

Understanding Credit Transfer and Articulation

Credit transfer and articulation arrangements are critical mechanisms used by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to award students for prior learning. They ensure that students are not repeating studies that have already been satisfactorily completed.

Credit Transfer

Credit Transfer is a systematic approach of granting credits to students for learning outcomes they have already achieved at a previous institution. The prior learning may have been conducted at another RTO, a university, or another professional institution where a qualification, or part thereof, was awarded.

This process provides students with agreed and consistent credit outcomes for elements of a qualification. The outcomes are based on identified equivalence in content and learning outcomes between matched qualifications.

Articulation Arrangements

Articulation Arrangements assist students to transition smoothly from a completed qualification to another one, through predetermined pathways. The pathway may provide students a place in a related course of study at another educational institution (e.g., university), to the course they undertook in Vocational Education and Training (VET). It may also offer credit against certain units of study.

Standards for RTOs

Clause 3.5 of the Standards for RTOs 2015 makes it mandatory for RTOs to provide credit for prior studies. The credits are granted when the following are evidenced:

- AQF certification documentation issued by any other RTO or AQF authorised issuing organisation.
- Authenticated VET transcripts issued by the Registrar.

Recommendation for RTOs

RTOs are advised to have documented policies and procedures outlining the processes for credit transfer and articulation arrangements. This helps to maintain clarity, consistency, and ensure compliance with the standards.

Note: This VET Fact Sheet provides general information and should not be considered as legal advice.