



Weekly Careers News for New South Wales

September 18, 2026

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Events

This Week's Events

ADF Indigenous Pathways Virtual Information Session

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Online

Date: September 14, 2026

Join the thousands of Australian Defence Force members who enjoy financial security, rewarding work and personal development in jobs that proudly represent their communities. Join us for a virtual info session to learn about Indigenous opportunities in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Spaces are limited, so register ASAP!

[Find out more](#)

Macquarie [EX]plore Science Extension Conference

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 14, 2026

Macquarie University is hosting a full-day conference showcasing the research of Year 12 HSC Science Extension students Monday 14 September.

Designed as an authentic research experience, the event brings together school students, undergraduates and PhD researchers to share a passion for science through presentations, posters, networking opportunities and Faculty of Science lab tours. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding presentations.

Year 12 students can register independently and will present their work at the conference (applications close 21 August), while Year 10 and 11 students must be registered by a teacher.

[Find out more](#)

Future Creatives Forum 2026 for Year 9-12 Students

Organisation: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Location: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Date: September 14, 2026

This fourth annual jam-packed day of talks and workshops is a great opportunity for students years 9-12 in the Lower Hunter to meet artists, industry experts and leaders from the creative industries. In partnership with the University of Newcastle, the Future Creatives Forum is presented in Maitland Town Hall, with breakout sessions and tours at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery. This event is free and incredibly popular, so we recommend you booking your students soon.

The lineup includes [Vernon Ah Kee](#), [Toby Cedar](#), [Todd Fuller](#), [Georgia Hill](#), [Bronte Naylor](#), and [Adam Manning](#) and [Louisa Magrics](#) from UON!

This event is incredibly popular and a great opportunity for students. Please only book if you are sure you can attend and notify the Gallery immediately if you have cancellations.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Health Careers Information Session, Perth & Online

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Perth ADF Careers Centre

Date: September 15, 2026

Protect the health and wellbeing of Australian Defence Force personnel both on base and on deployments, in a rewarding Health role.

Join us for an info session and speak with current serving members about the job variety and satisfaction you can experience while contributing to humanitarian, combat and disaster-relief operations.

Spaces are limited, so register ASAP!

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes early to allow time for check-in. Due to building access restrictions, late arrivals will not be permitted entry after the session begins.

[Find out more](#)

UOW Spotlight on Social Work

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 15, 2026

Join us for an inspiring 90-minute evening event to explore the world of social work and discover how this dynamic profession creates meaningful impact across diverse settings. Connect with UOW academics and current students as they share their experiences, discuss the skills and knowledge you will gain throughout the degree, and highlight the opportunities available after graduation.

Through interactive activities and real-world examples, you will gain insight into the challenges, rewards and possibilities of a career dedicated to empowering people and driving positive social change. At UOW, social work is more than a profession. It's a pathway to making a difference.

[Find out more](#)

CDW Studios Online Information Session

Organisation: CDW Studios

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Discover our industry-recognised pathway into the entertainment design industry!

This free online session is designed for anyone interested in building a creative career in the entertainment design industry, becoming a professional artist for games, movies, animation and VFX.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney College of the Arts Portfolio Evening for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus

Date: September 16, 2026

Don't miss this opportunity to join us at the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) Portfolio Evening, in-person, for tailored feedback and valuable insights to elevate your portfolio to support your application.

Your portfolio is a key part of your application to study a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of Sydney.

As part of the Portfolio Evening, you'll be able to speak with our experienced staff to:

- gain personalised, one-on-one feedback and advice on your current portfolio and how to enhance your submission from our academic staff, and
- receive information about our degrees, specialised facilities, and student opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney College of the Arts Portfolio Evening Online for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Don't miss the opportunity to join us at the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) Portfolio Evening, online, for tailored feedback and valuable insights to elevate your portfolio to support your application.

Your portfolio is a key part of your application to study a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of Sydney.

As part of the Portfolio Evening, you'll be able to speak with our experienced staff to:

- gain personalised, one-on-one feedback and advice on your current portfolio and how to enhance your submission from our academic staff
- receive information about our degrees, specialised facilities, and student opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Trade Careers Information Session, Albury

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Albury ADF Careers Centre

Date: September 16, 2026

Whether you're starting your trade career from scratch or are looking for new avenues for your skills, you'll receive world-class training in the Australian Defence Force from experts in your field.

You'll have the opportunity to gain nationally accredited qualifications that benefit you for life.

To find out more about available Trade roles, come along to an info session and speak with current serving personnel.

It is highly recommended you book as soon as possible to avoid missing out as places are strictly limited!

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes early to allow time for check-in. Due to building access restrictions, late arrivals will not be permitted entry after the session begins.

[Find out more](#)

Prepare for the future of work with Sydney's Bachelor of Arts – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Discover how the Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney can set you up for success. Learn how this flexible degree equips you with the critical thinking, creativity and communication skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing workforce. Explore your interests, build in-demand capabilities, and prepare for a future full of opportunities in arts and social sciences.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Officer & Management Careers Information Session, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Parramatta ADF Careers Centre

Date: September 16, 2026

We're always on the lookout for people with ambition and potential to lead and manage Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in fields including (but not limited to) aviation, engineering, healthcare and combat.

As an Officer in the ADF you will have the opportunity to see more of Australia-and the world-make friends for life and experience a unique culture of teamwork, adventure and fitness. Join us for an info session to hear from current serving members about what it takes to become an Officer in the ADF.

It is highly recommended you book as soon as possible to avoid missing out as places are strictly limited!

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes early to allow time for check-in. Due to building access restrictions, late arrivals will not be permitted entry after the session begins.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Trade Careers Information Session, Newcastle & Online

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Newcastle ADF Careers Centre

Date: September 17, 2026

Whether you're starting your trade career from scratch or are looking for new avenues for your skills, you'll receive world-class training in the Australian Defence Force from experts in your field.

You'll have the opportunity to gain nationally accredited qualifications that benefit you for life.

To find out more about available Trade roles, come along to an info session and speak with current serving personnel.

It is highly recommended you book as soon as possible to avoid missing out as places are strictly limited!

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes early to allow time for check-in. Due to building access restrictions, late arrivals will not be permitted entry after the session begins.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Information Evening for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: September 17, 2026

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, film, 3D animation and visual effects at the AIE Information Evening.

The evening will include presentations on different areas of industry to get into as well as information about AIE full-time and part-time courses and entry requirements. We will be showing off AIE student work and our staff and teachers will be available to chat with you about our courses and how AIE can get you into a creative career.

[Find out more](#)

SCU Future Leaders Workshop, Northern Rivers

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: Southern Cross University, Lismore Campus

Date: September 17, 2026

Join us for Future Leaders, a free full-day workshop facilitated by world record-breaking pilot and leadership development speaker, Lachie Smart. With engaging content, practical activities, and a supportive environment, the event aims to inspire students to unlock their potential, lead with confidence, and make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

This event is for Year 11 and 12 students; specifically student representatives, aspiring school leaders and anyone wanting to enhance their confidence and resilience in leadership.

- Explore our campus and experience our state-of-the-art campus facilities.

- Through interactive activities, develop strategic plans and acquire essential leadership skills.
- Meet current Southern Cross University students and network with us throughout the day.
- Enjoy a catered morning tea and lunch on us.

School staff can register online through the university's event page by filling out the registration form, indicating the number of students attending from your school and selecting the desired campus.

[Find out more](#)

Applying to UTS: A UAC Guide for Parents and Carers

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 17, 2026

Supporting your child through the UAC process and their transition to university can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be!

Applying to UTS: A UAC Guide for Parents and Carers will cover the basics of the UAC process, preference tips and tricks and how to support your child during offer rounds.

Join this online session designed specifically for parents and carers to gain the knowledge, confidence and practical advice needed to support your child through every step of the journey.

Hear directly from a current UTS student, a parent who is currently guiding their child through the journey to university, and our Admissions team.

[Find out more](#)

Macquarie Incubator & Young Wisdom Student Startup Bootcamp for Years 9-10

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 18, 2026

We're thrilled to invite a group of your students and an accompanying staff member to our multi award-winning incubator for a full-day of entrepreneurial skills and confidence-building alongside peers from a range of Sydney schools.

In thought-provoking discussions and workshops, students and educators will gain an understanding of the skills, people, and resources leveraged by innovators and entrepreneurs to effect positive, sustainable change in the world.

Participants will build entrepreneurial skills and self-efficacy through: empathising with one another, identifying problems worth solving, designing solutions worth testing, and persuasively pitching new ideas - all on the same day!

Please note: *Only teachers/school staff should register for this event (we don't need you to provide student details or have them register themselves)*

[Find out more](#)

Astronomy Open Night by Macquarie University

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 19, 2026

Sydney's most spectacular night of science and stargazing returns this September. Whether you're a lifelong astronomy enthusiast or simply curious about the universe, Astronomy Open Night offers an unforgettable evening for all ages.

