



## Refund and Student Fee Policy

This policy provides current and potential students with the terms and conditions relating to payment and administration of our fees.

### Definitions

**Course:** A nationally recognised qualification being delivered by ACSE as a course.

**Course Fee:** Is the total cost of doing the course that is payable by the student, client or entity paying on behalf of the client.

**Australian College of Skills and Education Pty Ltd:** A Registered Training Organisation (RTO) trading Australian College of Skills and Education. Our national provider number is 45310 and our listing on the national register can be found at <https://training.gov.au/Organisation/Details/45310>

### Who does this policy apply to

- Students who want to cover all (if applicable) or most of their course fees by accessing a government funded program like:
  - NSW Smart and Skilled
  - ACT Skilled Capital
- Students who want to pay for their fees without the use of government financial assistance or use a fee for service model.

### Fee policy overview

ACSE will administer fees and charges for programs and courses based on government contractual requirements and the cost of running any training.

Students will be made aware of the fees payable for their chosen program prior to enrolment through pre-enrolment information including this policy. Students are required to pay any applicable fees at or prior to enrolment in order to secure a place in a program or to finalise their enrolment.

Students are required to accept the terms and conditions set out in the student enrolment form and supporting information prior to payment of their fee and are required to sign the enrolment form attesting to their understanding.

ACSE will not issue any qualification until any outstanding fees and charges for the program have been settled.

Students may request a copy of their signed Student Enrolment Form to keep for their records and to use as evidence to meet any government reporting requirements i.e. Centrelink, that they have enrolled in a program of study.

### Course fee payment guidelines

By accepting these terms and conditions the student/employer/employment service provider agrees to pay the course fee for the program or course they have selected on the student enrolment form.



## What do course fees cover?

Covered	Not covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administration of the course</li><li>• Course application</li><li>• Resource materials</li><li>• Access to ACSE's online student portal</li><li>• Access and use of ACSE's facilities</li><li>• Support services</li><li>• Issuing of a student's qualifications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any postage requirements to ACSE i.e. posting of completed assessments for marking</li><li>• Any materials not listed as Resource Materials for the student's course</li><li>• Any expenses incurred during work placement i.e. Personal Protective Equipment</li><li>• Replacement copy of a student's qualification</li><li>• Replacement of loaned material or technology items</li><li>• Any travel, food or accommodation</li></ul>

## Course deposit

A deposit is required to secure a place on a program with ACSE. This deposit or upfront fee is part of the students' total tuition fee and is not a separate cost. It will be deducted from the total tuition fee payable.

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Certificate III Level training | \$300 deposit  |
| • Certificate IV level           | \$400 deposit  |
| • Diploma                        | \$1500 deposit |
| • Advanced Diploma               | \$1500 deposit |
| • Short Courses (Day Long)       | Fee in full    |

Enrolment will not be considered complete until a deposit has been paid and a payment plan entered into (where applicable) for the remainder of any tuition fees.

Student can access their outstanding balance via the student portal at any time should they wish to receive an account statement or check invoices and receipts to date. A final receipt will be provided to the student once all payments are received and invoice is fully paid.

## How to pay

Students are able to pay for their fees using the following methods:

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- Cash payment on campus
- Payment Plan - Direct Debit or Direct Deposit
  
- Credit Card
  - Comm Bank terminal on campus
  - Pay Pal via ACSE website

Employers and Employment Service Providers are able to pay for their employee's fee by;

- Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT)
- Cash on campus
- Credit Card (website or phone)

## Paying by Electronic Funds Transfer

The account details for payment will be nominated on each respective invoice to facilitate bank transfers (EFT).



**The invoice number must be added as a bill reference, this will ensure that we identify the payee against the payment.**

### **Paying by Credit Card**

We accept credit card payments by Visa and Master card via CommWeb on our website, via EFTPOS on campus or through details provided over the phone.

A surcharge of 1.5% applies when paying for a course online. This surcharge is in line with new surcharge laws introduced in 2017, it is to cover the minimum cost associated with back charges for credit card transactions.

### **Paying by Payment Plans**

We offer payment plans as a flexible method for students to make their payments and for those who may be experiencing difficulty paying in full. The payment plan can take payments out in installments by direct debit from either the bank account or credit card of the students each fortnight, or students can make manual payments via Electronic Funds Transfer or Direct Deposit.

