

FAQ for apprentices

Employment Pathways Apprenticeship Program



Government of South Australia
SA Housing Authority



What is an apprenticeship?

An Australian apprenticeship is a learning pathway that combines paid on-the-job training and formal study with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). It's a great way to gain a nationally recognised qualification and to earn while you learn.



What are the benefits of doing an apprenticeship?

- Access flexible learning options
- Develop practical skills
- Earn while you learn
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification



How long are apprenticeships?

An apprenticeship is usually between three and a half to four years in duration. As an apprentice, your training will combine practical experience at work and off-the-job training with an RTO, like TAFE SA. Each apprenticeship includes a probation period, which is usually 90 days, and you will be issued a trade certificate when you complete your training.



Will I stay with one host employer for my whole apprenticeship?

If your host employer can provide you with on-the-job training that covers all areas of your trade, you may stay with the same host employer for the duration of your apprenticeship. If not, the GTO may place you with different host employers to ensure you have exposure to all areas of your vocation. Some host employers only require apprentices for short periods of time and this is why they use GTO services.



What will my wage be and when does it go up?

Wages are set out in Industry awards and increase each year. They are also dependent on your current age and level of schooling you have completed.



What happens if my host employer does not have enough work for me to do?

As your employer, your GTO is responsible for finding you a new host employer.



As an apprentice, how will I be supported?

Field coordinators are provided by each GTO and are available for apprentices 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They also conduct site visits every four to eight weeks to check on each apprentice's progress. If you have any concerns, you can contact your field coordinator at any time. You will also receive mentoring through your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider.



What are the benefits of choosing a GTO instead of being directly employed by a company?

Security of employment and guarantee of income are the main reasons, if for any reason the host employer can no longer host an apprentice GTOs find an alternative placement so you will complete your trade.



What happens if I fail a subject at trade school or find it difficult to do?

GTOs offer support to get you through and your trade school will put in place any necessary supports to help you. Subject re-sits are also offered by trade schools.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

For more information about the Employment Pathways Apprenticeship Program, email HousingEmploymentPathwaysProgram@sa.gov.au

www.housing.sa.gov.au/apprenticeships

