



Offshore and Higher Education Microcredentials

The Australian Government will provide \$32.5 million from 2021-22 to 2025-26 to support higher education and training providers to develop and deliver microcredentials for the international and domestic education sectors. There are three components:

1. Development of international microcredentials for delivery offshore
2. A pilot to test the development and delivery of microcredentials for domestic learners
3. Accelerating expansion of the Government's Australian Skills Classification.

Offshore Microcredentials

The Government has provided \$8 million for professional associations and commercial bodies to develop up to 70 globally relevant microcredentials for delivery offshore by licenced vocational education and training (VET) and higher education providers. The microcredentials will contribute credit towards full Australian qualifications and can be completed by international students online or onshore.

Pilot of Domestic Microcredentials

The Government will provide \$18.5 million to establish a pilot for the development and delivery of microcredentials for the domestic market, aimed at exploring a systemic approach to supporting microcredentials in the higher education sector.

- Under the pilot, higher education providers can apply for a share of \$2 million in funding to develop microcredentials in partnership with industry, with funding of up to \$100,000 for each microcredential.
- \$16.5 million will be provided from 2022-23 to 2025-26 to support the delivery of microcredentials to up to 4,000 students.

Piloted microcredentials will be in areas of national priority. The department will work with Jobs and Skills Australia to determine the skills needs and fields of study to be included ahead of the funding rounds.

Microcredentials funded under the pilot will need to meet several criteria including:

- being between 0.25 and 0.49 Equivalent Full Time Student Load
- credit pathways to formal qualifications
- robust assessment
- demonstrated industry engagement
- credit recognition arrangements.

An evaluation of the microcredentials pilot will be undertaken in 2025 to inform the future direction of the program.

The pilot has been informed by the [University-Industry Collaboration in Teaching and Learning Review](#), led by former vice-chancellors Professor Martin Bean CBE and Professor Peter Dawkins AO, which recommended seven immediate actions to promote collaboration. A key recommendation of the review was to scale up industry-focused microcredentials.

Expansion of the Australian Skills Classification

The pilot will be supported by the expansion of the [Australian Skills Classification](#), led by Jobs and Skills Australia. This will inform the development of microcredentials and promote a systemic approach among higher education providers. The expansion of the classification will prioritise occupations within the pilot's fields of study and identify how to map the classification to higher education and VET qualifications.