



# Why People Are Choosing Diplomas Over Degrees



# Quick Comparison

## Diploma

## Degree



### Cost

The cost of each qualification, not including additional degree costs for textbooks and extra student fees.

\$3,000  
to  
\$6,000

(1)

\$20,000  
to  
\$45,000

(2)



### Median Graduate Salary

The median graduate salary calculated for students who have completed diploma and degree qualifications.

\$56k

\$54k



### Time to Study

The average time it takes to complete the qualification based on government recommendations of study hours and average time for students.



14 - 24 months part-time  
12 - 14 months full-time



3 years full-time



### Requirements for Entry

The educational standard or evidence required to be enrolled. These can be previous study scores, personal suitability or work experience.

Work  
Experience

High  
School  
Certificate

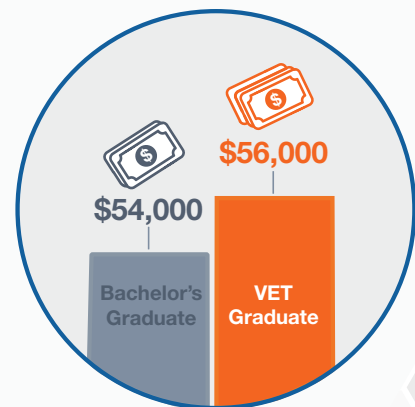
# Enjoy higher earning potential

Many think that a degree sets you up for better job opportunities and immediate higher earning potential upon graduating... and 10 years ago that would have been true. Now, in the current job climate, there is a significant shift in what employers want in new hires.

The steadily increasing demand for skilled workers with practical know-how has created a strong need for diploma-qualified professionals. With this demand comes a higher earning potential for diploma-level graduates, compared to those entering the job force with an undergraduate degree.

With a diploma qualification, you have the opportunity to be hired faster upon graduating, as you have the advantage of stepping into your new role with the right practical skills and knowledge.

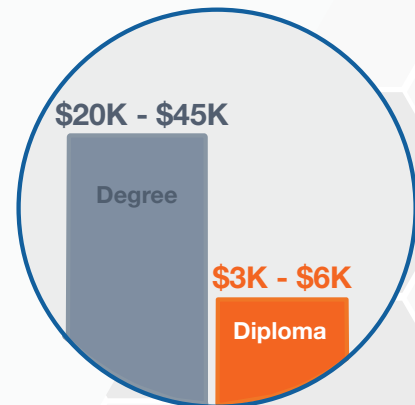
Recent statistics show that the median full-time income for a VET graduate is **\$56,000 a year**, which beats the median graduate salary of \$54,000 for those with a Bachelor's degree. (Skilling Australia, 2017)



Median Graduate Salary

VET graduates not only enjoy a higher graduate salary, but significantly lower financial expenses.

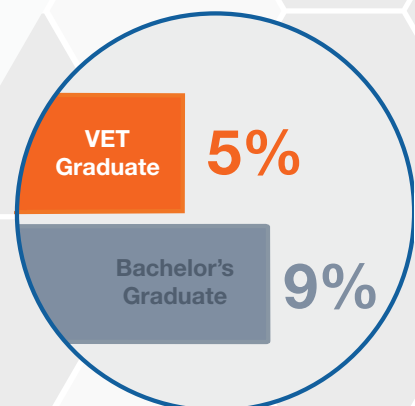
The minimum costs of the average Bachelor's degree can see you spending anywhere between **\$20,000 to \$45,000**, and that isn't including textbooks, transport costs, or time taken off work for classes or exams. (Gratton Institute, 2018)



Cost of Qualification

Not only are diploma graduates earning more, but they have greater job security due to the skills shortage in many Australian industries.

The long-term unemployment rate for those with a diploma is just **5%**, compared to **9%** for those with a Bachelor's degree. (Skilling Australia, 2017)



Long-term Unemployment Rate

# Be job-ready faster

The diploma courses at CAL are written in consultation with leading industry experts possessing years of experience in their fields. We specialise in preparing you for a management career path.

This means your diploma not only focuses on the practical skills you need every day in your desired role, but also the management skills and knowledge needed to further your career. In comparison, a Bachelor's degree will have you graduating with theoretical knowledge, but not the practical know-how you can immediately apply in a job role.

Our students have a variety of reasons for undertaking a CAL qualification:

- Upskilling for a promotion
- Changing industries or careers
- Increasing salary earning potential
- Redundancy-proofing
- Surviving industry shifts
- Staying relevant amongst change



Whatever your reason is for considering a diploma qualification, you can be completely confident that you will learn the right skills and knowledge, leading you to greater success in your career.

## Learn invaluable transferable skills with a diploma

Stand out from the crowd with the in-demand, transferable management skills that a diploma qualification delivers. Prepare yourself for any career path you decide to take, in any industry.



*With a diploma qualification, walk into a job interview feeling prepared, confident and ready - possessing the ability to apply the technical skills and knowledge you have learnt in your qualification.*

57% of leaders say that 'soft,' or transferable skills are more important than 'hard,' or technical skills. Contextualised soft skills are also a focus of diploma qualifications, meaning you will emerge as a graduate with the right balance of practical and soft skills, built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

Are you already working in the industry you want to upskill in? Take what you are learning in your diploma and immediately apply it to your workplace, impressing your boss and showing your ability to apply this knowledge in your role.

# Use your industry experience

## Greater job security



Not only are diploma graduates earning more, but they have greater job security due to the skills shortage in many Australian industries. The long-term unemployment rate for those with a diploma is just 5%, compared to 9% for those with a bachelor degree.

With a diploma qualification, you have the opportunity to be hired faster upon graduating, and you have the advantage of stepping into your new role with the right practical skills and knowledge.