Discover exciting new highlights, including The Big Cosmic Q&A, where you can put your questions to our experts, and So You Like Science – What Now?, a special session for students planning their next steps after high school. You can also explore our new experimental short film festival, Stories Across Worlds, featuring works from the Archival Futures Collective. Register ASAP as tickets sell out fast!

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Aviation Open Day 2026

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: UNSW Aviation Flying Operations Unit, Bankstown Airport

Date: September 19, 2026

Are you passionate about flying or curious about a career in aviation? Join UNSW for an unforgettable experience at their Aviation Open Day, held at the state-of-the-art Bankstown Airport flight training facility.

What to expect:

- Explore the fleet of Diamond DA-40 and Piper Seminole PA44 aircraft up close
- Experience cutting-edge flight simulators
- Chat with expert instructors and current students
- Tour the facilities and get a feel for life at UNSW Aviation
- Ask anything - UNSW is here to help you navigate your aviation journey

Whether you're dreaming of becoming a pilot or just want to learn more about aviation, this is your chance to get inspired and informed.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney Design School Open Day

Organisation: Sydney Design School

Location: Sydney Design School

Date: September 19, 2026

Step inside our world of design and get to know us. Explore our studios, check out amazing student work, meet the inspiring team, get creative making a mood board.

[Find out more](#)

Next Week's Events

UOW Spotlight on Journalism

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 21, 2026

Join us for an immersive 90-minute evening to consider your passion for storytelling. Find out how students who study at UOW become skilful, confident journalists ready to work across written, audio, and visual media.

Hear directly from current students and UOW academics, who will walk you through what a Journalism Major within the Bachelor of Communication and Media degree looks like and the career pathways available to you.

A tour through our newsroom, video production, and radio studios will also give you a direct insight into UOW's journalism major.

[Find out more](#)

UOW Spotlight on Music and Performance

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

Join us for an immersive 90-minute evening to consider your passion in theatre or music. Find out how students who study at UOW become skillful, confident and creative artists ready to work in the music and performing arts industries.

Hear directly from current students and UOW academics, who will walk you through what a Bachelor of Creative Arts degree looks like and the career pathways available to you.

Special snippets of performances by current students will also give you a direct insight to UOW's theatre and music programs.

[Find out more](#)

Discover Sport & Exercise at UTS

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: University of Technology Sydney, Moore Park Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

Join us for an exclusive evening at the UTS Moore Park campus and discover where a degree in sport and exercise can take you.

Hear from leading academics and current students, explore exciting study pathways and career opportunities, and experience the cutting-edge facilities shaping the next generation of sport professionals.

Whether you're interested in performance, health, or the science behind sport, this is your chance to see what's possible. Places are limited, so secure your spot early.

[Find out more](#)

Coding With Care: The Power of Compassion in the Classroom – Discover Lecture Series with Macquarie

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

When people think about programming, compassion is not one of the first words that comes to mind. Yet for Lecturer Charanya Ramakrishnan, it has become the most powerful tool in her teaching practices.

Charanya will share how she has integrated care and empathy into introductory computing units, a space often defined by logic and precision rather than human connection. By embedding a deeper level of care and empathy into her practice, Charanya creates classrooms where students feel supported, valued, and confident to take risks.

This talk will explore how small, intentional changes can significantly impact not only student success but also the establishment of a culture of trust and belonging within classrooms.

This event is part of Macquarie's [Discover Lecture Series](#), monthly talks suitable for ages 10 and up that offer inspiring insights and a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our future.

[Find out more](#)

Women in Defence Virtual Information Session

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Online

Date: September 22, 2026

Consider a career in the Navy, Army or Air Force and work alongside likeminded, supportive, proud serving men and women.

Tune in for a virtual info session to speak with current serving women in Defence to learn more.

Spaces are limited, so register ASAP!

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Careers 2040: STEM Careers Reimagined

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Date: September 23, 2026

From climate resilience and clean energy to AI, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing, tomorrow's challenges need people who can think across disciplines and create solutions in unexpected ways.

Join leading scientists, engineers and industry professionals as they share how curiosity, lifelong learning and a willingness to embrace new challenges have shaped their careers in unexpected ways.

Through an inspiring keynote, interactive panel discussion and networking session, you'll hear firsthand how postgraduate study can support career progression, professional growth and new opportunities.

Whether you're looking to broaden your expertise, explore emerging industries or rethink what's possible in your career, leave inspired by the opportunities shaping the future of STEM.

[Find out more](#)

Moving to Canberra and Living on Campus at ANU – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 23, 2026

Find out what it's really like to live on campus, meet new people and make Canberra your new home.

Hear from our team about residential life, making friends, finding your feet in a new city, getting around Canberra and making the most of everything campus has to offer — from study and support to social life and everything in between.

Whether you're moving from across the country or just a few hours away, you'll get practical tips on what to expect, what to bring and how to make the most of your first year away from home.

[Find out more](#)

Young Architects Workshop for Ages 12-16: With Special Guest Paul Berkemeier

Organisation: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Location: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Date: September 24, 2026

Students will learn the basic principles of architecture and then get a chance to build their own project, with all materials supplied. This is a free program proudly supported by NSW Government, Cleverpatch and EJE Architecture.

Unleash your creativity and design skills at this exciting workshop with special guest MRAG architect Paul Berkemeier and artist Jen Denzin.

This hands-on super-fun workshop allows students to harness their creativity and design potential with Artist Jen Denzin alongside a talented architect student from the University of Newcastle. This is a rare opportunity for young people to learn about the art of architecture and everything that goes into our homes, places and spaces.

This special workshop features MRAG architect Paul Berkemeier! Paul and his colleagues at Paul Berkemeier Architect Pty Ltd led the architectural team for the design and construction of

the Maitland Regional Art Gallery. They collaborated with architect and heritage specialist Barry McGregor as well as a team of engineering, services, quantity surveying consultants. Brisland Constructions were the head contractor. The project was completed in 2010.

[Find out more](#)

Future Events

WSU Free Online HSC Study Sessions for Year 12 Students

Organisation: Western Sydney University

Location: Online

Date: September 28 to October 7, 2026

From Monday 28th September to Wednesday 7th October 2026, Western Sydney University will be offering a range of online study sessions to assist Year 12 students in their preparations for the HSC.

These will be delivered by highly qualified senior teachers with 22 free sessions across 14 key HSC subject areas, with sessions that included content analysis, tips and strategies, and a detailed exploration of key syllabus and curriculum areas.

Students will have the opportunity to sit a practice exam and deconstruction, with feedback and advice from experts.

[Find out more](#)

UOW EmpowerHER STEM Summit Junior for Year 7-9 Students

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 29 to September 30, 2026

The University of Wollongong is thrilled to announce the return of the EmpowerHER STEM Summit in 2026. This hands-on, two-day event, taking place during the Spring school holidays, is designed for fierce female students in Years 7, 8 & 9.

Brace yourself for an exciting experience as we raise the STEM-bar for girls and ignite their passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM)!

Students will journey through UOW's vibrant Wollongong Campus and mind blowing Bluescope site to witness STEM in action. Accompanied by faculty, current students, and industry professionals, this event promises an enriching, yet collaborative experience.

[Find out more](#)

Quantum Tech Camp for Year 9-12 Students and Teachers

Organisation: Sydney Quantum Academy

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus OR Online

Date: September 29 to October 1, 2026

Now in its fifth year, Quantum Tech Camp is a free three-day program for students in Years 9-12 who want to explore one of the world's most exciting emerging technologies.

Through interactive activities, coding and problem-solving challenges, you'll learn the fundamentals of quantum computing and experiment with concepts such as superposition, entanglement and quantum randomness. No prior knowledge of quantum physics or coding is required.

Beginners will be supported through hands-on activities, while students with coding experience can explore more advanced programming challenges using Python.

You'll also meet Australian quantum researchers and mentors, connect with like-minded students from across Australia, and discover study and career pathways in quantum technology. In 2026 the Camp is free to attend, but spaces are limited.

SQA is committed to making this event accessible to everyone. If you require any accommodations, please let them know in advance by sending an email to:

info.sqa@sydney.edu.au.

[Find out more](#)

AIM Music Theatre Audition Workshop, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: Australian Institute of Music, Sydney Campus

Date: September 29 to September 30, 2026

If the stage is where you're headed, this is how you get there.

AIM's Sydney Music Theatre Audition Workshop is an immersive two-day experience for high school students who are serious about turning their passion into a career.

Working directly with the industry professionals who teach our Bachelor of Music Theatre, you'll build your skills, refine your repertoire, and walk away with the confidence and feedback you need to nail your audition.

[Find out more](#)

Discover Security: Cyber Security Experience Day for High school girls (Years 7- 8) in Sydney 2026

Organisation: Australian Women in Security Network

Location: Westpac Sydney

Date: September 29, 2026

Ever wondered who keeps the internet safe?

Who stops hackers in their tracks? Who protects your data? Who's behind the scenes keeping the digital world running?

IT COULD BE YOU!

Whether you are a total beginner or just curious about how the digital world really works, this is your chance to find out. Spend a day at Westpac Sydney, get hands-on with real cyber security challenges, and hear from the people actually doing this for a living. This experience day is designed to immerse high school girls in the world of cybersecurity through a mix of interactive workshops, hands-on activities, and career insights.

