

# Weekly Careers News

Monday 22 July, 2024

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## What's On

### Upcoming Events

#### Inside the Bachelor of Criminology & Policing Degree – VicPol & Monash Uni

July 24, 2024

Victoria Police are hosting an online information session for current or future Monash students who are interested in finding out more information about the Bachelor of Criminology & Policing Degree and a career with Victoria Police.

Learn about:

- Victoria Police career opportunities & the Police Officer role
- The recruitment process to join Victoria Police during your 2nd year
- Bachelor of Criminology & Policing Degree course outline
- Training at the Victoria Police Academy
- Hear from Constable Jonathan Bingley (current 3rd year student)

[Find out more](#)

#### University of Sydney | Pathways, entry schemes and scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

July 24, 2024

Want to know more about our Gadigal and our Extended Bachelor pathways, scholarships and student support available for First Nations students? Join our webinar to learn more about the application and admission process and to get advice from our team.

[Find out more](#)

#### UniMelb | Meet Melbourne Traralgon

July 25, 2024

Our Future Students team are visiting Traralgon to meet with prospective undergraduate students like you to discuss your study options and the exciting campus life that awaits you at Melbourne.

Join us to learn more about:

- How our Melbourne curriculum supports you to explore your passions, follow your curiosity and find your path through our wide range of majors and breadth subjects
- Our special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) Access Melbourne which takes into consideration your personal circumstances in your application – you may even be eligible for guaranteed entry
- The [Narrm Scholarship Program](#) which provides financial, academic and wellbeing support to eligible undergraduate students who apply through our Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS), Access Melbourne. For Narrm Scholars who come from a regional or remote area, there are also relocation allowances to help reduce moving or transport costs
- Our University Accommodation options and student life initiatives to support you in making Melbourne your new home and feeling welcomed by our community

- How you can take advantage of opportunities in and out of the classroom, such as concurrent diplomas, work-integrated learning and internships, exchange programs, and peer mentoring.

You'll also have the chance to speak to us one-on-one and ask us any questions you may have. Don't miss this opportunity to uncover your Melbourne future. We look forward to meeting you in Traralgon.

[Find out more](#)

## **University of Sydney | Accommodation Exploration Webinar**

July 25, 2024

Are you considering moving to Sydney, or staying in accommodation on campus when you study with us? Join us at our upcoming webinar to learn about the accommodation options for domestic students on and around campus. In this webinar, we will cover accommodation options from university-owned residences, colleges, to private providers, and explore private options outside the University. Discover features and facilities, costs, and scholarships, how and when to apply, plus all the fun stuff you can expect living on and around campus.

[Find out more](#)

## **Swinburne | Open Day 2024**

July 28, 2024

Open Day is your chance to see what's possible at Swinburne and find where you fit in. Hear success stories from real Swinburne students. Discover a range of courses that combine your passion with a purpose. Learn about the research and tech that are changing the world – and meet the people behind it all. Expand your knowledge, and your horizons.

[Find out more](#)

## **WSU | Discover Western Webinar – Scholarships**

July 30, 2024

Our Scholarships webinar will take you through our range of scholarships on offer, how to apply and what to include in your Personal Statement.

[Find out more](#)

## **University of Sydney | Differences between Software Engineering and Computer Science**

July 31, 2024

Calling those who are interested in technology! Our upcoming webinar will explore the mysteries of Software Engineering versus Computer Science. Learn about the distinct focuses, job prospects, and real-world applications in this informative 1-hour session. Get ready to ignite your passion for the digital age!

[Find out more](#)

## Monash | Information Evening – Geelong

August 1, 2024

We know that choosing a university is a big decision, especially if you don't live in Melbourne. Monash Information Evenings are the perfect opportunity to have your questions answered on everything you wanted to know about undergraduate study at Monash.

You'll hear about:

- our 10 diverse study and discipline areas
- undergraduate course types, such as our comprehensive and specialist courses, double degrees and pathway programs
- international opportunities including study abroad and overseas tours
- how to apply – everything need to know about VTAC, key dates and deadlines
- scholarships and fees
- Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) and the Monash Guarantee
- accommodation options, both on and off campus.

