

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PRINCIPALS

Highly subsidised blended delivery Certificate IV in Education (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander) course via *RATEP

Round 2 applications close Friday 4 March 2016



Version 6 (17.10.15)

OVERVIEW:

*RATEP is a community-based Indigenous teacher education program, which is in partnership with the Department of Education and Training (DET), TAFE Queensland North (TQN) - Cairns campus, and James Cook University (JCU).

The Certificate IV course is offered to Indigenous DET school personnel, particularly quality Teacher Assistants (TAs) or aides, who are recommended by their Principal for further study and are living and working in a location that does not have access to a current RATEP site.

This off-site program allows students to study in any Queensland community where there is no RATEP site. Students will be supported by phone, email, online e-sessions and via other study components by the off-site Teacher Coordinator, who is based in Maryborough.

Identification of prospective students

The program is eager to attract quality applicants who have the interest, commitment and aptitude to study part time while also working in a TA position (preferably as a part-time TA). The Certificate IV provides a direct pathway to becoming a fully qualified teacher and gives credit for up to a third of the Diploma of Education course via RATEP.

The course:

- includes residential components at TAFE in Cairns (fully funded by Abstudy for all applicants, regardless of financial circumstances, including travel, accommodation and meals)
- includes full-time support of a DET RATEP Teacher Coordinator using phone, email and online technologies
- uses weekly online teaching sessions
- uses hard copy learning guides in conjunction with on-line assessment
- is offered on a part-time basis (8 months)
- allow TAs to work and study concurrently
- provides a potential pay increment for state school TAs.

Course entry requirements:

Applicants need to:

- complete an application form, available by contacting Ms Leigh Payne, DET RATEP Teacher Coordinator, on P: 4120 9365, E: lpayn55@eq.edu.au
- complete an online Maths and English test, supervised at the school where the TA is employed
- attend a short phone interview if Maths and English entrance requirements are met.

Specific material requirements

TAs will need access to:

- a computer with internet access
- headset with microphone
- printer and consumables
- scanner
- personal phone connection (preferably mobile).

Financial commitment and support

The Cert IV course fee will be highly subsidised. In 2016 the cost will be approximately \$1000. This is a very competitive government concession rate. However, please note that the fee increases to approximately \$5000 if an applicant already possesses a Certificate IV in any field from any Australian registered training organisation.

All applicants may apply for an interest-free loan through TAFE for their course fees, which is paid back each fortnight either through Centrelink payments or directly by the student.

As well, all students should be entitled to an incidentals allowance (approximately \$500 at course commencement) through Abstudy, regardless of their current financial situation. The incidentals allowance could assist students with home internet connection and phone costs while studying through this new, off-site model. Students may also be entitled to fortnightly financial support through Abstudy, depending on current income level.

Furthermore, Abstudy will pay for all travel, accommodation, meals and possibly lost wages (upon application to Centrelink) while TAs attend three residential blocks at TAFE in Cairns, regardless of income levels.

Written agreement with sponsored school

As part of the application process, RATEP will provide a written agreement for the applicant's school Principal to sign that confirms the school's willingness to provide basic support for the TA for the duration of their Certificate IV in Education studies.

The written agreement includes:

- use of school computing, printing and scanning equipment by the TA in the event of connection/computer failure of the student's own personal equipment at home
- assistance for the TA to undertake practicum work/classroom access in order to complete course requirements (not onerous)
- supporting the TA as much as possible to attend the residentials at TAFE in Cairns
- assistance to identify a School Support Teacher (SST) to assign to the TA during the course of their studies. The teacher will be willing to be available for up to 2 hours per week to guide/support the student in their studies. The RATEP Teacher Coordinator will liaise with the SST to help with course content, assessments, communications and student progress. The SST would be funded through the Commonwealth's Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) via TAFE in Cairns and have assistance to register for ITAS. Current ITAS tutor payment rate is approximately \$45 per hour.

Closing dates for Round 2 applications: Friday 4 March 2016 (end of Week 6):

Due to limited course vacancies, it is recommended that applications be submitted as soon as possible.

For application forms and further enquiries, potential applicants and/or school management should contact:

Ms Leigh Payne
DET RATEP Teacher Coordinator (off-site courses)
Based at Maryborough State High School
Ph: 4120 9365
Email: lpayn55@eq.edu.au