Focus on foundational cybersecurity concepts through engaging and interactive workshops.

The day will also feature talks from cybersecurity professionals, offering students insights into potential career paths and helping them make informed decisions about their futures in this dynamic field.

[Find out more](#)

You've Received an ANU Early Offer — What Happens Next? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 29, 2026

Congratulations! Your Early Offer is an exciting first step towards starting your university journey. Join our Future Students and Admissions team for a practical session covering everything you need to know about what happens next.

We'll walk you through accepting your offer, change of preference, key dates and important next steps, as well as answer some of the common questions students and parents have at this stage.

After the presentation, there'll be plenty of time to ask your questions and get advice directly from our team, so you can feel confident about what comes next.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Games and Animation Workshop Day for Year 10-12 Students, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: September 30, 2026

AIE's Games and Animation Workshop Days are a great opportunity for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to learn about the local and international game development, 3D animation and visual effects industries.

Students will get the opportunity to learn about the different pathways to get into the industry, what should be in a portfolio and will be able to get creative in practical workshops using industry-standard 3D animation and game development tools.

The sessions are run by industry professionals who have worked on blockbuster games and films. Everything is provided for you to participate in the hands-on workshops and you will be using the same software that is used in the industry.

If you are thinking about a career in the games or film industry then this is a great place to get started. Places are limited so registrations are required for this free event.

[Find out more](#)

ANSTO Stop Motion Animation Advanced Workshop for Ages 10-13

Organisation: Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre

Date: September 30, 2026

This workshop is designed for young animators who have already created their own stop motion movies, or who have previously attended one of our Stop Motion Animation Beginners workshops.

Participants will explore more advanced animation techniques using professional style stop motion software and learn how to create smoother, more polished films. Young filmmakers will develop complex scenes, experiment with special effects and movement techniques, and discover how sound can bring their stories to life.

Learn how to:

- Create more realistic and expressive character movements
- Use advanced stop motion software and tools
- Record and edit your own audio
- Add sound effects and music
- Animate characters speaking through lip-syncing techniques
- Plan and produce longer, more detailed animations

This workshop is perfect for creative young people who are ready to challenge themselves and develop the patience, storytelling and technical skills used by professional animators.

[Find out more](#)

CDW Studios Digital Art Holiday Workshop for Ages 14+ – Sydney & Online

Organisation: CDW Studios

Location: CDW Studios, Sydney Campus & Online

Date: October 1, 2026

Level up your drawing skills in a fun, interactive, full day workshop!

Participants will get an introductory insight to the industry whilst learning techniques that they can apply straight away! Perfect for beginners who wish to learn more as well as more experienced artists who want to push their work to the next level. This workshop is a fantastic

starting point for those who are curious about venturing into the competitive world of visual effects and entertainment design.

Take this rare opportunity to learn from professional artists in a fun, engaging environment.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Film Production Workshop for Ages 16+, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: October 2, 2026

Learn what it takes to plan and produce a film shoot in this intensive film production workshop. You will get hands-on with cameras, lighting, and the latest in virtual production LED screens. Industry-experienced filmmakers will guide you in taking your script through the various production stages.

In this workshop, we will fast-track the film production process by choosing one scene and taking it through the pipeline from idea to finished shots. As part of this process, participants will be leveraging virtual production sets! This is an exclusive opportunity to learn more about this revolutionary technology which is empowering filmmakers.

This workshop is suited to participants 16 years+ that are interested starting their career in film.

[Find out more](#)

Create for a Day at SAE Sydney

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2026

This October school holidays, SAE University College Sydney is opening its doors for Create for a Day: a one-day, hands-on experience where you'll step into the studio, lab or production space and start creating.

Choose from:

- Animation
- Audio
- Computer Science
- Design
- Film
- Games
- Songwriting & Electronic Music Production
- VFX

Create for a Day lets you skip the textbooks and jump straight into building, recording, designing, coding or filming, all guided by lecturers who work in the industry.

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with your own finished project and a certificate of participation, plus a clearer idea of what studying at SAE is really like and where your skills could take you in the future.

Open to students in Years 10-12 and young creatives up to age 21.

[Find out more](#)

Apply to ANU: UAC Now Open – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: October 6, 2026

Ready to apply to ANU? Join us for a quick, practical session on how to apply through the University Admissions Centre (UAC). We'll walk you through the process, key dates and what you need to know to get your application sorted.

Already completed your ANU Early Offer application? You're all set – there's no need to apply again.

[Find out more](#)

Young Architects Workshop for Ages 12-16: Build Your Own Coffee Shop!

Organisation: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Location: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Date: October 8, 2026

In this unique Young Architects Workshop, students age 12-16 will meet at MRAG and then head to the nearby NICHE Cafe where, in their upstairs workshop space, artist Jen Denzin and architecture student Camille Cherry will lead a workshop on designing a coffee shop!

This hands-on super-fun workshop allows students to harness their creativity and design potential. This is a rare opportunity for young people to learn about the art of architecture and everything that goes into our homes, places and spaces.

Students will learn the basic principles of architecture and then get a chance to build their cafe, with all materials supplied. During this special school holidays workshop, parents are welcome to stick around and enjoy a coffee at Niche as well. This is a free program proudly supported by NSW Government, Cleverpatch and EJE Architecture.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: October 12, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

CSU Deadly Pathways Festival for First Nations Students, Dubbo

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Dubbo Campus

Date: October 14, 2026

Deadly Pathways Festivals are back in 2026! Join us for a high-energy day full of activity, inspiration and celebration of First Nations success.

- Meet First Nations role models in science, technology and health.
- Engage in insightful workshops led by Charles Sturt academics, and dive into hands-on activities that will ignite your curiosity and passion for learning.
- Find out about support for entry and success as a future student at Charles Sturt.
- Enjoy featured entertainment by comedian Andy Saunders and talented musicians.

[Find out more](#)

JMC Academy Portfolio & Audition Masterclass, Sydney

Organisation: JMC Academy

Location: JMC Academy, Sydney Campus

Date: October 17, 2026

JMC is running a fun and interactive series of masterclasses for future creative students this October.

Ace that audition in Acting, Musical Theatre or Music Performance, or perfect that portfolio in Animation, Design, Game Design or Music Production.

Choose a stream that suits your creative aspiration.

These sessions are great for:

- Year 10-11 students wanting to make an early start on their journey into a creative course
- Year 12 students applying through UAC, VTAC or QTAC
- Year 10-12 high school students looking to experience JMC facilities

Masterclasses not only give you a chance to get practical advice, expert feedback and hands-on experience to help you prepare for auditions or develop your portfolio, but you'll also get to enjoy a fun and interactive experience with our creative courses.

[Find out more](#)

HSC Workshop: Visual Arts Induction, Marrickville

Organisation: Inner West Council Libraries

Location: Marrickville Library and Pavilion

Date: October 18, 2026

An essential presentation for students in Year 11 beginning the HSC Visual Arts Course in Term 4. Visual Arts teachers are also welcome!

This session unpacks the dual role students will play as both artist and critic, offering a clear understanding of what lies ahead - from developing the HSC Body of Work to preparing for the HSC Written Exam, with practical advice on how to navigate course content, Case Studies, time management in preparing for school-based assessments and external exams. This induction equips students with tools to start strong and stay on track throughout the HSC Visual Arts journey.

Visual Arts teachers are welcome to attend and bring a group of students or come along for their own professional development.

BYO pens, highlighters, clipboard, notebook and water bottle. A workbook will be provided.

[Find out more](#)

SCU Future Leaders Workshop, Coffs Harbour

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour Campus

Date: October 21, 2026

Join us for Future Leaders, a free full-day workshop facilitated by world record-breaking pilot and leadership development speaker, Lachie Smart. With engaging content, practical activities, and a supportive environment, the event aims to inspire students to unlock their potential, lead with confidence, and make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

This event is for Year 11 and 12 students; specifically student representatives, aspiring school leaders and anyone wanting to enhance their confidence and resilience in leadership.

- Explore our campus and experience our state-of-the-art campus facilities.
- Through interactive activities, develop strategic plans and acquire essential leadership skills.
- Meet current Southern Cross University students and network with us throughout the day.
- Enjoy a catered morning tea and lunch on us.

School staff can register online through the university's event page by filling out the registration form, indicating the number of students attending from your school and selecting the desired campus.

[Find out more](#)

Study project management at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 21, 2026

Project management is a versatile field. From delivering infrastructure to launching major events, project managers are the go-to people to get the job done.

Sydney's Bachelor of Project Management provides you with skills to excel in today's complex and uncertain environment. Join this webinar and hear about many reasons to study project management at Sydney.

[Find out more](#)

Beneath Our Feet: Understanding the Ground That Supports Our World – Discover Lecture Series with Macquarie

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: October 21, 2026

What's happening beneath the ground we walk on every day — and why does it matter?

In this talk, Dr Golnaz Alipour explores the world of the underground and explains how soils and rocks play a vital role in everything we build; from homes and bridges to tunnels and entire cities.