## Your skills recognised



Entry requirements for diplomas are far less limiting than degree entry requirements. Consider the strict ATAR score entry requirements for most degrees, or Year 12 Completion Certificate equivalent.

Degree qualifications may not offer the same opportunities to be recognised for any skills or knowledge you already have in your industry. This means you are ultimately paying to learn what you already know. With a diploma, you can use your workplace as a solid basis for your learning in assessments, and have the ability to customise your own learning pathway to suit you best.

## No hidden RPL fees



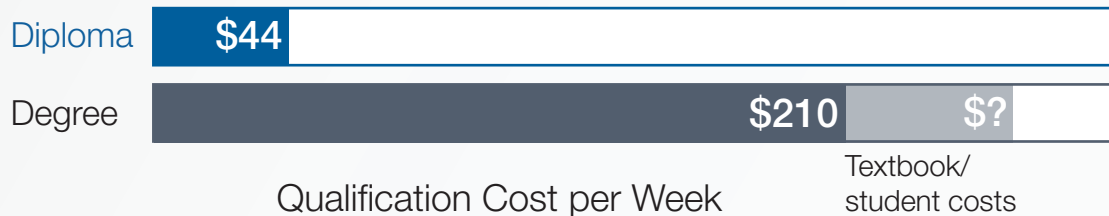
Unlike other RTOs, CAL does not charge students any fees for Recognition of Prior Learning applications or unit-specific RPL. You will find that many other RTOs charge an application cost up to \$1,500, and an additional RPL cost per Unit up to \$1,200.

You can be assured that you will not have any hidden fees associated with getting recognised for your existing knowledge.

# Price

Perhaps one of the biggest differences between diplomas and degrees is the cost of the qualifications.

Let's use the example of a student studying business.



A Bachelor's degree in Business Management could see you spending almost **\$11,000 per year** for a three-year degree. That is an approximate **total of \$33,000** or about \$210 per week, not including textbook or additional student costs.

A business course at CAL could see you paying as little as \$44 per week for self-paced learning with a generous 24-month timeframe to complete. Diplomas are definitely the more affordable and budget-friendly option, and can be completed in significantly less time.

## CAL offers all qualifications at an affordable price for students

*At CAL, we recognised and understand that every student is different and no one payment plan will suit everyone. This is why we offer **flexible payment options** to suit every budget. With no hidden fees, you can be sure that we are here to support you through your learning journey.*

## Assessments

Assessments within diploma qualifications differ greatly to degrees. Exams are the main assessment for degrees, typically with no notes allowed, and a time limit for completion. A commitment to commuting to campus for classes and exams is stressful for those working full-time hours. Strict due dates exist for university assignments that are not flexible and may not work with your job or life responsibilities.

Compare this with diploma assessments. There are no exams and all assessments involve practical and job-ready applications based on your workplace, or case studies we provide. You can study and work through the units at your own pace, booking in your coaching and assessment calls when you feel confident to complete. You'll complete a combination of quizzes, written activities and practical assessment tasks to demonstrate your skills effectively.



# Study your way

Our students are adult learners, so we understand the importance of being able to access flexible study. Our diplomas are **100% online**, meaning you can study anywhere you want to, and when you want to (within your enrolment period).



Work to your own deadlines, and select when you want to complete assessments calls with a coach.

You can access your learning materials 24/7, and with no semesters or trimesters to work within, you can spread your work out over a year to study whenever you want.

We build our courses to fit around your lifestyle, so you are able to book coaching calls with our industry experts when it suits you best.

Want to take the time off to go on a holiday? Come back without having fallen behind in your studies, because you have the power to choose when you want to study.

CAL offers a **generous 24-month timeframe** for you to complete your qualification. With diplomas designed for full-time workers, we work with you to create an Individual Learning Plan to help guide you through your learning journey.

As an added comfort, we offer a **free course extension** to ensure you are in the best position to complete your course.

We know life can be unpredictable and things pop up that may delay your studies. That's why we also offer a **free deferral period**, allowing you to pause your studies.

Compare this to universities or TAFEs that have very limited and expensive options for extensions or deferrals on courses.

Complete your studies stress-free, knowing that CAL will put you first and give you every opportunity to excel in your course and achieve your qualification.



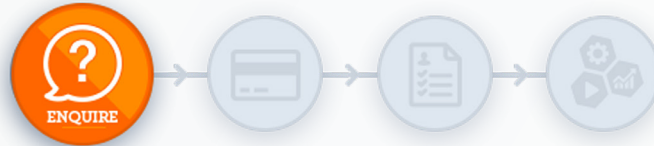
## WANTING TO TAKE THAT EXTRA STEP?

Our double diplomas are designed to fit **two well-suited** qualifications together, often with overlap in units.

This means with only a little extra time studying, you can achieve two Nationally Recognised diploma qualifications.

# Advance your career today

These are just a few of the reasons why a diploma is today's preferred qualification over a degree. Assess what works best for you and your lifestyle, but with an affordable price and complete control over your learning, a diploma is by far the best stepping stone to a successful career.



Now that you've enquired, the next step is to apply to enrol.

You'll be put in contact with your own Professional Learning Consultant who will guide you through the registration and enrolment process and get you started in your exciting new course with CAL.

**Take the first step in advancing your career and apply to enrol today**

**APPLY NOW**



**Phone : 1300 907 870**

**Web: [collegeforadultlearning.edu.au](http://collegeforadultlearning.edu.au)**

**Head Office: Level 1, 3/630 Mitcham Rd, Mitcham 3132**

Sources:

- (1) CAL upfront course costs
- (2) Good Universities Guide