What is a School-based Apprenticeship?

A School-based Apprenticeship (SbA) is a mix of academic, vocational education and training, and paid employment. SbA’s provide students with valuable employment skills and hands-on industry experience and are an integral part of their school program.

You can get a senior secondary certificate and credits towards a vocational qualification. They give you a head-start on your career path and an important link to the world of work.

A School-based Apprenticeship at St Patrick’s Technical College allows students in Years 11 and 12 to:

- work towards completing their SACE;
- maximise the time available to undertake an apprenticeship while still at school;
- participate in a combination of school, paid work and on and off site training;
- progress towards gaining a nationally recognised qualification; and
- access a pathway to further education and training.

How does an SbA work?

Apprenticeship training undertaken by a student will be deemed an SbA when all of the following apply:

- the student is enrolled in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE);
- the College acknowledges and endorses the Training Plan required by the Contract of Training; and
- the SbA is recognised on the SACE.

Under these arrangements, students are both full-time students and part-time employees.

The Principal (or delegate) of St Patrick’s Technical College will acknowledge and endorse an SbA by being a signatory to the Training Plan attached to the Contract of Training.

This signifies that the SbA is an integral part of the student’s College program that requires the following:

- the College timetable will be programmed to facilitate the student attending work and/or training;
- the student will exchange a number of SACE subject unit(s) for the nominal hours of VET competencies studied as part of the Contract of Training;
- the College will submit student VET results related to the Contract of Training that will contribute to their SACE completion;
- the College develops specific SACE units to assist in further VET or work placement hours recognition;
- the College supports the student through counselling, mentoring, and support;
- the College ensures the SbA is built into each student’s learning pathways plan and supported through high quality career information and case management.

Who are the signatories to a Contract of Training and Training Plan?

An Australian Apprenticeship Centre (AAC) will assist with the completion and signing of the Contract of Training and Training Plan. The employer, student and parent/guardian are all signatories to the contract. The chosen Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and the AAC are also nominated on the contract.

What is the length of a School-based Apprenticeship?

The length of an SbA depends on the declared vocation and how many training hours the student commits to. St Patrick’s students can spend up to 34 weeks full-time during Year 12 engaged in their SbA employment and training enabling them to complete the first year of their full apprenticeship while still completing the requirements of the SACE.

Does the Contract of Training end when Year 12 is completed?

The Contract of Training for the SbA does not naturally expire when general education is completed. It expires only when the gazetted hours for the full qualification have been completed for both on and off the job.

However, options could include:

- an early sign-off for competency achievement;
- completion using similar part-time hours;
- a variation of the Contract of Training up to a minimum 15 hours (if not already) for part-time;
- or in most cases, a variation to a full-time employment arrangement for the remainder of the apprenticeship.

Further information for employers and students

The College employs an Industry Relations Manager to manage the process of signing apprenticeship contracts.

For further information about our School-based Apprenticeship program, contact our Industry Relations Manager:

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SACE Training Apprenticeships