Using real world examples such as landslides and sinkholes, Golnaz will explain how engineers strengthen and stabilise the ground, and how new tools, including sensors, satellites and artificial intelligence, are changing the way we monitor and protect the places we build on. Major Australian projects will bring these ideas to life and highlight the often unseen work that keeps our built environment standing.

This event is part of Macquarie's [Discover Lecture Series](#), monthly talks suitable for ages 10 and up that offer inspiring insights and a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our future.

[Find out more](#)

Why study business with Sydney? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 28, 2026

Discover how our commerce degree prepares you for the future of work and a wide range of career opportunities. You will learn about the range of study areas (or majors) available – such as marketing, finance, or innovation and entrepreneurship - and the many ways in which you can combine your interests, with over 100 study areas to select from our shared pools of majors and minors.

Find out more about internships, industry-focused experiences, and global mobility opportunities on offer to our Bachelor of Commerce students.

[Find out more](#)

UTS Bachelor of Nursing Information Session

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 28, 2026

Join us online to find out what studying the UTS Bachelor of Nursing involves, and ask our academics your questions.

The UTS Bachelor of Nursing prepares you for the role of the Registered Nurse, combining theoretical and clinical subjects across three years full time, or six years part time. This session is your chance to hear how that works in practice, and what it takes to get in.

- How the course is structured, and what you'll study in each year
- Clinical placements, which begin in the first session of your first year and continue every session after that
- Simulation-based learning, and choosing a specialty elective in your final year — paediatrics, critical care, perioperative or mental health nursing
- Entry requirements, pathways and how to apply

[Find out more](#)

Yr 12 & Beyond with ADHD – Webinar for Year 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: October 29, 2026

Designed to help Year 12 students and parents navigate the transition to tertiary study or employment with practical ADHD management strategies. It offers actionable guidance on post-school options, strengths and interests, accommodations, and setting up tailored support systems.

[Find out more](#)

Griffith Employment + Career Expo 2026

Organisation: Griffith Business Chamber

Location: Griffith Regional Sports Centre

Date: October 30, 2026

Discover a range of career and education opportunities at the Griffith Business Chamber Careers and Employment Expo.

Want to explore a new industry, switch careers, or find a job?

Bring your resume, apply for jobs, get helpful tips from the experts and connect with local businesses and training providers!

There'll be a jobs board available on the day as well as short presentations about what local employers are looking for, further education opportunities, resume & interview tips, apprenticeship advice and more!

[Find out more](#)

Explore speech pathology at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 4, 2026

Curious about a career helping people communicate, connect, eat and swallow safely? Join our academic experts to explore the University of Sydney's Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology).

Learn about the degree structure, clinical placements, career opportunities, and what it's like to study Speech Pathology. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A session.

[Find out more](#)

Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10, 11, 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 5, 2026

A practical session focusing on why ADHD brains procrastinate and how students in Years 10–12 can overcome executive dysfunction. Attendees will learn evidence-based study tools, time-management hacks, and task-initiation techniques.

[Find out more](#)

CSU Making It In Media Workshop for Year 9-12 Students, Bathurst

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus

Date: November 6, 2026

Are you passionate about content creation, journalism, advertising or public relations?

If you're a student in Year 9, 10, 11 or 12, join us for our free Making it in Media workshop!

Ever wondered what it's really like to host a podcast, write newsworthy articles or work in TV? In this exciting full-day workshop, you'll dive deep into the dynamic worlds of design and content creation, journalism and strategic communication.

This interactive, hands-on experience invites you to collaborate with other students and explore the diverse majors on offer when you study with Charles Sturt.

What to expect:

- Hear from our course director, leading academics and alumni and get your questions answered.
- Step into our brand-new TV studio and creative hub.
- Get a taste of what it's really like to work in media.
- Take part in practical and fun workshop sessions.

[Find out more](#)

Beginner Shakuhachi Workshop for ages 16+

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Date: November 7, 2026

If you've always wanted to try the shakuhachi, now's your chance!

Shakuhachi Master Bronwyn Kirkpatrick will present this workshop and demonstration introducing shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese bamboo flute.

The demonstration/workshop is open to anyone 16 years of age and over and no prior musical experience is necessary.

It will interest students who feel drawn to Asian music and philosophies and people who want to find out more about the shakuhachi and its tradition. It may also be of particular interest to flute and recorder students who are exploring contemporary techniques on their instruments, as many of these techniques are similar to traditional shakuhachi techniques.

The demonstration will include the history of the shakuhachi and performances of different styles of music, from Zen Buddhist to contemporary. There will also be plenty of opportunity to try it out for yourselves! In the workshop, we will work on making sound and improving tone. We will learn to read basic Japanese notation and to play some simple Japanese folk songs.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: November 9, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

Life of an agricultural scientist – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 11, 2026

Explore a future in agricultural science at the University of Sydney. Hear from one of our agricultural scientists about their career and discover our Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Honours pathway, from agribusiness and policy to sustainability and food security.

[Find out more](#)

Preparing for ATAR release: pathways to Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 18, 2026

Waiting for your ATAR? Whether you're feeling confident, unsure, or somewhere in between, join us to explore the many ways you can study at the University of Sydney.

Learn about admission pathways, entry schemes, adjustment factors, and the study options available after ATAR release so you can make informed decisions about your next steps with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

Camden Careers and Jobs Expo

Organisation: Camden Council

Location: Camden Civic Centre

Date: November 19, 2026

This free event brings together job seekers, exhibitors, students, and industry leaders for a day packed with opportunities. Whether you're launching your career, switching industries, or looking to advance your skills, this is the event you don't want to miss!

- For Job Seekers: Discover a wide range of job opportunities, connect with employers, and explore career paths that could change your future.
- For Exhibitors: This is your chance to showcase your business, engage with potential candidates, and promote your training programs to an eager audience.
- For Students/Schools: Explore endless career pathways, network with employers, and find out about study and training options to kickstart your journey post school.

There is no cost to exhibit or for schools to bring students; however, registration is required.

[Find out more](#)

AIE November Open Day, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: November 21, 2026

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day.

AIE Open Day is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, staff and students. The day will cover everything you need to know about the:

- Careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- Studios and industries that we work with;
- Courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- The software, skills and knowledge we teach.

This event will also include presentations on entry requirements and how to apply. Find out how AIE can get you into a creative career.

[Find out more](#)

Discover nursing at the University of Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 25, 2026

Ready to make a real impact? Discover undergraduate nursing degrees at the University of Sydney and explore a career dedicated to improving lives.

Learn about hands-on clinical placements, study pathways, and opportunities to work across hospitals, community health, aged care and beyond. Join us to see how nursing at Sydney can help you build a rewarding future in healthcare.

[Find out more](#)

Year 11 & Beyond with ADHD – Starting Strong in the Senior Years

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 26, 2026

Focuses on setting senior students up for success as they enter their final school year and look ahead to future pathways. This webinar for parents, senior high school students and career practitioners covers strategies for managing workload stress, building independence, and planning post-school transitions.

[Find out more](#)

SAE Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: Online

Date: December 1, 2026

From software development and cyber security to cloud computing and AI, technology careers are evolving fast. At SAE's Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science, you'll explore our complete range of technology courses, including our new Information Technology qualifications launching in February 2027, alongside our established Computer Science and Cyber Security pathways.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Online Campus Day

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Online

Date: December 5, 2026

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day. AIE will be running this event for students interested in studying online. You will be able to meet our teachers, explore how classes will run, course options, career pathways and see our amazing student work.

We will be covering everything you need to know about the:

- careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- studios and industries that we work with;
- courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- the software, skills and knowledge we teach.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: December 7, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

Notre Dame Information Day for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Notre Dame Australia

Location: University of Notre Dame, Sydney Campus

Date: December 18, 2026

Come to Info Day to find out everything you need to know to start uni next year, receive personalised advice and explore your study options.

You'll also be able to tour our unique campus, check out our new student hub, attend information sessions and workshops to find out more about the degrees we have on offer, enjoy live entertainment, tasty treats and much, much more!

[Find out more](#)

UTAS Enrolment Support Session for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Tasmania

Location: University of Tasmania, Rozelle Campus

Date: December 18, 2026

After you have been [offered a place](#) to study with us, Enrolment Support Session is here to support your next step.