[Find out more](#)

## Important Future Events

### Monash | Open Days 2024

**Caulfield:** August 3, 2024

**Peninsula:** August 3, 2024

**Clayton:** August 4, 2024

**Parkville:** August 18, 2024

Get ready to discover more at Monash Open Day! This is your chance to learn more about your future at Monash. With more activities repeated throughout the day, you can explore Open Day at your own pace and access key information at any time. You may even discover things you hadn't previously considered. Visit a study area zone to hear from the course experts, tour facilities, chat with students, and take part in interactive and fun activities. Plus, get all your questions answered about our support services and how you can get involved in campus life as a student. Don't forget to explore the campus and enjoy the food, giveaways and entertainment too!

[Find out more](#)

### RMIT | Open Days 2024

**Bundoora:** August 4, 2024

**Brunswick:** August 11, 2024

**City:** August 11, 2024

Explore your future university at RMIT Open Day.

- Take a tour of our campuses, you'll see everything from inspiring labs to tech-integrated learning spaces
- Catch a glimpse of what student life is like at RMIT

- Attend presentations, Q&As and more where you'll learn what it's like to study your dream course
- Meet your future employers, lecturers and current RMIT students

[Find out more](#)

## Deakin | Open Days 2024, Warrnambool

**Warrnambool:** August 4, 2024

**Geelong:** August 18, 2024

We're opening our campuses in August and can't wait to see you there. Get course information, chat with your future teachers and current students, and enjoy fun entertainment.

[Find out more](#)

## La Trobe | Open Days 2024

**Melbourne:** August 4, 2024

**Albury-Wodonga:** August 11, 2024

**Mildura:** August 14, 2024

**Shepparton:** August 24, 2024

**Bendigo:** August 25, 2024

Why attend Open Day at La Trobe?

- Chat with current students, alumni and teachers to get first-hand advice about your dream course, or just about the best places to eat on campus.
- Explore the campus by yourself or join a guided tour. See our world-class health facilities, leading IT and science labs, business trading room, accommodation and much more.
- Discover your options for placements, internships and work-based learning, and get all your questions answered about your dream course.
- Get a taste of what it's really like to be at uni. Join events and activities or kick back and enjoy the campus – Open Day is the place to see it all.

[Find out more](#)

## Careers in Maths Expo

August 8, 2024

With support from the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI), the IELLEN is excited to announce a 'Career in Maths' event targeted at year 9 and 10 students.

We expect to have over 40 stallholders showcasing exciting careers to inspire students to continue studying maths (and address the decline in enrolments) in the senior years and reduce maths anxiety. Students can meet industry reps covering pathways in Actuary, Engineering, Data Analytics, Geology, Robotics, Software Engineering, Meteorology, Cellular Biology, Sports Science, Government and much, much more.

Each stallholder will have a maths challenge/equation for students to complete and highlight where each pathway sits within VCE maths.

[Find out more](#)

## Torrens | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 8, 2024

Come and meet our academics and Future Student Advisors, who will be able to answer all your questions about scholarships, entry pathways and our world-class facilities. Explore our campus and find out firsthand how exciting studying in Melbourne can be.

[Find out more](#)

## Girls Day Out in STEM: Imagineering Adventure

August 10 to August 18, 2024

Get your imaginations ready to join us on our Imagineering Adventure!

This National Science Week 2024 sign up for the best metaverse adventure in cyberspace to discover so much more than just sustainability. Take the hero's path to enter our Imagineer-verse where you get to be the imagineer for a better world!

There are heaps of prizes to be won during our Imagineering Adventure – stay tuned about how to get your hands on one of those cool prizes! You could win an iPad from our wonderful friends at Telstra, or the latest and greatest, coolest Ray Ban XR glasses thanks to Meta.

The online event can be undertaken independently, with friends or family members, or as a school incursion for your class or even as a club activity. All our exciting challenges and engagements are either pre-recorded or embedded to create a child-safe space.

If you are 10-14 years old and would like to join, simply register to book your place. If you would like your school to be involved, just ask your teacher to register your class or club.

[Find out more](#)

## Fed Uni | Open Days 2024

**Gippsland:** August 11, 2024

**Berwick:** August 18, 2024

**Mt Helen, Camp St & SMB:** August 25, 2024

Open Day is your opportunity to explore all that Federation University and Federation TAFE has to offer you in your education journey, from extracurriculars to industry placements and everything in between. Experience our stunning campuses and awesome facilities, join a campus tour and get the full student experience from our current students and staff.

