

COASTAL OHS SERVICES PTY LTD

Coastal OHS Services Pty Ltd

Student Information Handbook

Introduction

This information handbook is designed to provide prospective students with information about the services provided by Coastal OHS Services (COS) and our approach to providing you a safe, fair and supported environment to participate in training and assessment. This booklet does not provide you with specific information about a particular course offered by COS. This information is contained in the Course Brochure available from our website www.coastalohs.com.

Our mission

COS's mission is to deliver quality training assessment that meets the needs of learners and industry.

Our objectives

In recognition of this mission, our objectives are:

People. We strive to attract, recruit and retain talented, competent and committed people. We promote excellent performance through leadership and professional development.

Safety and equality. We are committed to providing an environment which is safe, equitable and which promotes a confident and productive training and assessment environment.

Integrity and ethics. We conduct ourselves in accordance with shared and agreed standards of behaviour which holds ethical conduct and integrity as our highest priorities.

Quality committed. We aspire to deliver consistent, high quality services and apply quality systems which support training and assessment excellence.

Learner centred. We thrive on providing training and assessment that is learner centred and which supports lifelong learning. We respect our clients and strive to attract them time after time through high quality training and assessment experiences.

Industry engagement. We recognise the value of industry engagement as the driving force in shaping our training and assessment strategies. We deliver training and assessment services which are founded on industry needs and expectations.

Our expectation of you

COS expects you:

To contribute to learning in a harmonious and positive manner irrespective of gender, race, sexual preference, political affiliation, marital status, disability or religious belief.

To comply with the rules and regulations of COS.

To be honest and respectful, which includes not falsifying work or information and not conducting yourself in any way that may cause injury or offence to others.

To be responsible for your own learning and development by participating actively and positively and by ensuring that you maintain progress with learning modules.

To monitor your own progress by ensuring that assessment deadlines are observed.

To utilise facilities and COS publications with respect and to honour our copyrights and prevent our publication from being distributed to unauthorised persons

To respect other students and COS staff members and their right to privacy and confidentiality.

Your safety

COS is committed to providing you a safe environment in which to participate in training and assessment. The following guidelines are provided as a basis for safe practice in the training environment:

Know and observe details of emergency response and evacuation plans;

Do not undertake activities which may cause injury to self or others;

Be responsible for your own actions;

No smoking at the training and assessment facilities or offices;

Report all potential hazards, accidents and near misses to the RTO staff;

No consumption of alcohol within training and assessment facilities or during the conduct of training and assessment;

Keep training and assessment areas neat and tidy at all times;

Seek assistance if you volunteer to lift items e.g. move furniture in a training area; and

Observe hygiene standards particularly in eating and bathroom areas.

Electrical equipment

Electrical equipment that is not working should be reported to RTO staff.

Electrical work should only be performed by appropriately licensed or trained personnel. Students, trainers and assessors should not undertake any task related to fixing electrical equipment such as lighting or electrical training aids.

Fire safety

COS will undertake to communicate the procedures involved in evacuation and the location of fire equipment to students at each facility for each training and assessment event; and to users of the office at least twice each year.

All users of a training and assessment facility need to be familiar with the location of all EXITS and fire extinguishers. Users will consult available maps to determine location.

It is the user's responsibility to understand fire drill procedures displayed around the premises.

Users are asked to attend any sessions on fire safety procedures and the use of fire safety devices.

First aid

Provision for first aid facilities are available where training is delivered.

All accidents must be reported to staff.

The accident and any aid administered must be recorded by staff involved.

Lifting

Students, trainers and assessors are encouraged not to lift anything related to the training and assessment provided by COS unless they do so voluntarily and taking all responsibility for any injury caused.

Never attempt to lift anything that is beyond your capacity.

Always bend the knees and keep the back straight when picking up items.

If you have experienced back problems in the past do not attempt to lift heavy objects at all. Ask someone else to do it for you.

Work and study areas

Always ensure that all work areas are clean and clear of clutter so as to avoid the danger of accident by tripping or falling over.

Place all rubbish in the bins provided.

Do not sit or climb on any desks or tables.

Your equity

COS is committed to ensuring that the training and assessment environment is free from discrimination and harassment. All COS staff is aware that discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated under any circumstances. In the event that discrimination and harassment is found to have occurred disciplinary action will be taken against any staff member who breaches this policy. Suspected criminal behaviour will be reported to police authorities immediately. Students should expect fair and friendly behaviour from COS staff members and we apply complaint handling procedures advocated by the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC).

Students who feel that they have been discriminated against or harassed should report this information to a staff member of COS that they feel they can trust. This will initiate a complaints handling procedure which will be fair and transparent and will protect your rights as a complainant. Alternatively, if a student wishes to report an instance of discrimination or harassment to an agency external to COS, they are advised to contact the HREOC Complaints Info-line on 1300 656 419.

