COURSE OUTLINE
AHC50410 Diploma of Horticulture
through VET FEE-HELP

Smart City Vocational College is an established Registered Training Organisation (RTO) committed to providing a high standard of quality service. Our mission is to guide learners to discover and uncover their true potential, and empower them to achieve life goals to serve our society. We believe that education is the key to opportunity and can be a powerful tool in helping individuals achieve their goals.

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION:
Smart City Vocational College is currently offering AHC50410 Diploma of Horticulture through VET FEE-HELP arrangements.

The Diploma of Horticulture reflects the role of those who manage amenity horticultural enterprises where a range of skills and knowledge across the breadth of the industry is required or personnel working in horticulture at a level requiring higher technical skills.

During your course of study, you will need access to:
- Computer with webcam and audio capability
- Internet, for research purposes
- Magnifying glass
- Email, to submit your work and to receive ongoing feedback from your trainer
- Software applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Internet Explorer or Chrome, Microsoft Outlook
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
There are no specific entry requirements for the qualification, AHC50410 Diploma of Horticulture.

In order to apply for a VET FEE-HELP student loan to cover your Diploma course fees, Smart City Vocational College must reasonably believe that you are academically suited and you must meet one of the following requirements:

• Provide a copy of your senior secondary certificate of education that has been awarded by an Australian authority or agency when you apply to enrol.
  Or both

• Undertake a literacy and numeracy assessment using an approved assessment tool and display competence at or above Exit Level 3 in the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). Your Course Advisor will advise you how you may undertake this assessment; and

• Smart City Vocational College must be confident that you completed this test independently, with honesty and integrity and that you have the required skills to complete your study.

Smart City Vocational College will assess a learner’s competency at or above Exit Level 3 in ACSF via the Learner undertaking the Core Skills Profile for Adults (CSPA) test. This is an approved testing tool as specified in the VET Guidelines in both reading and numeracy. You will be provided with the links to this online tool at the time of enrolment.

For further information on entry requirements for the VET FEE-HELP program, please refer to the Student Entry Procedure on our website, www.smartcitycollege.edu.au

Learners enrolled into this qualification must also:

• have access to a computer with internet access, webcam and audio capability and a minimum of Microsoft Office 2007;
• have sufficient computer knowledge and skills to navigate the internet;
• conduct online research, write reports and take responsibility for their own professional development

MODE OF TRAINING DELIVERY
The delivery mode describes the way training will be delivered to support and enable learning.

Online delivery: This includes online learning via the HUB, self-paced study and optional campus attendance, skype, phone or video conferencing sessions for further self-paced study and tutoring.

DURATION
The current timeframe for the completion of this diploma qualification is 12 months from the date of commencement.
VET FEE-HELP INFORMATION

VET FEE-HELP is an Australian Government loan scheme that helps eligible Learners to pay their tuition fees for higher-level vocational education and training (VET) courses undertaken at approved providers. The loan will remain as a personal debt obligation until it is repaid to the Commonwealth.

You can choose to pay:
- all your tuition fees upfront to Smart City Vocational College;
- pay some of your tuition fees upfront and use the VET FEE-HELP loan for the rest, or;
- use a VET FEE-HELP loan for all your tuition fees (up to your FEE-HELP limit).

To be eligible for VET FEE-HELP you must:

- be an Australian citizen OR permanent humanitarian visa holder (resident in Australia for the duration of the qualification), OR a New Zealand citizen holding a Special Category Visa who meets the long term residency eligibility and evidence requirements as per http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helpfulresources/pages/faqs-nz; AND
- have not exceeded the FEE-HELP limit (see below); AND
- meet course requirements as follows:
  - are a full fee-paying / fee for service student studying a diploma, advanced diploma, graduate certificate or graduate diploma level course at an approved VET FEE-HELP provider; AND
  - are enrolled with an approved provider in an eligible unit of study by the census date for that unit.

Applying

To apply for VET FEE-HELP you must submit a valid Request for VET FEE-HELP assistance form provided by Smart City Vocational College prior to the census date. This signed form applies to a loan for the entire qualification, charged on a unit by unit basis, unless you pay some of the tuition fees.

Census dates will apply to each of the VET units of study in which you enroll, with you taking out a loan for any tuition fees that remain unpaid at the end of each census date.

