:

- Validate your eligibility
- Use the NSW Government [Smart and Skilled Provider Calculator](#) to determine your exact fee

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