Your privacy

COS takes the privacy of students very seriously and complies with all legislative requirements. These include the Privacy Act 1988 and National Privacy Principles (2001).

Student information is only shared with external agencies such as registering authorities to meet compliance requirements as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). All information shared is kept in the strictest confidence by both parties and is available on request.

In some cases we are required by law to make student information available to others such as the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research. In all other cases COS will seek the written permission of the student for such disclosure.

Fees and refunds

In accordance with applicable State legislation, COS is entitled to charge fees for items or services provided to students undertaking a course of study. These charges are generally for items such as course materials or text books, student services and training and assessment services.

Fees payable

Fees are payable when the student has received notification of enrolment. Fees must be paid in full within 10 days of receiving an invoice from COS. COS may discontinue training if fees are not paid as required. For a full list of current fees and charges please request a copy of COS schedule of fees and charges.

Student cancellation

Students who cancel their enrolment part way through a training program must notify COS immediately if consideration of fee reimbursement is required. Once COS is notified a refund will be issued for the component of training not commenced. COS is entitled to retain fees for any component of the course completed up until the point of notification by the student cancellation.

Replacement of text and training workbooks

Students who require replacement of issued text or training workbooks will be liable for additional charges to cover the cost of replacement. For a full list of replacement charges please refer to the COS schedule of fees and charges.

Refunds

Students who cancel their enrolment before the commencement of a training program will be entitled to a full refund of fees paid. Requests for refunds will be processed and transacted at the end of each month in which the cancellation notification was received.

Where a student has purchased a text or training workbooks and subsequently cancels, COS will not refund monies for the text unless a written request for a refund is received and COS is satisfied that the text is in as-new condition.

Payment method

COS accepts payment for fees using:

Credit Card

Electronic Funds Transfer (account details available on request)

Cheque (made payable to Coastal OHS Services.

Cash.

Enrolment

COS undertakes to make training available to all persons who:

Agree to abide by COS's expectation of students; and

Make suitable payment of fees.

Our continuous improvement of services

COS is committed to the continuous improvement of our training and assessment services, student services and management systems. Central to this commitment is our approach to continuous improvement and the procedures we apply to achieve systematic and sustained improvement.

The primary method of reporting opportunities for improvement by students is via the Workcover training evaluation form. Often these reports will be generated after an opportunity for improvement has been identified by a student. They may also be raised as a consequence of a complaint and/or internal/external audit.. Students are encouraged to provide feedback to COS so we can improve our services in the future.

Your language, literacy and numeracy skills

Language, literacy and numeracy skills are critical to almost all areas of work. This is particularly true in many vocations where language, literacy and numeracy skills influence the performance of workplace tasks such as measuring, weighing and comprehending written work instructions.

To support this approach COS will:

On request, assess a student's language, literacy and numeracy skills prior to their enrolment and further during their enrolment to ensure they have adequate skills to complete the training;

Support students during their study with training and assessment materials and strategies that are easily understood and suitable to the level of the workplace skills being delivered;

Provide clear information to students about the detail of the language, literacy and numeracy assistance available;

Refer students to external language, literacy and numeracy support services that are beyond the support available within COS and where this level of support is assessed as necessary; and

Negotiate an extension of time to complete training programs if necessary.

Making complaints and appeals

COS is committed to providing a fair and inexpensive complaints and appeals process that includes access to an independent external body if necessary. Formal complaint forms are available. Complaints can also be made verbally and/or by email.

What is a complaint?

A complaint is negative feedback about services or staff which has not been resolved locally. A complaint may be received by COS in any form and does not need to be formally documented by the complainant in order to be acted on. Complaints may be made by any person but are generally made by students and/or employers.

What is an appeal?

An appeal is an application by a student for reconsideration of an unfavourable decision or finding during training and/or assessment. An appeal must be made in writing and specify the particulars of the decision or finding in dispute. Appeals must be lodged within 28 days of informing the student of the decision or finding.

Early resolution or complaints and appeals

In all cases, issues that arise during training and assessment that are the source of frustration or are in dispute should be resolved at the time they occur between the persons involved.

Complaint and appeals handling

COS undertakes to apply the following principles to its complaints and appeals handling:

A written record of all complaints and appeals is to be kept by COS including all details of lodgement, response and resolution.

A complainant or person lodging an appeal is to be provided an opportunity to formally present his or her case at minimal or no cost.

Each complainant or person lodging an appeal may be accompanied and/or assisted by a support person at any relevant meeting.

The handling of a complaint or appeal is to commence within 10 working days of the lodgement of the complaint / appeal and all reasonable measures are taken to finalise the process as soon as practicable.

The complainant or person lodging an appeal is to be provided a written statement of the outcome, including details of the reasons for the outcome.

The complainant or person lodging an appeal is to have the opportunity for a person or a body that is independent of COS to review his or her complaint or appeal following the internal COS complaint or appeals process. It is noted that a review of findings by an independent person or body will generally only relate to the appeals process and is less likely to be required in complaints handling.