### **Failure to make payment**

Irrespective of the student's progress throughout the program or course, if a student fails to pay any installment by the due date and fails to make contact with ACSE, the total outstanding balance of the course fee will become immediately due and payable.

Course materials will be issued to the student as they progress throughout their program and depending on their mode of study will be provided in hard or soft copy (electronic) through our student portal. ACSE reserves the right to suspend or cancel training for an individual student, in the event that the student fails to pay their course fees when they become payable. If the student is paying by installments, they must:

- Pay all instalments on or before the due date.
- Advise ACSE a payment has been made and send remittance advice or evidence of payment to [admin@acse.edu.au](mailto:admin@acse.edu.au)

The course materials that ACSE provides to the student will become their property, however, the content of the course materials, including copyright and all other such intellectual property rights contained therein, remain the property of ACSE.

### **Process of recovering fees**

The process of fee recovery is as follows:

- We use a combination of email reminders and collection calls as per our policy of debt collection:
- Pre-reminder for payment email sent out just before the invoice falls due.
- 1st reminder for payment sent on the first week after due date.
- 2nd reminder for payment sent in two weeks after due date.
- 3rd and final reminder for payments will be sent in a month after due date.
- Collection will then be placed on accounts which fall 1 month or more overdue.

We reserve the right to take further action on accounts which are overdue and have not made any reasonable attempt in settling the fee, despite our efforts. These actions may take the form of referring the student's account to a professional debt collection agency and/or adverse reporting to a credit rating agency.



## Student fee exemptions and concessions

### Concession fees

Students who receive one or more eligible Commonwealth benefits or allowances at the time of their enrolment may be eligible to pay a concession fee rather than the full fee under the following programs:

- NSW Smart and Skilled
- ACT Skilled Capital

A copy of the concession card is to be retained and placed on the students file. At time of this publication, ACSE does not offer funded training initiative subsidised training.

### Course withdrawal

If a student wishes to withdraw (including deferral) from their program of study, they must notify ACSE in writing by filling out the 'Application for Refund - Withdrawal/Deferral Form'. The form can be found on the student portal using their own personal log or in hard copy from administration. This process is also to be used if students wish to withdraw from a Unit of study or defer their study.

### Refund of student fees

**Cancellation prior to course or program commencing:** Once enrolment into a program has been processed i.e. a student has completed the enrolment form and made the initial deposit or a payment in part or full, the following will apply:

- The student must inform ACSE at least 72 hours prior to course commencement that they wish to have their enrolment cancelled and refunded. If this occurs a refund in full will be given. Should the student inform ACSE within 72 hours prior of their wish to cancel, ACSE will retain 25% of the amount paid (deposit, part or full amount) as a penalty to cover against established training costs.

**Withdrawal or cancellation after commencing:** If you have commenced training, taken to mean you have signed your attendance sheet on Day 1, and decide to withdraw without extenuating circumstances as described below, **any deposit or monies paid will be non-refundable**. By signing the Enrolment Form you are declaring that you understand this to be the case.

**Withdrawal due to extenuating circumstances:** In the case of a student who withdraws from a course due to extenuating circumstances prior or after commencing, the student may have their fees transferred as credit to another future program depending on availability. In the event the student does not wish to have fees transferred as credit, ACSE will refund 75% of the total amount paid. Students must provide satisfactory evidence of the circumstance or hardship.

Extenuating circumstances can be defined as follows:

- beyond the student's control (could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against); and sufficiently grave to have caused considerable disruption to the student's capacity to study effectively or to complete requirements.

Circumstances which can be deemed as extenuating include:

- administrative problems - such as the late arrival of teaching materials, texts, enrolment errors or delays
- legal commitments - jury duty or court appearance
- medical reasons, family/personal reasons

The following circumstances will not be considered extenuating:

- Self-discipline needed to study effectively
- Stress or anxiety normally associated with examinations, required assessment tasks or any aspect of course work.
- Clash of appointments or last minute routine appointments.



## Course deferral, suspension or cancellation

ACSE may at its discretion defer the commencement date, cancel or vary a program or course prior to commencement. In the event of deferral or cancellation before the program or course commencement, ACSE will refund fees in full and/or with the students' agreement, transfer them to another equivalent program of study.