[Find out more](#)

## AIE | Open Day

August 11, 2024

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day. This event will be held at AIE Campuses in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, and Adelaide from 10am to 3pm.



AIE's 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.

AIE's Open Day 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](#)

## ACU | Open Days 2024

**Melbourne:** August 11, 2024

**Ballarat:** August 25, 2024

Open Day is your chance to find out everything you need to know about studying at ACU before you enrol. You'll be able to check out the campus, meet staff and students, discuss entry pathways, and talk to experts about your study options and career goals.

[Find out more](#)

## Charles Sturt | Open Day 2024, Albury-Wodonga

August 11, 2024

What is Open Day? It's your opportunity to discover what life at Charles Sturt is all about. Open Day isn't just for students – parents and carers are welcome too!

Be inspired by our academics, explore our facilities and chat to current students about what studying with us is really like. From information sessions and campus tours to free food, entertainment and giveaways – there's something for everyone.

[Find out more](#)

## Uni Melb | eMeet a Biomedical Scientist

August 12 to August 16, 2024

As part of National Science Week, the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Melbourne is connecting high school students with our biomedical scientists.

At the heart of multi-disciplinary healthcare teams our Biomedical Scientists are world-renowned. Their research drives the discovery of new medications, vaccines and treatments for many life-threatening diseases.

In these 20-to-30-minute Zoom meetings, our experts will help to inspire the next generation of biomedical scientists.

This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to engage with passionate researchers. Discover how biomedical knowledge from the classroom translates to real-world applications.

Students in Years 9–12 from across metropolitan, regional and rural schools in Victoria are invited to ask questions such as:

- What it's like to make a major scientific discovery?

- What career pathways are available for budding young Biomedical Scientists?
- How does it feel to change the course of a person's health and life?
- How do biomedical career pathways take shape?

[Find out more](#)

## **National Science Week Bayside Schools Day**

August 13, 2024

This National Science Week, join us for the Prehistoric Bayside Schools Day. Treat your students to an up-close encounter with a real-life palaeontologist, handle fossils, and learn all about the prehistoric history of Bayside.

Suitable for all levels. Limited places available.

[Find out more](#)

## **Our Ocean Our Future**

August 13, 2024

The ocean is a unique, irreplaceable environment that is home to many living things. This session builds on UNESCO's ocean literacy principles to help students understand why the ocean is important for all life on Earth.

We'll discuss the pollution problem facing our ocean. We'll learn about real life examples of sustainability and brainstorm achievable ways to help the ocean in our everyday lives.

This Inspiring Australia NSW initiative is supported by the Australian Government as part of National Science Week and proudly brought to you by Virtual Excursions Australia.

[Find out more](#)

## **Big Ideas and Inspiring Careers: Make an impact with a career in biodiversity science**

August 16, 2024

Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect with and learn from exceptional women who are addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

Our panellists are carving diverse and remarkable paths in the fields of wildlife biology, conservation, science communication and marine biology. They will share their career journey and the innovative approaches they are taking to develop successful and meaningful careers.

If you want to be inspired to build an exciting career that makes a real difference, join us for this fantastic event!

[Find out more](#)

## **Whitehouse Institute of Design | Open House 2024, Melbourne**

August 17, 2024

Are you excited by design and dreaming of a creative career? Whitehouse Institute of Design, Australia invites you to Open House, a day where you can explore our courses and the endless possibilities within the world of design.

Explore your study options, meet our incredible team, and tour Whitehouse's unique facilities. Whether you're interested in Fashion Design, Interior Design or Creative Direction and Styling, this is your chance to see what makes Whitehouse has to offer.

[Find out more](#)

## VU | Open Days 2024

**Footscray Park:** August 18, 2024

**Sunshine:** August 18, 2024

**City:** August 25, 2024

We can't wait to see you at one (or more) of our three exciting Open Day events!

Whether it's meeting our students and staff, finding the perfect course for you, or exploring one of our campuses, bring your whole self to VU – starting at our Open Day.

[Find out more](#)

## University of Melbourne | Open Day 2024

August 18, 2024

Save the date for Open Day 2024, where you can experience university life for yourself through an exciting program of information sessions, interactive workshops and tours.