Get help choosing your course, finalising your enrolment, and understanding what uni life is all about. Our friendly staff will be available to answer questions and guide you through the process so you can start your journey with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

SAE Excellence in Technology Scholarship

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: Australia

Value: Half tuition fees

Close Date: January 8, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship

Organisation: Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

Location: Australia, New Zealand

Value: \$10,000

Open Date: August 3, 2026

Close Date: September 27, 2026

[Find out more](#)

AFTRS Relocation Scholarship

Organisation: Australian Film Television and Radio School

Location: Australia

Value: \$12,000 AUD

Open Date: June 29, 2026

Close Date: October 21, 2026

[Find out more](#)

UON John Sinclair Cormack Memorial Scholarship for Pianists or Violinists

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$15,000 AUD

Close Date: March 3, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Roberts Gray Lawyers Scholarship Program

Organisation: Roberts Gray Lawyers

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$5,000

Close Date: January 22, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Mayor of Lismore Scholarship at SCU

Organisation: Lismore Campus, Southern Cross University

Location: Lismore

Value: \$5,000 AUD

Close Date: February 14, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

MiNDFOOD Short Story Competition

Organisation: MiNDFOOD

Location: Australia, New Zealand

Value: \$1,000 AUD

Close Date: October 31, 2026

[Find out more](#)

2026 AO Schools Block Buster Tennis Challenge

Organisation: Australian Esports League

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Close Date: September 28, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Somerset National Poetry Prize

Organisation: Somerset Storyfest

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$300

Close Date: December 4, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Little Stories, Big Ideas for Years 7-12

Organisation: Express Media

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$250 + writing masterclass and more

Close Date: October 11, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Museum After Dark: Monstrous! Creative Arts Competition

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Australia

Value: Up to AU\$500

Close Date: September 20, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Experiences

Tennis Australia Event Volunteers

Organisation: Tennis Australia

Location: Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Perth, Sydney

Registrations close: October 4, 2026

[Find out more](#)

AFTRS Intro to VFX & 3D Animation Course for ages 16+

Organisation: Australian Film Television and Radio School

Location: Australia

[Find out more](#)

Debate Spring Holiday Camps for Years 4-12

Organisation: Speakers' Corner Australia

Location: New South Wales

Date: September 28, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Sydney City Farm Volunteer

Organisation: Sydney City Farm

Location: Sydney

[Find out more](#)

Weekly Posts

Jobs & Careers

What's the difference between Graphic Designers and Illustrators?

If you've ever seen a job ad for a Graphic Designer and one for an Illustrator and wondered what separates them, you're not alone. Both roles are creative, both produce visual work, and both often turn up in the same industries, from publishing to advertising to product design. But what each one is asked to do, and how much creative freedom they have while doing it, is quite different. Understanding that difference can make it easier to work out which path lines up with the kind of creating you enjoy.

What is graphic design?

Graphic design uses layout, typography, colour and imagery to solve a communication problem. That might mean designing a logo that represents a new business, laying out the pages of a magazine so they're easy to read, building a brand's visual identity across packaging and social media, or designing a website so visitors can find what they need without getting lost.

Most of this work starts with a brief from a client or employer. The brief sets out what the design needs to achieve, who it's for, and any rules it has to follow, such as an existing brand's colours or logo. A Graphic Designer's job is to take that brief and turn it into something that looks good and does its job, whether that's selling a product, explaining an idea, or guiding someone through information.

What is illustration?

Illustration is about creating original artwork, usually to tell a story, set a mood, or bring an idea to life visually. That could mean drawing the pictures inside a children's book, creating a character for an animated series, producing an image to sit alongside a magazine article, or designing artwork for a product like a t-shirt or a game.

Where a Graphic Designer often works with existing elements like photos, type and layout grids, an Illustrator is usually creating the central image itself, starting from a blank page. Illustrators tend to develop a personal style over time, a recognisable way of drawing or rendering that sets their work apart from anyone else's. Clients often choose an Illustrator specifically because they like that style, rather than asking them to follow someone else's.

What sets the two apart

There's plenty of common ground between the two roles, but a few clear differences show up once you look past the surface, from the kind of problem each one solves to how each workday unfolds.

What problem each one is solving

Graphic design is generally about communication, making sure a message reaches its audience clearly and fits the brand or context around it. Illustration is generally about creating an image that carries meaning, emotion or story on its own, even without any surrounding text, layout or branding to support it.

How much of the work is original artwork

A Graphic Designer might spend a project working with existing photography, stock images or simple shapes, arranging and combining them so the overall layout works. An Illustrator is usually producing every part of the artwork itself, piece by piece, using drawing and rendering skills built up over years of practice.

What a typical day looks like

A Graphic Designer typically spends time in design software, arranging layouts, adjusting typography and preparing files for print or digital use. Client or team meetings are common too, since most projects involve rounds of feedback before anything is finalised.

An Illustrator typically spends more time drawing, whether on paper or using a digital tablet, taking a piece from a rough sketch through to a finished image. Many Illustrators work independently or freelance, managing their own clients and deadlines rather than working inside a design team.

Where the two overlap

The line between the two roles isn't always sharp. Plenty of Graphic Designers illustrate as part of their work, adding hand-drawn elements to a poster or packaging design. Plenty of Illustrators use design principles like layout and colour theory to arrange their artwork for print or digital publishing. Some professionals move between both titles depending on the project, and several qualifications train people in both areas at once.

Study pathways

Both careers can lead to a formal qualification, but how structured that pathway is, and how much it matters next to a portfolio, differs between the two.

Graphic design is usually studied through a vocational qualification, such as a diploma at a technical college, which typically takes one to two years and focuses on practical, industry-ready skills. It can also be studied through a university degree in graphic design or visual communication, which usually takes around three years and covers design theory in more depth alongside practical work. Whichever path someone takes, a strong portfolio matters alongside the qualification, and in some studios or freelance settings, a strong enough portfolio can outweigh which pathway someone studied.

Illustration doesn't always follow one set path. Some Illustrators study a diploma or degree with a focus on illustration or visual arts, learning technique, style development and how to build a body of work. Others build their skills independently through practice, short courses and freelance projects, relying on a strong portfolio to open doors rather than a formal qualification. Employers and clients in illustration tend to weigh a portfolio even more heavily than they do for design roles.

At school, subjects like visual art, design and digital technologies build a useful foundation for either path.

Which one might suit you

A Graphic Designer role could be a good fit if you:

- Like solving problems within a clear brief
- Enjoy typography, layout & visual communication
- Are comfortable balancing creativity with brand guidelines
- Want work that spans branding, packaging, web & marketing

An Illustrator role could be a good fit if you:

- Enjoy creating original artwork from scratch
- Want to develop a personal, recognisable style
- Like telling stories through pictures rather than words
- Are drawn to book, editorial or character-based work

Plenty of creative people end up doing a bit of both over their career, picking up design skills to support their illustration work, or adding illustration to a design-focused role. The overlap between them means skills built in one tend to carry across if you decide to head toward the other.

If you're curious about other creative career paths, our [Jobs & Careers hub](#) has more guides like this one.

Skills for Work, Travel

The skills travel builds that show up at work and school

Travel puts you in situations you don't fully control: a schedule you didn't set, a plan that falls apart, a budget that has to stretch, decisions nobody else will make for you, and a place you've never been before. Each one builds something you'll use again, well beyond the trip itself. The clearest place to start is with the one thing almost every trip runs on: a timetable you don't get to set.

Time management and planning

On a school trip, that timetable isn't optional. The bus leaves at a set time whether you're ready or not, and if you're late to the meeting point, the whole group waits. On top of that you're managing your own bag, your own money, and your own ID, all while keeping pace with times you didn't choose.

An assignment due on a date you didn't set works the same way, and so does a shift that starts regardless of how your morning went. Working backwards from a fixed time is the same habit either way.

Problem-solving under pressure

Sticking to a tight schedule like that gets harder the moment something goes wrong, and on a trip, something usually does. A direction turns out wrong, a venue closes early, or a connection you were counting on doesn't show, and there's rarely a moment to weigh up every option properly. You work with what you know and adjust.

A group assignment falling apart close to a deadline works the same way. A shift that throws up a problem nobody saw coming does too. Travel just serves up more chances to practise it, since something unplanned is fairly likely on any longer trip.

Adaptability

One disruption is one thing. On a trip with no fixed itinerary, they don't stop coming: a bus that's stopped running, a booking that's fallen through, advice from someone you meet that sends you somewhere else entirely. Working around it happens more than once a day.

Subjects, teachers, and even the direction of a whole course of study can shift over a few years. A new manager, a new role, or a different process at a job can show up with just as little warning.

Managing money over time

Every adjustment on the road often comes with a cost. On a longer trip, like a gap year or an extended stretch of backpacking, that cost is money: a fixed amount that has to last until the end. Every choice becomes a trade-off: spend more here, and there's less for later. Small regular costs, a coffee, a snack, add up faster than the occasional big one, and that becomes obvious once there's a hard limit on what's left.

Saving from a part-time wage toward something specific asks for the same discipline. Sticking to an agreed budget for a school project or work event, without going back to ask for more halfway through, asks for the same thing.

Independence and decision-making

Deciding how to spend what's left is one of many calls you make without anyone else weighing in while travelling. Nobody's checking in when you're travelling without family, even when you're travelling with friends. Where to stay, how to get there, and what happens if the plan changes are all decisions nobody else is making for you.

Nobody tracks a study schedule day to day, and a task at work often gets handed over without anyone standing behind you the whole time. Both call on the same kind of self-reliance.

Approaching unfamiliar situations with confidence

Every trip eventually puts you somewhere completely unfamiliar, with systems and norms you don't already know: a transport network you've never used before, social customs that don't quite match your own, streets that look different simply because you don't know them yet. Doing this again and again, even on short trips, builds a habit of walking into the unknown without needing it mapped out first.