A census date is the date most important for you to know about. The census date is the last date you can:
- Submit form to access a VET FEE-HELP loan or
- Withdraw/cancel enrolment without incurring the cost or debt for that unit of study

Please refer to our website, www.smartcitycollege.edu.au for a current copy of the VET Tuition Schedule (which outlines cost and census dates) and census date calculator.

Protection for learners under 18 years

Smart City Vocational College will not accept a Request for VET FEE-HELP loan form as a complete form from a learner under the age of 18 unless a parent or guardian (responsible parent) has co-signed the form.

Exceptions are permitted in limited circumstances where a learner under the age of 18 is receiving youth allowance (within the meaning of the Social Security Act 1991) on the basis that the person is...
independent. Learners seeking exemption will need to provide suitable evidence to Smart City Vocational College from Centrelink to this effect.

Two day cooling off period
From 1st January 2016, Smart City Vocational College will not accept a VET-FEE-HELP loan request (CAF) from a student until a two-day ‘cooling off’ period has elapsed after enrolment.

Cost
The table below displays the current fees for this qualification via VET FEE-HELP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification Code</th>
<th>Qualification Title</th>
<th>Tuition Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHC50410</td>
<td>Diploma of Horticulture</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 20% loan fee applies for VET FEE-HELP loans accessed by fee paying/fee for service students. The loan fee does not count towards your FEE-HELP limit. The VET FEE-HELP loan is subject to yearly CPI increases.

A VET FEE-HELP Invoice Notice will be issued to learners at least 14 days prior to all census dates. The Invoice Notice provides learners with course information including the unit of study tuition fees to be incurred. It will be delivered to the learners email or mailing address.

Important, please note:
- The VET FEE-HELP loan is subject to yearly CPI increases
- The VET FEE-HELP loan impacts on your credit rating

You may wish to seek independent financial advice prior to applying for a VET FEE-HELP loan.

Throughout your training, you will note reference to Units of Study (UOS). This is not a unit of competency or subject. A unit of study is a group of units of competency. You should work towards completing all units of competency within a unit of study before you progress to the next unit of study.

Commonwealth assistance notice
After each of your census dates, Smart City Vocational College will send you a Commonwealth Assistance Notice (CAN). The CAN includes important information about your enrolment, any HELP debt you have incurred or student contribution amounts you have paid, and any loan fee you may have incurred. The CAN will include information on:
- the tuition fees for your units of study;
- the units for which you have received FEE-HELP or VET FEE-HELP;
- any up-front payments you have made;
- any FEE-HELP loan fee incurred for undergraduate units of study; and
- any VET FEE-HELP loan fee incurred.

Minimum Units of Study (fee periods)
Any VET FEE-HELP qualifications offered by Smart City Vocational College will meet the Department of Education and Trainings requirement of a minimum of three units of study (fee periods). This minimum requirement ensures that your fee amount is evenly distributed over the period of your study.

Repaying the loan
You will need to start repaying your VET FEE-HELP debt through the taxation system once your income is above the compulsory repayment threshold, even if still studying. The compulsory repayment
threshold is adjusted each year. The amount repaid each year is a percentage of repayment income. The percentage increases as income increases, so the more earned, the higher the repayment will be. The loan will affect (by reducing) take-home (after-tax) wage or salary until the debt is repaid and may affect borrowing capacity until the debt is repaid to the Commonwealth. Currently, the repayment threshold is $54,126.00. Please refer to the Study Assist website for more detailed information, www.studyassist.gov.au

Extensions
As a Learner with Smart City Vocational College, you are responsible for your own academic progress in your course. If however, you do experience circumstances, or have concerns that impact on your ability to complete your course within the required timeframe, you must contact your Trainer or Student Support Officer as soon as possible. They will provide you with support and advice to plan and implement techniques to assist you in working towards completion.

Learners will be considered for a one (1), six (6) month only course extension without incurring any additional fees. However, subsequent requests for extensions will not be approved and will result in the need to re-enrol and thus incur a new VET FEE-HELP debt.

Withdrawal from VET FEE-HELP
It is important to correctly withdraw from your course or unit of study. If you do not withdraw properly or if the withdrawal deadline is missed, you will incur a HELP debt.