What's on at Open Day:

- Chat to our academics, Future Student teams and current students to learn more about your study options and the exciting careers they could lead to
- Get a feel for campus life by exploring the spaces you'll be learning in, including our labs, libraries, galleries and other specialist facilities
- Learn how our curriculum works, including how you can combine your passions and strengths to set yourself apart for whichever career you choose
- Explore our range of student accommodation facilities and the social activities and study support on offer.

[Find out more](#)

## ACAP | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 24, 2024

Open Day is your chance to experience the ACAP difference, and find your path in the applied professions. Whether you're interested in Counselling, Psychology, Social Work, Criminology, Law, or Business, ACAP is your pathway to making a difference.

Be part of a workshop, meet our industry-renowned facilitators, and hear all about life as an ACAP student. Join us for a day of exploration and inspiration!

[Find out more](#)

## SAE Institute | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 24, 2024

Come along to SAE's Open Day and find your future in creative media!

Open Day is your ticket to everything SAE – get a taste of our courses in workshops, explore activations on campus and get some hands-on experience with our state of the art facilities.

[Find out more](#)

## **AIM | Open Day 2024, Melbourne**

August 31, 2024

Join us for Open Day, and experience everything AIM has to offer!

See our campus, get course advice, experience live performances, meet our teachers and students, and take part in activities that will give you a taste of student life here at AIM.

Whether you're ready to study now, or in five years' time, Open Day is open to all and a fantastic opportunity to discover how the Australian Institute of Music can help turn your passion for music into a career.

[Find out more](#)

## **Collarts | Open Day 2024**

August 31, 2024

At Collarts, our Open Day is all about making this process simple and hands-on. Information sessions, workshops and the chance to chat with students, teachers and leaders are an important part of learning more about what sets us apart from the rest.

We invite you to come and experience life at Collarts: from our passion for creativity, close community, state-of-the-art facilities, expert faculty, and more.

[Find out more](#)

## **Astrophotography Workshop**

September 14, 2024

The astrophotography workshop introduces concepts that will assist both the beginner amateur and professional photographer to take stunning photographs of the night sky. Night sky photography is very different to that done in daylight. The afternoon has an array of talks given by experienced and award-winning astrophotographers, with (weather permitting) practical hands-on sessions during the evening at our registered Observatory.

Topics include an introduction to smartphone photography, timelapses, capturing the Aurora Australis, nightscape imaging, deep sky photography and much more.

[Find out more](#)

## **NIE | Future Doctors Australia, Melbourne**

September 27 to September 30, 2024

Gaining medical work experience is essential for young people considering a career in medicine. It provides insight into the field, helps develop skills and attributes, and provides networking opportunities. However, obtaining medical work experience can be challenging due to various restrictions such as limited opportunities, safety concerns, and confidentiality issues.

That's why NIE has developed the "Future Doctors Australia" program. It is an engaging and high-impact 4-day program that provides young people with a unique opportunity to gain medical work experience in a safe and structured environment. Participants will have the opportunity to spend time with current junior and senior medical students. They will also have the rare opportunity to spend time with more senior clinicians and various medical specialists. You will get to learn about clinical specialist's relevant fields of work, ask them questions, and learn some hands-on skills from them.

- Over 15 hours of face-to-face interaction with leading specialists and clinicians
- Meet current medical students
- Develop advanced communication and team working skills
- Create new friendships with like-minded, highly driven young individuals
- Learn about the admission process into various medical universities in Australia
- Morning tea and lunch included

[Find out more](#)

## **It Takes a Spark STEM Conference, Melbourne**

October 24, 2024

Most conferences currently being offered on STEM, STEAM and Entrepreneurship tend to be targeted towards teachers and involve a series of speakers and the occasional mini-workshops. This conference is designed to be different. This conference is designed by students and teachers for students and teachers.

The intent of the It Takes a Spark STEM Conference is to bring together Students (Year 4 to 10) and Teachers to connect with inspiring industry role models, share their current school based activities and projects using an authentic sharing and experiential model, create networks of teachers and student teams, and solve social justice design challenges.

The participation of the students is as important as teachers as our intent is to ignite, empower and nurture both to be leaders of STEM and Entrepreneurship within their schools. This is a conference designed and led by students and teachers for students and teachers.

Teachers will have both formal and informal opportunities to speak to other teachers who have enacted programs and activities in their schools and get their questions answered.