COS shall maintain the enrolment of the complainant or person lodging an appeal during the complaint or appeals process.

Decisions or outcomes of the complaint or appeals process that find in the favour of the student or otherwise shall be implemented immediately.

Complaints and appeals are to be handled in the strictest of confidence. No COS representative is to disclose information to any person without the permission of the COS Chief Executive Officer. Decisions to release information to third parties are only to be done after the complainant or person lodging the appeal has given permission for this to occur.

Complaints and appeals are to be considered on the basis of procedural fairness and lead to opportunities for improvement as a Continuous Improvement Report.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) of your existing skills and knowledge

In accordance with the requirements of the Australian VET Framework, COS provides the opportunity for students to apply to have prior learning recognised toward a qualification or units of competence for which they are enrolled.

What is Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)? (Recognition)

Recognition involves the assessment of previously unrecognised skills and knowledge that an individual has achieved outside the formal education and training system. Recognition assesses this unrecognised learning against the requirements of a unit of competence, in respect of both entry requirements and outcomes to be achieved. By removing the need for duplication of learning, recognition encourages an individual to continue upgrading their skills and knowledge through structured education and training towards formal qualifications and improved employment outcomes. This has benefits for the individual and industry. Most importantly, it should be noted that recognition is just another form of assessment.

Recognition guidelines

The following guidelines are to be followed when an application for recognition is received:

Any student is entitled to apply for recognition in a course or qualification in which they are currently enrolled.

Students may not apply for recognition for units of competence or a qualification which are not included in COSs scope of registration.

Whilst students may apply for recognition at any time, they are encouraged to apply before commencing a training program. This will reduce unnecessary training and guide the student down a more efficient path to competence. Students who are currently enrolled in a training program are eligible to apply for recognition in that program at no additional charge.

Assessment via recognition is to apply the principles of assessment and the rules of evidence.

Recognition may only be awarded for whole units of competence.

Forms of evidence

Recognition acknowledges that workplace skills and knowledge may be gained through a variety of ways including both formal and informal learning or through work-based or life experience.

Like assessment, recognition is a process whereby evidence is collected and a judgement is made by an assessor or assessment team. The judgement is made on evidence provided by candidates of the skills and knowledge that they have previously learnt through work, study, life and other experiences, and that they are currently using. It also includes evidence to confirm a candidate's ability to adapt prior learning or current competence to the context of the intended workplace or industry.

Forms of evidence toward recognition may include:

Work records;

Records of workplace training;

Assessments of current skills;

Assessments of current knowledge;

Third party reports from current and previous supervisors or managers;

Evidence of relevant unpaid or volunteer experience;

Observation by an assessor in the workplace;

Performance appraisal; or

Duty statements.

Many of these forms of evidence would not be sufficient on their own. When combined together, with a number of evidence items, the candidate will start to provide a strong case for competence. COS reserves the right to require candidates to undertake practical assessment activities of skills and knowledge in order to satisfy itself of a candidate's current competence.

Getting credit for your current competence

COS acknowledges the requirement as an RTO to recognise the awards issued by other RTOs. This is limited to outcomes that are drawn from the national skills framework being units of competence awarded and accurately identified in statements of attainment and qualifications.

What is credit transfer?

Credit transfer is the recognition of learning achieved through formal education and training. Under the Australian VET Framework, qualifications and statements of attainment issued by any RTO are to be accepted and recognised by all other RTOs. Credit Transfer allows a student to be awarded a unit of competency/module based on successful completion of the unit which has been previously awarded.

Evidence requirements

An applicant will be required to present his or her statement of attainment or qualification for examination by COS. These documents will provide the detail of what units of competence the applicant has been previously issued. Applicants must provide satisfactory evidence that the statement of attainment or qualification is theirs and that it has been issued by an Australian RTO. Statements of attainment or qualifications should be in the correct format as outlined in the Australian Qualifications Framework Implementation Handbook. The applicant is required to submit copies only which are certified as true copies of the original by a Justice of the Peace (or equivalent).

Credit transfer guidelines

The following guidelines are to be followed in relation to credit transfers:

Any student is entitled to apply for credit transfer in a course or qualification in which they are currently enrolled. Students may not apply for credit transfer for units of competence or qualification which are not included in COSs scope of registration.

Whilst students may apply for credit transfer at any time, they are encouraged to apply before commencing a training program. This will reduce unnecessary training and guide the student down a more efficient path to competence.

The student does not incur any fees for credit transfer and COS does not receive any funding when credit transfer is granted.

Credit transfer may only be awarded for whole units of competence.

Where a mapping guide identifies a partial credit, this will not be considered for credit transfer and applicants will be advised to seek recognition.

Contacts

If you have any questions or require more information, you can contact us during normal business hours on 02 43823055 mob 0438823055 email erik@coastalohs.com web www.coastalohs.com