A full refund of tuition fees paid will be issued to students if ACSE defaults for any of the following reasons:

- The course does not begin on the agreed commencement date, or
- The course ceases to be provided at any time after it commences but before it is completed, or
- The course is not provided in full to the student because a sanction has been imposed on the registered provider.
- A full refund will be issued within 28 days of the default.

## Tuition fee protection

The company assures the security of student fees through its compliance with the requirements of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015. We do not collect more than \$1500 upfront from students and this includes future payment installments.

## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and obligations to recognise AQF qualifications

The company will ensure that a student's prior knowledge and skills are recognised, providing they meet the requirements of the relevant training package. The RPL is in accordance with the principles of assessment and the rules of evidence. The fee for assessing an RPL application will vary depending on the program of study and the number of units undertaken. All information relating to RPL and Credit Transfer is contained in the Student Handbook, which must be read as pre-condition to enrolment. The handbook is available on the ACSE website at <http://www.acse.edu.au/downloads/> or in hardcopy from the reception desks on campus.

## Fees and charges summary

### General fee for service fees and charges

Fees and charges are available in the Schedule of Fees on the website or from administration.

Please note that the fees displayed on the website are subject to change at any time. All fees and charges are current at the time and may change at the time of enrolment.

There may be State or Federal Government funding available that may reduce the cost of a student's course fees. Students can contact administration at [admin@acse.edu.au](mailto:admin@acse.edu.au) to find out more information.

### Course materials

ACSE course fees are a set price and include materials. Students will not be required to purchase additional training materials or learning aids. For higher level qualifications at Certificate IV and above, ACSE staff may recommend textbooks or literature to purchase as future reference material.

Course fees do not include the cost of buying equipment and uniforms which may be required for work experience placement, for example Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as safety boots or gloves.

Students will be notified prior to enrolment of any applicable additional fees for the cost of materials, additional



equipment or other resources necessary to successfully complete a course.

### **Certificate Reissue Fee**

In the event a client requires a new copy of a Qualification or Statement of Attainment or any other Certificate, a fee of \$50 will be charged per qualification.

### **Course Transfer or Deferral**

Once a client has commenced training and they wish to defer training or a client wishes to transfer to another program after completing enrolment, a Transfer or Deferral Fee of \$150 will be charged.

### **RPL Fee**

For clients wishing to lodge an application for RPL, a \$1500 upfront payment fee will be charged and is required prior to the process commencing. This covers the cost of initial interview, issuing of RPL kit and instructions for evidence gathering, an assessment of returned evidence, follow up interview if required and notification of result. As this process can be lengthy and detailed, the \$1500 processing fee does not guarantee a successful RPL outcome, it is a fee to cover costs associated with the process to that point.

For all Units of Competency which are then granted as RPL, the candidate will be required to pay 50% of the normal full fee-paying price for the program applied for. Unit costs will be explained in full upon enquiry.

### **Equipment and Resource Replacement Fees**

Any equipment or resources provided to the client as a loan for the duration of the course, which are lost or found to be willfully damaged by the client, will be paid for by the client at market replacement cost. This includes any willful damage to property within training room premises i.e. computers or IT equipment.

### **Reassessment of a Unit of Competency**

In the event of being deemed Not Yet Competent in a Unit of Competency, a student will have the opportunity to resubmit twice. If on the third attempt a student is still deemed Not Yet Competent, they will receive a final result of Not Yet Competent. When the student has completed the remainder of the course they will be issued with a Statement of Attainment rather than a Qualification due to not fulfilling the complete requirements of the course.

There are no fees and charges applicable for reassessment.



### APPLICATION FOR REFUND - WITHDRAWAL/DEFERLAL FORM

**Please Note:** Applications for refunds may take up to 5 working days to be processed. We do not provide refunds in cash. Refunds will only be processed into a client's account.

**Course Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Course Code:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Course Start Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Trainer/ s:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Company Name: (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for: Refund and Withdrawal  Deferral  (please give your reason for withdrawing with a refund or deferring):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your account details below for Direct Deposit.**

**Name on Account:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bank Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bank Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**BSB Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only: Outline action taken and outcome.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Refund: Paid  Not Paid  Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Deferral: Fee Held in Trust

Administration Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_