Starting a new job, joining a new team, or walking into a classroom for the first time all ask for the same thing: stepping into something you don't fully know yet and getting oriented anyway. Having done that already through travel means it tends to happen faster, even though the specific situation is different every time.

Building on what a trip gives you

You don't need to travel to build any of these skills. School and a part-time job can do it too, usually more slowly and one at a time. A trip tends to bundle several of them together, in situations where you don't have much choice but to develop them quickly.

Our [Travel section](#) has more on gap years, exchanges, and other options to consider.

Job Spotlights

How to become a Heritage Consultant

Heritage Consultants assess the cultural and historical significance of places, buildings, and landscapes, and advise on how those values should be considered when development or change is proposed. They sit at the point where history meets the planning system, translating what makes a place meaningful into practical guidance that architects, developers, and planners can act on.

If you're curious about history, enjoy research and writing, and want work that connects the past to decisions being made right now, this is a career with a clear sense of purpose.

What skills do I need as a Heritage Consultant?

- Research & analytical thinking
- Clear & precise writer
- Attention to detail
- Knowledge of planning systems
- Curious & historically minded
- Confident communicator
- Collaborative approach
- Objective & evidence-based

What do Heritage Consultants do?

Before you can advise on anything, you need to understand what you're dealing with. A significant part of your work involves researching the history and cultural context of a place, drawing on archival records, historical maps, photographs, and other sources to build a picture of its significance. This research forms the foundation of everything that follows, and doing it thoroughly is what gives your advice credibility when it's tested against competing development interests.

Day to day, you'll prepare heritage impact statements and reports that assess how a proposed development or change would affect a place's heritage values. These documents need to be

clear, well-evidenced, and defensible, because they're often submitted as part of a formal planning process and may be scrutinised by councils, heritage authorities, or planning tribunals. You'll also liaise regularly with planners, architects, developers, and government agencies, explaining your findings and helping project teams understand what heritage considerations mean for their work in practical terms.

Periodically you'll work on more complex projects involving significant heritage places, contested assessments, or the adaptive reuse of historic buildings where heritage values and contemporary needs need to be carefully balanced. Some Heritage Consultants develop areas of specialisation in particular periods, building types, or cultural contexts. Others focus on specific aspects of the work such as conservation advice, indigenous heritage, or landscape significance.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Heritage Consultants work for specialist heritage consultancies, architecture and planning firms, local and state government agencies, and statutory heritage bodies. Some work independently, building a practice around assessment and advisory work across a range of clients. The role exists wherever planning and development intersect with places of historical or cultural significance, which means opportunities across urban, regional, and rural settings.

Work is primarily office-based, with site visits to inspect and document places as part of the assessment process. The balance between desk work and fieldwork varies depending on the project mix, but report writing and research are central to the role regardless of the setting. Hours are generally average, and the role offers a reasonable degree of flexibility, particularly in consultancy environments where work is project-based.

Salaries are average, reflecting the scale of the field and the research-focused nature of much of the work. This is a small field with a defined scope, so opportunities are more limited than in broader planning or architecture professions. Demand is steady rather than rapidly growing, tied to the volume of development activity and the regulatory requirements that trigger heritage assessment. For those with genuine interest in the subject matter, the work offers consistent engagement with meaningful and often irreplaceable places.

How to become a Heritage Consultant

- **Study a relevant foundation discipline:** Entry into heritage consulting comes through a range of backgrounds including heritage studies, history, architecture, and archaeology. Each brings something different to the work, and all are recognised starting points. A degree in any of these areas gives you the research skills, contextual knowledge, and analytical foundation the role requires.
- **Build experience in heritage or planning settings:** Look for graduate roles or work experience with heritage consultancies, local councils, or state heritage agencies. Early exposure to real assessment work, even in a supporting role, builds the practical skills and professional judgment that study alone can't provide.
- **Develop your knowledge of the planning and regulatory framework:** Heritage consulting operates within a specific legal and policy context. Understanding how heritage legislation, planning schemes, and assessment processes work is essential to producing advice that holds up in a formal planning environment. This knowledge develops on the job but is worth pursuing actively from early in your career.
- **Build your writing and research skills:** The quality of your written reports is central to your professional reputation in this field. Seek out opportunities to write clearly and rigorously, whether through academic work, research projects, or early professional roles. Strong writers who can make complex assessments accessible to non-specialists are consistently valued.

From here, you could move into senior consulting roles managing complex or high-profile heritage assessments, take on project leadership within larger consultancies or government agencies, develop expertise in policy and standards, or build an independent practice around a particular area of specialisation.

What can I do right now?

If you're in high school and interested in working as a Heritage Consultant, here are some practical steps:

- Visit heritage-listed buildings, historic precincts, and local museums to start developing an eye for what makes places historically and culturally significant, and practise articulating what you notice
- Look for work experience with local council planning or heritage teams, or with historical societies and heritage organisations, to get a sense of how heritage values are assessed and protected in practice
- Focus on building strong skills in research, writing, and history, as these are the core tools of heritage consulting work at every level of the profession

Find out more about alternative careers on [our Job Spotlights page](#).

People with Disability, Study Tips

How to get reasonable exam adjustments at school and university

Exams and assessments are usually built around one standard way of working: sit down, read the questions, and answer within a set time. For some students, a disability or learning difficulty makes that standard format harder to work with, whether it affects concentration, processing speed, reading, writing, or physical access to the exam room. Reasonable adjustment is the term used across schools and universities for changes made to remove that barrier, without changing what's being assessed.

What counts as a reasonable adjustment

A reasonable adjustment is a change to teaching, learning, or assessment that lets a student with disability or a learning difficulty take part on the same basis as everyone else. Schools and universities are required to provide them under national disability discrimination law, including the [Disability Standards for Education](#), which applies to every education provider in the country. The purpose is to remove a barrier related to the disability, not to change what's being tested. Reasonable adjustments are usually set up in advance, based on an ongoing need, and stay in place across a term, semester, or course. That's different to special consideration, which covers a one-off request made after something unexpected, like an illness or a family emergency, affects a specific assessment. If that's closer to your situation, our guide to [applying for special consideration](#) covers that process instead.

How it works at school

At school, the first step is usually a conversation with a classroom teacher, learning support coordinator, or year level coordinator. Schools are required to look at each student's individual needs and work out which adjustments would help them access the curriculum and show what they know, using evidence such as an educational assessment, a diagnosis, or documented observations from teachers over time.

Common adjustments at school level include:

- Extra time to complete an exam or assessment task
- A separate, quieter room to reduce distractions
- Use of a computer, word processor, or speech to text software

- A reader to read questions aloud, or a scribe to write down answers
- Modified exam papers, such as larger text or simplified wording
- Rest breaks during longer assessments

Raising this early, ideally at the start of a school year or term, gives schools time to put adjustments in place, particularly ahead of major exams.

How it works at university

University adds an extra step. Rather than a teacher arranging things directly, students usually need to register with the university's disability or equity support service themselves, often before their course starts or early in first semester. A staff member in that service, sometimes called a disability advisor or disability practitioner, helps the student set up what's usually called a [learning access plan](#), setting out the adjustments that apply to their study.

From there, it's the student's responsibility to share that plan with each lecturer or unit coordinator, usually at the start of every semester or whenever they start a new subject. One arrangement at school often covers every class a student takes. At university, it has to be actioned subject by subject, and the plan can be reviewed and updated as those subjects change, since a prac-based unit might need different adjustments to one assessed purely by exam.

Any information a student shares about their disability is treated as confidential, and support services generally can't pass it on to lecturers or other students without the student's consent.

If you don't have formal documentation

Formal adjustments usually rely on some form of documentation, but that's not the only way to get support. Speaking up clearly about what's making an assessment harder, sometimes called self-advocacy, can lead to informal adjustments from a teacher or lecturer without needing to disclose a diagnosis at all. This might look like asking for feedback on a draft before it's submitted, checking you've understood a task correctly, or requesting a quieter spot to sit an in-class test.

Raising it early and being specific about what would help makes it easier for a teacher or lecturer to say yes. It also doesn't rule out applying for formal adjustments later, if that becomes the right option.

Preparing for exam day

Whatever adjustments are in place, general exam preparation still matters. Getting familiar with the format in advance and practising under similar time pressure both help. A calm, distraction-free study space also makes a real difference, and our guide on [building a study environment that actually helps you focus](#) covers how to set one up. Tools like flashcards or a simple summary sheet can make information easier to recall under pressure, and reading through the whole paper before you start writing helps you plan your time instead of running out of it on the first section. For a full breakdown of how to prepare in the weeks and days before a big exam, see our guide on [what to do in the last few weeks before a big exam](#).

Support is there to be used

Reasonable adjustments exist because a standard exam format doesn't suit every student, and schools and universities are required to provide them where they're needed. The process looks different at each stage, more arranged for you at school, more self-directed at university, but the same principle carries through: the adjustment removes a barrier, it doesn't change what's being assessed.

Note: information is accurate as of September 2026, but schools, universities, and government departments regularly update these processes, so check directly with your institution for the specifics.

