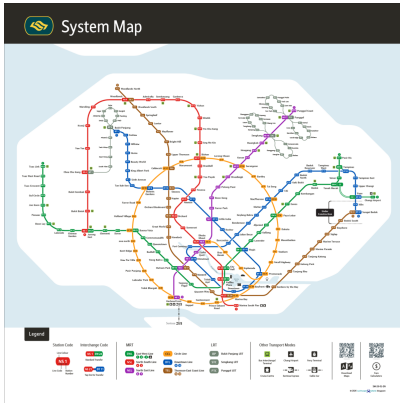




Singapore Rail Academy partners ITE, polytechnics and SIT on rail qualifications

Description

The Singapore Rail Academy will partner ITE, Nanyang Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and the Singapore Institute of Technology on training and qualifications for rail workers, in a [Land Transport Authority news release](#) on 24 October. LTA, SBS Transit and SMRT signed an agreement on 24 October to run the academy jointly from 1 November.



System Map



The academy trains staff for Singapore's rail network. Photo: LTA

What changes at the academy

LTA set up the academy in 2017. It now runs more than 20 training sessions a year for 500 or so engineers who are new to rail.

From November the academy takes on a wider job, in line with the Rail Reliability Taskforce's recommendations from February. It will set common training and assessment standards across both operators, and audit the training run by SMRT Institute and SBS Transit's Rail Training Institute.

LTA and Rail Operators sign Collaboration Agreement to Jointly Develop Career Pathways for Rail Workforce

News Releases

24 Oct 2026

Singapore Rail Academy (SGRA)

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) and rail operators, SBS Transit Rail Pte Ltd and SMRT Train Services Pte Ltd, will jointly administer the Singapore Rail Academy (SGRA) from 1 November 2026, which will also take on an expanded role in the professional development of Singapore's rail workforce.

2 In line with the recommendations of the Rail Reliability Taskforce released in February 2026, LTA and the two rail operators will adopt a coordinated, sector-wide approach to developing rail professionals, with harmonised training policies, standards, qualifications, as well as clearer and more structured education and career pathways. These efforts will aim to uplift the rail workforce, and improve the attractiveness of the rail sector to a new generation of engineers, technicians and trainees, as important as our rail network continues to expand and adopt more advanced technologies and systems.

Joint Administration of SGRA

3 The SGRA was established by LTA in 2017 to uplift capability development for the rail sector, currently training about 500 rail engineers who are new to the rail industry. Its programmes complement those offered by SMRT Institute (SMRTi) and SBS Transit's Rail Training Institute (RTI) – which provide training for their wider workforce, and develop competencies specific to each rail line.

4 In line with the recommendations of the Rail Reliability Taskforce, LTA and the two rail operators will build on existing training efforts by engendering joint ownership of training outcomes through a sectoral approach to capability development. By harnessing the rail operators' frontline experience, LTA's expertise, SGRA's curriculum, and uplift standards across a wider proportion of the rail operators' workforce.

The LTA news release of 24 October 2026. Image: Land Transport Authority

New tools in training

The academy will widen its courses and assessment frameworks to take in artificial intelligence, condition monitoring and simulation-based training. It plans more team-based training simulators with AI tools, so staff from different functions can train together on complex scenarios such as major service disruptions.

LTA ties the push to the growing rail network, the adoption of newer systems, and major renewals on existing lines. Operators keep their own training institutes for line-specific skills.

Pathways for students and workers

Under memoranda of understanding with the five institutions, the academy will build training programmes that lead to qualifications at the Higher Nitec and diploma levels.

- New work-study programmes with the public transport operators, so rail workers can study while they work
- Recognition of academy and operator training courses towards continuing education qualifications
- A rail-sector Workforce Skills Qualifications framework from early 2027, starting with Basic Certificates in Railway Operations and Railway Maintenance

Certification for senior staff

The academy will also create a professional certification scheme for rail workers with deep expertise in maintenance and operations. The target is for 20 per cent of the operations and maintenance workforce to be certified, with these staff serving as trainers for junior colleagues.

An advisory panel of international and local rail experts will guide the academy's training plans.

Date Created

26/10/2026

Author

rachelng