If you wish to withdraw from your qualification, please ensure you complete either of the following as soon as possible. You should ensure your withdrawal request is submitted prior to your census date/s to ensure you don’t incur any unnecessary debt.

- Contact Service Desk on 1800 BE SMART (1800 23 76278)
- Email - send an email to our Service Desk advising you wish to withdraw from your qualification, ensuring you include in your email:
  - your full name
  - address
  - USI
  - qualification name
- Website - Download withdrawal form from our website, complete and send to servicedesk@smartcitycollege.edu.au

A copy of Smart City Vocational College’s Withdrawal Policy is located in the policy section of our website, www.smartcitycollege.edu.au.

Successful withdrawal from VET FEE-HELP will result in you:
- not incurring a VET FEE-HELP debt for your enrolled Unit of Study; and/or
- receiving a refund for any up-front tuition fee payments made on or before the census date

Refund – VET FEE-HELP
Refund information specific to this program is found in the Learner Handbook or on our website. Adjustment of VET FEE-HELP tuition fees will also be made appropriately where a learner applies for and is successful in their application for RPL or Credit Transfer.
Expiry of enrolment
If you have not completed your course within the required timeframe (and an extension has not been approved), your enrolment will be recorded as expired. You will be unenrolled from the course and if you wish to continue, you must re-enrol and be liable for another VET FEE-HELP debt.

Course Re-Enrolment request
If you have been unable to complete your course within the specified timeframe (including with an approved extension), and you wish to continue, you will be required to re-enrol in the course and incur a new debt for the units of competency you have not previously completed. If you wish to re-enrol you must contact your Trainer or local Campus Manager.

Re-enrolment in a VET FEE-HELP course with Smart City Vocational College will:

- be granted at the discretion of Smart City Vocational College
- in respect of a superseded course, only be permitted to re-enrol until the prescribed ‘teach out’ date

ASSESSMENT
AHC50410 Diploma of Horticulture is made up of 10 units of competency. To be awarded the qualification you need to be assessed as competent in each unit. A number of different types of assessment may be conducted throughout your course. The assessment methods used will be explained to you during your induction. You will be provided with specific information on how to complete the assessments as you go through your course.

- Recognition of your past experience/qualifications (RPL).
- Smart City Vocational College may provide various methods of assessment to cover a range of evidence gathering, for example:
  - written questions, project, observation, verbal questioning, supplementary evidence including, evidence portfolio, photographic evidence, workbook activities, log book.
- Your assessments will be marked; ‘satisfactory’ or ‘not yet satisfactory’. If your assessment is marked ‘not yet satisfactory’ your assessor will give you feedback that identifies any areas needing improvement and you will be able to resubmit this piece of work. You need to be awarded ‘satisfactory’ in all assessment tasks therefore being deemed competent in each unit of competency in order to be awarded your qualification.
- You will be provided with due dates for your assessments. If you cannot meet the set due dates please contact your trainer before the due date to ask for an extension.
- Assessment can be modified where necessary.

At Smart City Vocational College we recognise there may be a need for reasonable adjustments to our assessment and learning plans. Any individual need that you have will be addressed as it arises. Please speak confidentially to your trainer and assessor about any concerns or individual needs you may have with regard to your assessments.

VOCATIONAL PLACEMENT
To be assessed as competent in this qualification, you are required to undertake a minimum of 120 hours of mandatory vocational placement in a horticulturally based organisation (referred to as the placement organisation).
The object of a vocational placement is to provide a learner with the opportunity to undertake practical training and to gain the experience required to enable them to demonstrate competency against the outcomes of a nationally recognised qualification/course. A vocational placement is generally an appropriate option for learners who would not otherwise have sufficient access to the facilities, equipment and range of work necessary to develop and consolidate their skills to the level required of the qualification/course, for example, learners not employed in the vocational area in which they are studying.

A Smart City Vocational College **Vocational Placement Officer** will be made available to support learners to find an appropriate and relevant vocational placement opportunity. This will be undertaken as soon as possible after the commencement of the qualification to ensure that all relevant agreements and approvals have been completed prior to commencing placement. The Vocational Placement Officer will liaise with each learner, Campus Manager and placement organisation to ensure the Vocational Placement process is successful.

Learners are appropriately covered by Smart City Vocational College insurances whilst undertaking their vocational placement hours.