If you'd like to read more on this topic, our [resources for students with disability](#) cover a wider range of support options. We also have [heaps more study tips](#) and [resources for students with disability](#) on our website.

Jobs & Careers

Could you design the ships of the future?

Think about the biggest ferry, cruise ship or navy vessel you've ever seen. Someone had to design it before a single piece of metal was cut. That someone was probably a naval architect. It's not a job many people talk about at school, but it impacts everything from surf lifesaving boats to submarines.

If you like maths, love the ocean, and enjoy solving tricky problems, this could be a career worth looking into. Let's dive into some what naval architecture is all about and how you could become a professional in this industry.

What does a naval architect do?

A [naval architect](#) designs and builds ships, boats and other structures that float. That includes cargo ships, ferries, super yachts, navy vessels, and even oil rigs out at sea. They work out how a vessel will handle rough water, how much weight it can carry, and how to keep it stable when it's fully loaded. Every ship needs to be strong enough to survive the sea, but light enough to move through it efficiently. Balancing those two things is most of the job.

[Naval architects](#) don't work alone. They team up with marine engineers, who focus on the engines and machinery, and with shipbuilders, who turn the drawings into something real. A lot of the design work now happens on computers, using software that can test how a hull will behave in a storm before it's ever built.

Pathways into the field

In Australia and New Zealand, naval architecture is usually studied through an engineering degree, and there are a few different routes in.

Some universities offer naval architecture as a specialist stream within a broader engineering degree. At UNSW Canberra, for example, students doing a [Bachelor of Naval Architecture Engineering \(Honours\)](#) spend their first two years studying mechanical engineering before moving into a specialised naval architecture stream for their third and fourth years. Other students like those at Flinders University complete the first two years there before transferring to the [Australian Maritime College](#) to finish the [Bachelor of Engineering \(Naval Architecture\) \(Honours\)](#) head to Tasmania, for their dedicated naval architecture and maritime engineering units/degrees. Alternatively, you could complete a related degree and choose a postgraduate qualification like the [Submarine Naval Architecture Maritime Engineering course offered at Adelaide University](#).

New Zealand doesn't have as many courses with "naval architecture" in the title, but there's still a clear path. [Auckland University of Technology runs a maritime engineering major](#) where students study for two years in Auckland, then transfer to the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania to specialise in naval architecture or ocean engineering. Students at the [University of Auckland](#) can also build a strong base through mechanical engineering, then branch into marine-related projects and research later on. There's also the possibility of studying overseas depending in the courses, costs, and other requirements.

None of these pathways are quick. Most naval architecture degrees take four years, and after that, graduates typically build up more hands-on experience before they're considered fully qualified. It's a long road, but it leads somewhere quite specific and quite rare.

Naval architect or marine engineer?

You'll often hear naval architecture mentioned alongside marine engineering and ship building, and it's easy to mix them up. The simplest way to tell them apart is to think about what each person is focused on. A naval architect designs the vessel itself: its shape, structure, stability, and how it will handle the water. A marine engineer, on the other hand, looks after what makes the vessel move and function, including the engines, propulsion systems, electrics, and other onboard machinery.

In practice, marine engineering and naval architecture roles can overlap a lot, and many degrees, including some in Australia and New Zealand, teach both areas before students specialise. If you love the maths of hull shapes and stability, naval architecture may suit you best. If you're drawn to engines, systems, and how things are powered, marine engineering could be the better fit. Either way, the school subjects and early pathways are very similar, so you don't need to choose too early.

A shipbuilder is the person (or company) that actually constructs the vessel from the designs from the naval architect. This covers the physical work of shaping and welding steel, assembling hull sections, fitting out the interior, and installing engines and equipment on the shipyard floor. Shipbuilding is a hands-on trade, and it involves large teams of tradespeople such as welders, fitters and riggers, usually working under a shipyard's project managers and engineers. Again, ship builders often work closely with naval architects throughout a project, since a design has to be practical to build, and builders often flag issues that feed back into the design.

Skills you'll need

Maths and physics are foundational to naval architecture, so a solid handle on both will take you a long way. You'll need to be comfortable with numbers, but also with visualising how things move and behave, since so much of the job involves predicting how a ship will act in water long before it's built.

Problem-solving is just as important as having raw number skills. Ships have to work in tough and unpredictable conditions, so architects need to think through what could go wrong and design around it. Attention to detail is essential too, a small mistake in a calculation could turn into an expensive, or even dangerous, mistake at sea.

It also helps to be a good communicator. Naval architects work closely with engineers, shipbuilders and clients, and a design is only going to become a reality if you can explain it clearly to the people who'll be building, buying, and using it.

Subjects and experience that can help

As we mentioned before, maths and physics are the two subjects most likely to open doors here, so keep them up in school if you're considering this path. Design and technology subjects are useful too, particularly anything involving computer-aided design, since that's a tool you'll use constantly at university and beyond.

Work experience doesn't need to be inside a shipyard to be worthwhile. Time spent with a local boat builder, marine surveyor, or engineering firm can show you what the day-to-day work is really like, and it looks strong on any university application. Joining a sailing club, helping maintain boats, or even building small model boats at home all show genuine interest and initiative, which admissions teams notice. Plus it will give you invaluable real-world knowledge about how boats are built and function. If you can find work experience connected to engineering more broadly, that's still a great foundation, since the first year or two of most naval architecture pathways overlaps heavily with general engineering study.

Ready to chart your course?

Naval architecture is a specialised field, but it rewards curious, maths-minded students who want a career with purpose. If you're weighing up whether this pathway is right for you, it's worth

exploring the different study routes available and how they connect to your interests. Remember, if you [study engineering](#) more broadly to start off with, you'll have more options and back up plans if you change your mind down the track. Take a look at our [Job Spotlights](#) to see learn about other careers on the water (or on land) and their pathways that might interest you.

First Jobs

What you're entitled to when you leave a job

Every job ends differently. You might resign and move on to something else, your employer might decide your role isn't continuing, or a casual role might simply stop being rostered without either side making it official. Which of these applies to you determines what you need to do first, starting with notice.

Giving notice when you're resigning

If you're in a permanent role and decide to resign, the notice you need to give comes from whichever document sets out your pay and conditions, your award, enterprise agreement, or employment contract. If none of these mention notice, you're not legally required to give any, though it's considered good practice to give some so your employer has time to adjust. You can give notice verbally, but it's worth putting it in writing too, including the date you intend to work until. This gives both you and your employer a clear record of when your employment ends.

If your employer ends your employment

If your employer is the one ending things, they generally need to give you [notice based on how long you've worked there](#):

- Less than 1 year: 1 week
- 1 to 3 years: 2 weeks
- 3 to 5 years: 3 weeks
- More than 5 years: 4 weeks

You could also be entitled to an extra week if you're over 45 and have worked there for at least two years. If your employer doesn't want you to work out this notice period, they can pay you instead of having you come in. This is known as payment in lieu of notice.

There are exceptions. Your employer doesn't need to give any notice if you're dismissed for serious misconduct. If your role is being made redundant because the business no longer needs it done, you may be entitled to separate [redundancy pay](#) on top of your notice. This doesn't apply to everyone. Casual employees, staff who've worked there for less than 12 months, and staff at small businesses with [fewer than 15 employees](#) generally aren't entitled to redundancy pay, even if the redundancy meets all the legal requirements.

Casual work and notice

A casual role doesn't come with the same notice requirements as a permanent one. Since there's no ongoing guarantee of shifts on either side, [a casual role can end](#) because you stop being available or because you're no longer being rostered on, without a formal resignation or dismissal taking place. Neither side is usually required to give notice in this situation, though it's still worth letting your employer know your last day, or checking in if you're unsure whether you're still expected on the roster.

We've covered how casual work differs from part-time and full-time roles, including what that means for entitlements, in [our article on the difference between casual, part-time, and full-time work](#).

Your last day

On your last day, you should be paid for every hour you've worked, including any penalty rates (extra pay for things like weekend or public holiday shifts) or allowances owed. You may be asked to return anything belonging to the workplace, like uniforms or equipment, and some employers use the opportunity to ask for feedback on your way out. You'll usually get a final payslip covering the period between your last regular pay and your final day.

What your final pay includes

Your final pay is the last payment you receive after your employment ends. Along with pay for hours worked, [it should include](#):

- Any unused annual leave you've built up, plus leave loading if your job includes it, an extra percentage some workers are paid on top of their normal rate while on leave
- Payment in lieu of notice, if your employer chose not to have you work out your notice period
- Redundancy pay, if your role was made redundant & you meet the requirements
- Accrued long service leave, extra paid leave you may be entitled to after many years with the same employer

Not every item applies to every situation. A casual role ending, for example, usually won't involve any of these, since [casual employees don't build up annual leave](#) in the same way.

What doesn't get paid out

[Unused sick and carer's leave isn't paid out](#) when your employment ends, no matter how much you've built up. This is different to annual leave, which does get paid out. It's worth understanding the difference well before you leave a job, since it's an easy detail to miss if you've been saving personal leave rather than using it. We've covered this in more detail in [our article on sick leave vs personal leave](#).

