

Vocational Graduate Certificate in Education and Training for Sustainability (H22060VIC) FAQs

Education for Sustainability is now recognised internationally as the educational and pedagogical platform for teaching in sustainability. The Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES www.aries.mq.edu.au/portal/index.htm) documents this new and emerging field in the Australian context. Education for Sustainability (EFS) is shorthand for learning-based strategies to stimulate change towards sustainability.

There are considerable challenges in reorienting our tertiary education sectors to sustainability. In part this is due to the urgency of responding to the climate threat as well as a new vision of 'education for sustainability' that seeks to empower people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future. EFS is agreed internationally as the important pedagogical underpinning of embedding sustainability and herein lies a further hidden challenge: the transformative approach to education requires whole-of-institution engagement, innovative teaching and learning, and changes to curricula, which is reflected in Swinburne's own approach.

While we have an increasing number of courses in Australia about sustainability within many trades and professions, this qualification is the first focussing on education *for* sustainability. We know that teaching the technical knowledge and skills about sustainability design, materials and technologies does not bring about change in itself without the whole systems knowledge, critical thinking, communication and collaborative skills to educate for a sustainable future.

Course Background:

This Voc Grad Cert in Education and Training for Sustainability is a recently accredited course developed under delegated authority by Swinburne (2010). It is the first of its kind in Australia. In this qualification, the term 'sustainability' describes the interconnectedness of a healthy environment, social justice, equity and economic vitality. There is stronger emphasis on environmental sustainability concerns relative to the other dimensions of sustainability.

Suitable for:

- All teachers (VET, University Higher Education, Secondary and Primary) seeking to embed education for sustainability in their curriculum, teaching and assessment
- Those wishing to embed sustainability into their curriculum, teaching and assessment and use education for sustainability as a tool for change
- Those working for change in sustainability in community groups, local councils, government agencies, industry, and non-government organisations

Course Structure & Content:

The Vocational Graduate Certificate in Education and Training in Sustainability is made up of three core units of competency:

Unit of competency/ module code	Field of Education code	Unit of competency/ module title	Pre- requisite	Credit Matrix Level	Credit Matrix Points	Nominal hours
Unit One	070199	Develop a sector-specific Education for Sustainability teaching and learning program	Nil	6	15	90
Unit Two	070199	Implement a sector-specific education for Sustainability teaching and learning program	Nil	6	10	60
Unit Three	070199	Provide advanced facilitation to develop an education for sustainability initiative	Nil	6	15	75
Total nominal hours						225

Specifically, the course will provide participants with the skills and knowledge required to:

- Embed sustainability into learning programs, curriculum and teaching practice
- Facilitate a broad range of delivery and assessment strategies to support change for sustainability
- Plan and implement learning based change programs within their own institution
- Research current and emerging best practices in their industry sector/field of study

Course Outcomes:

Graduates of the course will be able to:

- Teach, review and design learning strategies to embed sustainability practices within existing programs
- Plan and implement a learning based change program for sustainability in an educational institution, local government, business or the community
- Conduct action research projects to transform own practice for sustainability
- Implement an education for sustainability learning strategy in their sector of work
- Facilitate a broad range of delivery and assessment strategies to support change for sustainability.
- Review business mission and/or business plans, or educational objectives to incorporate sustainability principles

Entry Requirements:

Cert IV TAA, extensive relevant industry experience (minimum 2 years) demonstrating capacity to undertake study at a graduate level. A demonstrated capacity in learning, reading, oracy, writing and numeracy competencies to Level 4, of the AQTF.

Delivery Details:

- 12 months part time
- Three units delivered through 6 X 2 days face-to-face workshops + online and Elluminate tutorials
- Taught at City, Hawthorn & Wantirna campuses and interstate. Workplace delivery available

Fees:

- \$2000 per unit (if enrolled in all three units in 2011)
- Fees increase to \$2150 per unit in 2012
- VET Fee Help is available to eligible fee-paying students

Fee Includes:

- On-line resources are provided

Future pathways:

- Currently there are no formal pathways beyond the VGCETfS as this is the first qualification of its kind in Australia. Contact the coordinator to discuss further

Student success/Careers:

Below are two testimonials from current students.

Mim Downes

I teach Horticulture and Landscape Design at Swinburne University of Technology. I wanted to do further study in Education however Education *for* Sustainability is such an important and exciting new discipline, I decided to choose this new course as it ties together two areas I'm really passionate about.



The course has changed the way I view my role as an educator. I've really appreciated the opportunity to bring together my knowledge and passion around sustainability with my professional educational practice. My favourite aspects of the course have been the group interactions, working with my colleagues, and the skill and knowledge that the lecturers bring. Also it is all directly related to my job as an educator, so it's immediately useful and relevant.

Helping to future proof my students with skills for sustainability will hopefully make a real difference in industry. I've gained a new motivation in my working life. I now believe I can make a real difference to the way we equip students to face complex societal problems in moving to a more sustainable future. As a result I feel like there is a huge amount of good that can be done.

Mary Miceli

I have been interested in Sustainability for some time particularly in the area of Graphic Design as this is the area I teach in and am also a practising Graphic Designer. In 2009 I was awarded an ISS (Institute of Specialised Skills) Fellowship to investigate the use of bioplastics in the area of Environmental Graphics. I was fortunate enough to meet with a number of passionate professionals working over many aspects of Sustainability who were able to give me an insight into this vast world.



I wanted to pursue studies in this field although I was not clear on the direction I would take. I heard about this course and it seemed like the opportunity I needed to take a further step into this field. I have gained a tremendous insight into the broad aspects of sustainability and the potential for a positive behavioural change. As a teacher this has re-inspired me, we have been directed toward inspirational writings, which speak of innovation and creative solutions both in education itself but also with a focus on Education *for* Sustainability (Efs). I have also gained an understanding of why Efs is so important to behavioural change and how as educators we are in the privileged position to play a significant role. The best aspects of the course is

the opportunity to meet and discuss issues and directions with like minded individuals who are passionate, solution driven people, keen to see positive changes within our communities.

Course Contacts:

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To register for this course contact:

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