In summary, the vocational placement:
- provides learners with industry experience but is not remunerated
- is directly related to the specific units of competency/skill requirements of a qualification/course as nominated by Smart City Vocational College
- is an assessable part of a learner’s qualification where a learner is placed in a workplace to receive practical training and experience
- is suitably covered by insurance
- needs to be successfully completed before a qualification or statement of attainment can be issued

**CREDIT TRANSFER/NATIONAL RECOGNITION**
Credit transfer is where you may have completed units of competency or an accredited course with another Registered Training Organisation and it is relevant and/or able to be used for your current and anticipated study. Please note that Smart City Vocational College is committed to applying Credit Transfer to Qualifications/Units completed at other training organisations. Please ensure you mention this to your trainer on/before enrolment

**CAMPUSES/STUDY HUBS**
Smart City Vocational College’s extensive network of campuses and StudyHubs across Australia allow you to have face-to-face time with a qualified SmartCity trainer, undertake study or an assignment or just escape the daily grind.

SmartCity’s campuses and StudyHubs are designed and purpose built to help you achieve something great. They all feature the latest technology and a friendly, comfortable and inviting atmosphere. Many also feature barista machines and a kids play area as well. The technology within the campuses and StudyHubs are available to you for study purposes, e.g. computers, printer, photocopier, wifi. Feel free to use our tea and coffee facilities and chill out in the lounge area.
You can call us to arrange an appointment to meet with a trainer or simply pop in anytime during trading hours and have a chat with a Student Support Officer or Campus Manager.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

If you feel that you may require personal assistance and/or support please talk to our staff. If we are unable to assist, we will put you in touch with a service that may be able to help you. We have a range of contacts with people who are skilled in dealing with difficult situations. If you feel more comfortable speaking with a female/male staff member or a person of same cultural background, please do not hesitate to ask. Any matters relating to Welfare/Guidance Services will be kept in strictest confidence – we respect your privacy on these issues.

Learners have access to learning support with Smart City Vocational College Trainers/Staff/Indigenous Student Support Officers, 5 days per week between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm via face-to-face, telephone, email, fax, Skype, Lync or where appropriate in person. Please note that where a Learner makes contact via email, a staff member from Smart City Vocational College will endeavour to respond within 48-72 hours.

**COMPLAINTS/APPEALS**

Smart City Vocational College seeks to prevent complaints and/or appeals by ensuring students are satisfied with their training product and its outcomes. Trainers/Assessors will be fair, courteous and helpful in all dealings with students.

Any complaint about any assessment will be treated seriously, investigated thoroughly and dealt with according to the merit of the complaint. Appeals must be made within 21 days of receipt of assessment outcome. Please refer to your student handbook for further information.

**USI (UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER)**

All students who will be completing or commencing nationally recognised training with Smart City Vocational College (campus, distance or blended) will need to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). This is a requirement of the Australian Government - Department of Industry.

A USI account will contain all your nationally recognised training records and results from 1st January 2015 onwards. Your USI will help keep your training records and results together in an online account controlled by you. Each time you enrol to study at a new training organisation, your USI will be used to store your training records and results.

**APPLY FOR YOUR OWN USI**

It is free and easy for you to create your own USI online. Visit the USI website at usi.gov.au and select the ‘Create a USI’ link and follow the steps.
ONCE YOU CREATE YOUR USI
Once you create your USI you will need to notify Smart City of your USI number and any other training organisation you study with so your training outcomes can be linked. You will be able to:

- View and update your details in your USI account;
- Give your training organisation permission to view and/or update your USI account;
- Give your training organisation view access to your transcript;
- Control access to your transcript from 2015; and
- View online and download your training records and results in the form of a transcript which will help you with job applications and enrolment in further training.