When you should get paid

Most employers need to pay your final pay [within seven days of your last day](#), though the exact timing can depend on your award or employment contract. Superannuation, the retirement savings your employer contributes on your behalf, is a separate process. Since 1 July 2026, employers have needed to [pay super at the same time as wages](#) rather than once every three months, and it needs to reach your super fund within seven business days of payday. This applies to your final pay too.

What to do if something doesn't add up

If your final pay looks off, start by checking it against your payslips and the hours you've actually worked. It's reasonable to ask your employer or payroll to explain how it was worked out. If you've asked and things still don't line up, the Fair Work Ombudsman has free tools and guidance that can help you work out what you're owed.

Note: information is accurate as of September 2026, but workplace rules around pay and leave are reviewed regularly, so it's worth checking the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) directly if you want the specifics that apply to your situation.

If you're new to working life and want to build a broader understanding of how jobs work, you can find more in our [Jobs & Careers section](#).

Competitions, Fees & Scholarships

Understanding different scholarship types

Most students apply to a handful of scholarships and never find out why they missed out, or realise they were never really in the running for that one to begin with. Knowing what a scholarship is checking for before you apply changes that.

Why scholarships are worth applying for

- Help cover education costs, including course fees, textbooks & everyday living expenses
- Strengthen a resume or university application
- Open doors to networks, mentoring & other opportunities beyond the funding itself
- Don't need to be paid back, unlike a student loan

What's the difference between a scholarship, bursary, grant, and prize?

These words get used almost interchangeably, but they're not quite the same thing. The University of Melbourne distinguishes scholarships (awarded based on merit or personal circumstances), prizes (awarded for a specific current achievement), bursaries (awarded for financial need), and grants (put toward education costs more broadly). The University of Sydney adds that bursaries specifically cover essential living and study costs, not things like tuition or travel.

In practice, the lines blur constantly. Some universities use "bursary" and "scholarship" as different words for the same thing, and a "prize" for a single outstanding piece of work can function exactly like a one-off scholarship.

Merit scholarships

Merit scholarships are awarded for what you've achieved. They can be based on:

- Academic achievement, usually strong results in senior secondary studies or in a university course already underway
- Sporting excellence, shown through competition results, representative honours, or a clear elite pathway
- Creative or artistic talent, demonstrated through a portfolio, audition, or recorded performance
- Leadership, built through student leadership, captaincy, or a track record of organising others toward a shared goal
- Community involvement, particularly sustained volunteering over time, more than a single one-off event

Most merit scholarships are offered directly by individual universities. There's no single centralised application, so eligibility and what counts as evidence changes from one institution to the next.

Equity scholarships

Equity scholarships work differently, responding to financial hardship or educational disadvantage instead of achievement. This can include:

- Financial hardship, often connected to a Centrelink payment like Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY
- First Nations students
- Students with disability
- Students from regional or remote areas
- Students who are the first in their family to attend university

You'll usually still need to meet the course's entry requirements, but your academic performance beyond that isn't the deciding factor. For more detail on two of these groups specifically, we've got separate guides on [scholarships for regional and rural students](#) and [scholarships for students with disabilities](#).

Subject-specific and industry scholarships

A third category doesn't sit neatly under either of the above, since it's built around funding source and field of study rather than achievement or circumstance. These come from employers, industry bodies, or professional associations wanting to attract people into a specific field, engineering, nursing, or teaching, for example.

They tend to split into two different arrangements. Some are tied to future employment: the sponsor covers your study costs, and in return you commit to working for them, or in that industry, for a set period after you finish. Others carry no such obligation, offered by a professional association or foundation simply to support people studying in that field. Eligibility and structure vary widely by industry and sponsor, so this deserves its own read instead of a full summary here. Our guide on [industry-specific scholarships](#) goes into more detail.

One-off vs ongoing scholarships

Scholarships also differ in how long they last. Some pay out once, covering a single year, semester, or specific cost, and finish there. Others are ongoing, continuing for the length of a degree provided certain conditions keep being met, most often maintaining a minimum level of academic performance, staying enrolled full-time, or continuing to meet the circumstances the scholarship was originally awarded for. The University of Melbourne structures its coursework scholarships this way too, either as a one-off payment or a series of regular payments spread across the course.

This matters when comparing offers. Because ongoing scholarships pay out repeatedly, their total value across a degree depends on how long they run, not just the amount advertised up front, and losing eligibility partway through can mean losing the funding too. Whether an offer is one-off or ongoing, and what's required to keep it, is worth checking before accepting, not after.

Working out which category fits you

A single scholarship can sit in more than one category at once. An equity scholarship might still expect solid entry requirements, and a merit scholarship might specifically target students heading into a particular field. The title alone won't tell you this, so reading the full criteria is what shows what a scholarship is looking for, and whether it fits your situation.

Our [scholarships hub](#) has more on how to apply, current opportunities in our database, and support for specific circumstances.

University, Vocational Education

How credit transfer works for TAFE and university study

A lot of students take a mixed route into and through university: TAFE first, then a degree, or one course that turns into a different one, or a move from one university to another partway through. None of that has to mean starting from scratch. There's a formal process that lets study from one step count toward the next, called credit transfer.

What is credit transfer?

Credit transfer is the formal recognition of study you've already completed, applied toward a new course. If a subject or unit you've finished lines up closely enough with something taught in your new course, you may not have to study it again.

Universities and TAFE providers don't hand this out automatically. Someone has to check your previous results against the new course and work out how closely the content lines up before any recognition is approved.

From TAFE into a university degree

TAFE study and university study aren't always treated as separate tracks. Many universities have set agreements with TAFE providers, often called articulation agreements, that map a specific TAFE qualification onto a set amount of credit in a related degree. A Diploma completed at TAFE could, in some cases, line up with close to a full year of a related Bachelor degree under one of these agreements, though the exact amount varies by course and provider. Even where there's no formal agreement in place, you can usually still apply for credit transfer directly. You submit your TAFE transcript, and the university assesses your units against their course content. This is one of the reasons a TAFE pathway can still lead somewhere further, rather than being a separate option to university altogether.

A worked example

Consider how this might play out for one student. They spend two years completing a Diploma in Business at TAFE, then apply for a Bachelor of Business at university. Under an articulation agreement between the two providers, the Diploma is recognised as equivalent to first year, so the student enters directly into second year and finishes the Bachelor in around two more years. That's four years of combined study rather than five. The specifics depend entirely on the agreement in place and how closely the two courses match.

Between two degrees, or two universities

You don't need TAFE study behind you for credit transfer to apply. Starting a degree, then switching into a different course, or moving to a different university partway through, doesn't necessarily mean losing the subjects you've already completed. Each one is checked individually against what's taught in the new course, based on content and learning outcomes rather than the subject's name or code.

This matters most for students whose interests shift once they're actually studying something, or who need to move for personal reasons partway through a degree.

Where credit transfer has limits

Credit transfer isn't unlimited, and there are three main boundaries worth understanding early. First, most providers cap how much credit you can receive based on the total length of the course, so a shorter course might allow recognition for around half its units, while a longer degree might only allow it for part of the first year or two.

Second, being granted credit isn't the same as being accepted into a course. These are assessed separately, so meeting one doesn't automatically mean you've met the other.

Third, recognition is assessed unit by unit, not as a full qualification. Some subjects in your new course might not have a match in your previous study, meaning you'd still need to complete them regardless of how much other credit you're given.

What it changes about your course length and workload

The clearest effect of credit transfer is on two things: how long your course takes, and how much you're studying at any one time. Enough recognised study can mean skipping whole semesters, letting you start partway through a degree and finish sooner than someone starting from the beginning. In other cases, the course length stays the same, but recognition reduces how many subjects you're juggling in the semesters it applies to.

Which of these happens depends on how the course is structured. Some degrees only let recognition reduce elective subjects, meaning your overall timeline doesn't shift even though your weekly workload does. Others allow it against core, discipline-specific subjects, which is far more likely to shorten the course itself. Asking a university directly how this would apply to your situation is the only reliable way to know which one you're dealing with.

Why it matters before you've left school

The subjects and study pathways you're choosing now can affect how much flexibility you have later. If you're deciding between VET in Schools, a TAFE-based pathway, or heading straight into university, these routes are more connected than they might appear as separate options on a subject selection form. Choosing vocational study now doesn't rule out university later, and picking a degree doesn't lock you into finishing that exact course if your interests change. Credit transfer is what makes that flexibility possible in practice. Without it, switching direction partway through would generally mean starting the new course from the beginning.

Checking if credit transfer applies to you

Most universities have an online credit assessor or a searchable credit transfer database, so you can check what your previous study might be worth before you formally apply. You'll typically need your transcript, or your Unique Student Identifier, known as a USI, along with outlines of the specific units or subjects you've completed, so the university can compare the actual content. A university's admissions team or student advisor can also explain what's likely to count in your case, since this can vary depending on the course and how long ago you completed your previous study.

If you want to learn more about the different pathways into and through university, check out our [university](#) section.

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