The workshops and social justice design challenges are all hands-on so students and teachers will experience first-hand what it is like to be part of great STEM and entrepreneurial learning. This will spark new ideas about curriculum and pedagogy.

[Find out more](#)

## **Free Money**

### **Scholarships**

## John Curtin Scholarship Program

**Organisation:** Curtin University

**Value:** See details

**Open date:** May 1, 2024

**Closing date:** September 11, 2024

The John Curtin Scholarship Program invests in future leaders who intend to use their abilities and passion to lead positive change in the community. Scholars receive a high level of financial support over the duration of their undergraduate studies. More importantly, the program provides opportunities for scholars to develop the personal qualities to become a future leader and the capability to inspire change.

[Find out more](#)

## Vice Chancellor's Elite Scholarship

**Organisation:** Bond University

**Value:** 100% fee waiver

**Open date:** May 2, 2023

**Closing date:** August 1, 2023

The prestigious Vice Chancellor's Elite Scholarship is awarded to a small group of high achieving applicants each year. Chosen on the basis of exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and character, this is a full-fee scholarship.

[Find out more](#)

## Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship Program

**Organisation:** University of Technology Sydney

**Value:** \$49,500 AUD + 2 industry placements

**Open date:** May 20, 2024

**Closing date:** September 8, 2024

The Bachelor of Information Technology is a cooperative education program between the University of Technology Sydney and sponsoring organisations. The aim of the program is to produce graduates who will become leaders in information technology in Australian organisations.

The focus of the graduate's education is in computer-based information systems, with a strong practical flavour. The periods of industry based learning are key to the development of the graduate's skills. The graduates will also be well versed in business principles and practice, as well as the fundamentals of information technology.

[Find out more](#)

## Competitions

### Australian Science and Engineering Fair 2024

**Open date:** June 1, 2024

**Closing date:** November 13, 2024

AUSSEF invites Australian school students from Year 9-12 who have completed a substantial project in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics to enter their project into the 2024 edition of AUSSEF.

[Find out more](#)

## 2024 Country to Canberra Leadership Competition

**Open date:** July 22, 2024

**Closing date:** August 16, 2024

Country to Canberra's annual Leadership Competition is almost here! We are so excited to announce our 2024 Leadership Competition Question, and encourage all eligible rural women and non-binary students to respond for the chance to win an all expenses paid Power Trip to Canberra.

Applicants are asked to respond to our 2024 Leadership Competition Question:

*You can't be what you can't see. How do women and non-binary leaders in your community inspire you to make change?*

[Find out more](#)

## Study

### University

#### [6 reasons why you should do uni at school](#)

Did you know you could do university courses while you're still a high school student? While everyone else is confined to high school level education, you could already be learning at a higher level and even accumulating credits before you officially start a degree.

If you want to get a head-start on uni, there are [heaps of great programs](#) that allow you to dive into university-level subjects and experiences while still enjoying the familiar environment of high school. Here's why you should consider participating:

#### **1. Explore your interests early**

Uni at school programs let you explore subjects that interest you way beyond the typical high school curriculum.

Whether you're passionate about psychology, engineering, or art history, these programs offer a range of courses taught by university professors who are the best in their field. These are the kinds of things you probably wouldn't get a chance to learn about at your age if you just stuck to a high school curriculum.

Plus, it's a chance to delve deeper into topics you love and gain valuable insights into potential career paths before you enrol in an expensive and lengthy degree.

#### **2. Challenge yourself academically**

Ready for a challenge? Uni at school programs provide a taste of university-level academic study. You'll tackle more complex coursework, engage in critical thinking exercises, and participate in discussions with peers who share your intellectual curiosity. This early exposure prepares you for the academic demands of higher education and can also give you more confidence in your abilities.

### **3. Earn credits**

Many uni at school programs offer opportunities to earn university credits. By successfully completing courses, you can start building your university transcript before even graduating from high school – which lets be honest, is pretty cool. This not only shortens your time to degree but also saves you money on tuition fees later on.

### **4. Experience university life**

With uni at school programs, you can immerse yourself in the university environment while still in high school. These types of programs often allow you to attend lectures on campus, use university facilities, and interact with current university students. If you make friends on campus before you're even properly enrolled, you might find yourself looking forward to O-Week even more.

