

Different Work Placement Arrangements for Secondary School Students

Students are encouraged during their secondary schooling to engage in work placements. These placements provide students with exposure to the real world of work and can assist them in determining career pathways, develop and apply skills learnt in the classroom and even give them a jump start on their chosen career.

There are three types of work placements that students may undertake depending on age and whether they undertake a VET course as part of their senior secondary certificate. These are explained below.

Work Experience

Work Experience is a short-term option, (usually 1 or 2 week blocks) and undertaken by students in Year 10. It offers students a general taste of the world of work. Students mostly observe different aspects of the work carried out and assist with simple tasks nominated by their supervisor or employer. The experiences and understanding of the work environment can help students to make career plans and pathway decisions.



Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)



Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) is where a student is actively participating in a workplace as a component of a formal Vocational Education Training (VET) enrolment. Students are generally studying in years 11 or 12 and undertake a SWL placement for one day a week or in blocks of one week at a time.

An SWL work placement provides students with access to facilities, equipment and the range of work necessary to develop and consolidate their skills to the level required by the qualification they are undertaking.

SWL enables students to gain specific skills on-the job or in a simulated workplace environment. The placement must be directly related to the specific VET qualification.

School Based Apprenticeship (SBAT)

An SBAT offers students the option of combining school, part-time employment and training. SBATS are available to senior secondary students undertaking year 11 or 12.

The program is undertaken under a Training Contract with an employer and the student is considered a paid employee. The contract is lodged with the Australian Apprenticeship Service Network (AASN). Undertaking an SBAT leads to a nationally recognised qualification upon completion.



An SBAT is an integral part of the student's school learning program and study timetable and can count towards the VCE or VCAL certificates.

A typical model would have the student attend school three days per week, paid employment one day per week and training one day per week through a Registered Training Organisation or TAFE.

For more information about work placement, contact the school Pathways Co-ordinator.



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