For more information you can:

- Watch the short information video from the Australian Government at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRYaaF-B7Ho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRYaaF-B7Ho) (or search Unique Student Identifier (USI) – Student Video on YouTube).
- Visit the website: [www.usi.gov.au](http://www.usi.gov.au)
- Visit our website [www.smartcitycollege.edu.au](http://www.smartcitycollege.edu.au) and review our learner handbook

YOUR ROLE
As an enrolled learner of Smart City Vocational College you will need to be able to:

- Study independently
- Communicate with your trainer on a regular basis
- Follow written instructions. Your Assessment Booklets will outline all required assessment activities you are to undertake and the evidence you are required to gather
- Commit a suitable amount of time to your study and actively work to complete units in which you are enrolled
- Submit your assessments by the due date
- Balance your work, personal life and study priorities throughout the training

A Learner Responsibilities statement and Learner Code of Conduct are contained in the Smart City Vocational College Learner Handbook, this can be easily accessed from our website [www.smartcitycollege.edu.au](http://www.smartcitycollege.edu.au)
For further information or to access our Learner Handbook, visit our website, [www.smartcitycollege.edu.au](http://www.smartcitycollege.edu.au).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit code</th>
<th>Title and descriptor</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHCPM502A</td>
<td>Collect and classify plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the process of collecting and identifying plants using taxonomic keys and the preserving of plant specimens and defines the standard required to: collect plant specimens; note the location, characteristics and occurrence of specimens at the point of collection; clean, preserve, mount and label plant specimens; use a plant key to identify plants against the botanical description of the species; label preserved specimens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCPM501A</td>
<td>Diagnose plant health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the process of diagnosing plant health problems and defines the standard required to: identify plant species and describe their growing requirements and characteristics; assess the suitability of the growing environment and the level of beneficial organisms; diagnose and record plant disorders and diseases; formulate a weed, pest or disease control program using the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM); implement modifications to plant growing conditions; document a treatment program report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCARB502A</td>
<td>Identify, select and specify trees</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the process of identifying, selecting and specifying trees and defines the standard required to: inspect and identify an extensive range of trees; determine the suitability of a tree for a purpose; evaluate and document the selection of trees; specification of replacement tree plantings; monitor and record quality control of selections; document a report of the identification, evaluation and specification process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCPMG503A</td>
<td>Develop a strategy for the management of target pests</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This unit covers developing a strategy for the management of target pests and defines the standard required to: determine land management/production objectives; estimate costs and advantages for the management units most affected by the target pests; define and prioritise the management units most affected, both actually and potentially, by the target pests are; define the performance criteria for each land management/production objective; select management options for the target pests; negotiate strategies with relevant stakeholders in the affected area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCHNM501A</td>
<td>Develop and manage a chemical use strategy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the development and management of a chemical use strategy and defines the standard required to: implement procedures to assess the risk of chemical transport, storage, handling, application and disposal; develop an induction program that covers the enterprise Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) system and roles and responsibilities of all workers within that system; base application techniques on spray drift management principles, accurate placement of chemical and the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), make application to authorities in the case of off label use; meet all withholding periods and requirements to limit access to sprayed areas; meet chemical storage systems industry and legislative requirements; document chemical emergency procedures and all requirements for chemical signage and review chemical procedures based on enterprise records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCWAT502A</td>
<td>Manage water systems</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit covers managing water systems and defines the standard required to: identify adverse environmental impacts of irrigation activities and appropriate remedial action; determine the feasibility of using or up-grading an irrigation system; install or modify an irrigation and drainage system as necessary; evaluate irrigation system outputs and performance and strategically manage irrigated production systems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCSOL501A</td>
<td>Monitor and manage soils for production</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the process of monitoring and managing soils in an agricultural or horticultural production environment and defines the standard required to: interpret soil analytical data for the purposes of developing management or production plans; develop and conduct soil improvement programs; review and analyse ongoing soil monitoring programs; document the soil management plan or production plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHCPHT502A</td>
<td>Develop a horticultural production plan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the process of developing a production plan for a horticultural enterprise, and defines the standard required to: establish product specifications; research site factors and land use issues; select and source plants or plant material for seeding or propagation; design and incorporate infrastructure into planning; specify a monitoring program to cover the operation from sowing to sale; and document and cost the production plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCBUS502A</td>
<td>Market products and services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the marketing of products and services and defines the standard required to collect, analyse and present data in the internal and external business environment; assess alternative marketing strategies and techniques to meet business plan objectives; plan and implement a marketing strategy; and monitor product, pricing and distribution policies to improve market performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHCBUS501A</td>
<td>Manage staff</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This unit covers the management of staff and defines the standard required to: prepare task descriptions and person specifications; arrange employment of workforce members; implement Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) policies and procedures; review labour productivity.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>