



FURTHER EDUCATION

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A UNIVERSITY AND A TAFE/RTO?

TAFE/RTOs

Although TAFEs (Technical and Further Education) and RTOs (Registered Training Organisation) provide tertiary education like universities, the two have differences that potential students should consider, including duration of study, qualification obtained, cost and learning methods.

TAFE/RTO courses generally have a shorter duration from a few months to three years, while university studies are most commonly three to four years.

Students can also expect a difference in teaching and learning methods, as a TAFE/RTO course is known to be more practical learning. This hands-on learning leads to students gaining practical and technical skills that will allow them to enter and thrive in the positions and industries they choose.

Aside from offering a wide range of subjects, TAFE institutions also offer a number of qualifications that a potential student can choose. These include certificates (I-IV), diplomas and advanced diplomas. In some cases, these qualifications can be used as credits towards a bachelor's degree.

A TAFE/RTO course is generally cheaper than a university degree overall however fees are more commonly required to be paid upfront (or on a payment plan while studying) and can be several thousand per year.

FEE SUPPORT MAY BE AVAILABLE

Reach out to your local **TAFE/RTO** or **university** to discuss eligibility.



UNIVERSITIES

Universities are registered by the national regulator – Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

Universities are classified into different provider categories:

- **Australian universities:** a university based and operating out of Australia offering a range of courses in a variety of fields
- **Australian university of specialisation:** a self-accrediting university that conducts teaching and research in a particular field
- **Overseas universities:** a university set up in a foreign jurisdiction that operates a branch in Australia
- **Other higher education providers or HEPs:** this includes all HEPs that are not in any of the above categories

Qualifications offered by universities include:

- **Level 5** Diploma
- **Level 6** Advanced Diploma; Associate Degree
- **Level 7** Bachelor's Degree
- **Level 8** Bachelor Honours Degree; Graduate Certificate; Graduate Diploma
- **Level 9** Master's Degree
- **Level 10** Doctorate



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