Not only that, but participating in uni at school programs can make you feel more prepared for the transition to university after graduation. The unknown can be a bit intimidating, but knowing the differences between high school and uni before you even graduate will give you a major edge.

### **5. Stand out in applications**

Participating in uni at school programs demonstrates your initiative and commitment to academic excellence. Colleges and universities tend to value applicants who have challenged themselves academically and shown a genuine interest in their chosen field of study, so highlighting your participation in these programs when applying to uni can really set you apart from other candidates.

### **6. Expand your network**

Building connections early can pave the way for future opportunities, and we think it's never too early to [network](#). Through uni at school programs, you'll meet professors, industry professionals, and fellow students who share your academic interests. These connections can provide mentorship, internship opportunities, and valuable insights into career paths you may want to pursue. Besides, making new friends is always a positive experience, especially when you already know you have something in common.

### **Ready to take the plunge?**

If uni at school programs sound like a great fit, take a look at our [guide](#) for more info and a ton of different courses on offer across Australia.

For more tips and advice on education and career planning, check out our other articles and resources [here](#).



## Study Tips

### How to ace group projects

We know you probably hear the phrase ‘group project’ and immediately suppress a groan. Look, we’ve all been there – we know you might be worried about how to manage it with all the other stuff you’ve got going on, or maybe you’ve had a bad experience in the past that makes you nervous about group projects.

The fact of the matter is, you’re never going to escape them. From school, to uni, to the workplace, group projects or even just working as a team is inevitable (and there’s a good reason for it). But fear not – group projects don’t have to be stressful.

In fact, they can be a great opportunity to develop important skills and achieve great results. Let’s take a look at how you can become an ace at group projects.

#### **What you can gain**

We tend to think of group projects as just another coordination challenge. But they can also be a powerful learning experience, teaching you collaboration, communication, and time management. Plus, they can be a great opportunity to get to know people a little better, and potentially make new friends through a shared experience.

Group projects aren’t just about sharing the workload (though that’s a big part of it). They’re also about learning to work effectively with others, which is a skill that’s highly valued in both further education and the workplace – like we said before, there’s no escaping it. If you’re worried about what might go wrong, consider what you might gain from a group project instead.

#### **Develop collaboration skills**

One of the best reasons to embrace group projects is the opportunity to work on your collaboration skills. Working with others means learning to listen, share ideas, and find common ground – all of which are essential skills in any career.

For instance, you might nominate yourself be the project manager who coordinates tasks and ensures everyone meets deadlines. This role isn’t just handy for your current project – it could also be an asset in future career opportunities, because you’ll know you have ability to lead and manage a team.

#### **Enhance communication**

Effective communication is key to successful group projects. By working closely with your group, you can develop clear and concise communication skills that can benefit you in all areas of life.

Through regular meetings, updates, and feedback sessions, you can discover new ways to express your ideas and listen to others. Yes, this is useful for the outcome of your current project, but don’t forget it will also solidify your ability to communicate effectively in future academic and professional settings.

*“Effective teamwork begins and ends with communication.”*

*Mike Krzyzewski, basketball coach*

## Master time management

Balancing multiple tasks and deadlines is very characteristic of group projects, but don't stress – this is your chance to develop strong time management skills that'll be an awesome asset for your future. If you're struggling, why not utilise some [apps](#) created specifically for time management? It's also a great way to test your organisational skills in real-world scenarios.

By dividing tasks among group members and setting clear timelines, you can ensure that the project progresses smoothly. This approach not only helps you stay on track but also teaches you how to manage your time effectively when juggling multiple responsibilities.

You can also try [batching](#) – by sorting tasks into categories and distributing them amongst team members whose strengths they play to, you could increase productivity and ensure an even administration of the work load.

## Planning your group project

If you're about to face a group project, now is the perfect time to start planning. Even if you've had bad experiences in the past, approaching this project with a fresh perspective can make a big difference.

Here are some tips to help you get started:

- **Set clear goals:** Define what you want to achieve and ensure everyone is on the same page.
- **Assign roles:** Identify each member's strengths and assign tasks accordingly.
- **Create a timeline:** Break the project into manageable tasks and set deadlines for each.
- **Communicate regularly:** Schedule regular check-ins to discuss progress and address any issues.
- **Be flexible:** Be open to changes and willing to adjust your plans as needed.

By going into group projects with a positive attitude and a clear plan, you can turn them into a valuable learning experience. Whether you're aiming for top grades or just want to develop new skills, group projects can offer a unique opportunity to grow and succeed.

## Learn More

Ready to start planning your group project or want some more tips? You can find heaps more information on our website [here](#).

# Work

## Job Spotlight

### [How to become a Sommelier](#)

Sommeliers, also known as wine waiters, are experts in wine. They study everything about wine, from the grapes and regions to preparation methods and food pairings. Sommeliers work in fine dining restaurants, hotels, and the retail industry, serving and selecting wines, writing about wines, becoming wine buyers, or working for vineyards as sales representatives.

If you have a love of wine, a good nose, and an excellent palate, a career as a sommelier could be perfect for you.

### **What skills do I need as a sommelier?**

- Amazing customer service
- Knowledge of wine
- Collaborative teamwork
- Excellent communication
- Attention to detail
- Passionate & dedicated
- Curation ability
- Positive attitude
- Interpersonal skills

### **What does the job involve?**

- Selecting & buying wine lists
- Pairing food with a wine that will compliment or enhance the flavours
- Maintaining inventory & educating other staff
- Engaging with customers & using specialised serving skills
- Testing the quality of wines
- Continuous wine study & up-skilling
- Attending industry events
- Conduct tastings & sharing knowledge

### **What industries do sommeliers typically work in?**

- Hospitality & Retail
- Agriculture & Environment
- Food Technology & Viticulture

### **What Career Cluster do sommeliers belong to?**

Because Sommeliers guide people to choose what they need, and they work closely with people in a public-facing role, they are often very strong [Linkers](#). It's also the type of career to attract [Informers](#), given the unique skillset and knowledge-sharing nature of the role.

### **What kind of lifestyle can I expect?**

A career as a sommelier offers many part-time opportunities, with majority of sommeliers working part-time. This flexibility can be ideal for those looking to balance work with other commitments.

As a sommelier, you might find yourself working in a variety of environments, such as cafes, restaurants, or outdoor settings like vineyards or distilleries.

Working in the hospitality industry generally requires availability on weekends and late nights, as well as the potential for shift work. However, this also means that you'll have a lot more flexibility in your working hours – perfect for those looking for a more diverse work schedule.

### How to become a Sommelier

While it isn't strictly necessary to have formal qualifications to work as a Sommelier, there are lots of courses you can take to help you get your foot in the door. Pathways to becoming a Sommelier often include a combination of on-the-job experience and education.

You could start by working in the hospitality industry in a restaurant or winery – if serving alcohol, you'll need an [RSA](#) certification in Australia – and work your way up, but most Sommeliers also complete an accredited education program such as one from the [Wine & Spirit Education Trust \(WSET\)](#).

To excel in the field, you could then obtain VET qualifications within the hospitality and viticulture industries. This could include courses such as:

- [Diploma of Viticulture](#)
- [Certificate II in Wine Industry Operations](#)

If you wanted to be at the top of your game, you could also consider up-skilling with a course from the [Court of Master Sommeliers](#).

### What can I do now to work towards this career?

If you're in high school and you'd like to find out if a career as a Sommelier is right for you, here's a few things you could do right now:

- **Build your knowledge:** Start learning about different types of wines, their origins, flavors, and pairings. You can begin by reading books on wine appreciation or exploring online resources that discuss various aspects of wine production and tasting.
- **Volunteer or gain experience:** Look for opportunities to gain practical experience in hospitality settings, such as restaurants or wineries. Even shadowing a sommelier for a day can provide valuable insights into the daily responsibilities and skills required for the job.
- **Obtain your RSA:** This is a valuable certification to have, so check your state requirements and see if you're eligible to get your RSA – there are lots of online courses available

### Where can I find out more?

Find out more here:

- [Sommeliers Australia](#)
- [The Sydney Wine Academy](#)
- [Court of Master Sommeliers](#)
- [International Sommelier Guild](#)
- [Association de la Sommellerie Internationale](#)
- [Wine & Spirit Education Trust](#)

### Similar careers to Sommelier

- [Waiter](#)

- [Barista](#)
- [Bartender](#)
- [Viticulturalist](#)
- [Brewer](#)
- [Chef](#)
- [Baker](#)

Find out more about alternative [careers](#).

## