



AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping Student Guide – 2024



Introduction to AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping

Welcome to the Tocal College Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification.

Tocal College is offering the AHC31818 qualification to existing beekeepers through a flexible delivery mode which can be tailored to suit the needs of individuals.

Training and assessment can be delivered locally and flexibly to work around seasonal beekeeping operations.

The AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification commenced in September 2019. Eligible participants have an opportunity to complete the units of competency over 12 months to 2 years, 18 Units of Competency are required to attain the full Certificate III in Beekeeping.

The rate of completion will depend on your level of beekeeping experience, availability to attend face-to-face training, the time it takes to complete the online courses and associated assignments, and the amount of previous accredited beekeeping training and relevant certificates held.

Upon completion of your qualification, you will receive an official transcript in the mail and an invitation to attend a Tocal College graduation ceremony. This is where your certificate is awarded and presented to you by the College Principal.

This is held each March/April at the Paterson and Yanco NSW campuses. To qualify, you must complete the qualification during the calendar year prior.

Key contacts

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What the qualification involves

The AHC31818 Certificate III in Beekeeping is a nationally accredited qualification with a vocational outcome in beekeeping.

Completion requires a total of eighteen (18) Units of Competency comprising thirteen (13) core units and five (5) elective units. Two (2) of these electives are delivered as part of Honey Bee Biosecurity and have been pre-selected by Tocal College, an additional three electives need to be selected. The Units of Competency required to attain the Certificate are listed below.

Your training plan will be developed in consultation with the Course Coordinator for the completion of your Certificate III in Beekeeping.

Units

Certificate III in Beekeeping			
Unit Code	Unit Name		When Provided
Work Health and Safety			
AHCWHS301	Contribute to work health and safety processes	Core	Face-to-face training completed during Block 1. Or workplace assessment available for trainees only.
Beekeeping			
AHCBEK203	Open and reassemble a beehive	Core	Completed face-to-face in the Beginning in Bees short course
AHCBEK205	Prepare and use a bee smoker	Core	
AHCBEK206	Assemble and maintain beekeeping components	Core	Delivered in face-to-face workshop in Block 1
AHCBEK313	Manage pests and diseases within a honey bee colony	Core	Delivered face-to-face in the Honey bee Biosecurity short course during block 1
AHCBEK303	Apply biosecurity measures	Elective	
FBPOPR2066	Apply sampling procedures	Elective	
AHCBEK405	Select and establish an apiary site	Core	Delivered online in Canvas
AHCBEK302	Manipulate honey bee brood	Core	Delivered together in the face-to-face Spring Management short course in Block 2
AHCBEK303	Re-queen a honey bee colony	Core	
AHCBEK304	Remove a honey crop from a hive	Core	Delivered online in Canvas and face-to-face. Workplace assessment available for trainees only.
AHCBEK312	Extract honey	Core	Delivered together online in Canvas - Quality assurance for honey extraction. Face-to-face components delivered during Block 3.
AHCWRK306	Comply with industry quality assurance requirements	Core	
AHCBEK311	Transport bee hives by road to new apiary site	Core	Delivered online in Canvas
AHCBEK301	Manage honey bee swarms	Core	Delivered online in Canvas
Electives (3 to be selected)			

AHCBEK408	Provide bee pollination services	Elective	Delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course. Please note: Candidates MUST have extensive beekeeping experience in managing a large-scale apiary including migratory practices and have a strong knowledge of pests and diseases of honey bees. They should be providing or planning to provide, pollination services to the production of the horticulture industry e.g., almonds, citrus, stone fruit, apples, canola, blueberries, etc.
AHCBEK309	Trap and store pollen	Elective	Delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course.
AHPCPM204	Recognise plants	Elective	Delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course.
AHCBEK409	Rear queen bees	Elective	Delivered in a two-day face-to-face short course.
TLILIC0003	Licence to operate a forklift truck	Elective	Imported Elective - delivered face-to-face in Forklift training short course. If you hold a forklift ticket from another provider, Tocal College will recognise this qualification and provide Credit Transfer at no charge to you.
AHCMOM213	Operate and maintain chainsaws	Elective	Imported Elective - delivered in a one-day face-to-face short course.
AHCBIO203	Inspect and clean machinery, tools and equipment to preserve biosecurity	Elective	Imported elective – delivered online in Canvas

Five (5) elective units of competency must be completed to obtain the full qualification. These units of competency are offered through a mix of face-to-face and online delivery. Both delivery methods include practical components with hands-on exercises involving beehives and a range of beekeeping equipment.

Two (2) elective units can be imported from other relevant qualifications providing they are appropriate to beekeeping industry operations and are at a level II, III, or IV. For example, some candidates have received credit transfer from their current First Aid qualifications and Chemical Certificates. This needs to be discussed with the course coordinator prior to Tocal College generating a quote for your Certificate III in Beekeeping.

Tocal College entry requirements:

Due to the demand for this qualification, Tocal College has a staged application and selection process. This is a trade-level qualification, and priority will be given to beekeepers currently working in the bee industry, new full-time trainees of commercial beekeepers, and beekeepers seeking to diversify and/or scale up their beekeeping business operations.

Please Note: If you are interested in a traineeship please ask your employer to contact beekeeping@dpi.nsw.gov.au before you sign up with a workplace provider, to discuss training details.

How is training and assessment delivered?

Training blocks

Most of the face-to-face training is delivered in blocks of four days duration. Each block of training gradually increases students' knowledge and skill over the course; therefore, each block requires attendance.

Day	Unit	Unit Name	Core / Elective
Block 1			
1	AHCWHS301	Contribute to work health and safety processes	Core
1	AHCBEK203	Open and reassemble a beehive	Core
1	AHCBEK205	Prepare and use a bee smoker	Core
2 & 3	AHCBEK313	Manage pests and diseases within a honey bee colony	Core
2 & 3	AHC BIO303	Apply biosecurity measures	Elective
2 & 3	FBOPR2066	Apply sampling procedures	Elective
4	AHCBEK206	Assemble and maintain beekeeping components	Core
Block 2			
1 & 2	AHCBEK302	Manipulate honey bee brood	Core
1 & 2	AHCBEK303	Re-queen a honey bee colony	Core
3 & 4	AHCBEK409	Rear queen bees	Elective
Block 3			
TBA	AHCBEK408	Provide bee pollination services	Elective
TBA	AHCPCM204	Recognise plants	Elective
TBA	AHCBEK309	Trap and store pollen	Elective
TBA	AHCBEK304	Remove a honey crop from a hive	Core
TBA	AHCBEK312	Extract honey	Core

Block 3 EXAMPLE: Elective's are subject to change and attendance requirements vary, contact your course coordinator.

The units you undertake will be assessed in one of the following ways:

Face to Face Training

Face-to-face training is delivered by Tocal College staff or contractors and involves classroom-based theory and practical skills training and assessment in an operational apiary or workshop facility. Assessment is a combination of written tests and observations of you performing the required skills outlined in the unit of competency you are working towards. Most of this training for your Certificate III in Beekeeping will be conducted at Tocal College. Training usually begins at 8:30am, ending by 4.00pm, morning tea, and lunch are provided.

Workplace Assessment

Workplace Assessment involves students undertaking compulsory learning through the online portal Canvas prior to Tocal College staff observing you perform the beekeeping tasks outlined in the Units of Competency in a real apiary or workplace situation. Workplace assessment is available for trainees and those operating within a commercial beekeeping context only.

Online Learning

Online learning involves you completing theoretical components of various units of competency through watching slide presentations, videos, and reading written learning resources within “Canvas” - Tocal College’s online learner management system. You will receive a login to Canvas after your enrolment is complete. Assessment for the online components of your certificate includes multiple choice quizzes, short answers, and photo/ video/ file assignment uploads to support evidence of students performing tasks. Please note: Online units are to be completed within a 3-month time frame per unit. Extensions will require consultation with your trainer.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is the process for formally assessing and recognising skills, knowledge, and experience. Students may be eligible for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in specific units of competency depending on their previous experience. RPL assessment requires you to demonstrate and present evidence of your skills and knowledge.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) – <https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/courses/Recognition-of-prior-learning>

Fees

The cost of the Certificate III in Beekeeping qualification is set at \$6,690, however, Tocal College will provide you with a quote generated from the Training Services NSW Smart and Skilled Program website. If eligible, this program subsidises the delivery of training and assessment and the participant is required to make a co-contribution which varies for each individual.

This quote is based on the qualification prices set in NSW by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). Most participant contributions are within the range of \$1000 - \$1800 and will be quoted to you by Tocal College after you proceed through the expression of interest process.

The current fee schedules for industry qualifications are available on the Tocal College website: <https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/students/future-students>

Student policies and procedures

<https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/students/future-students/policies>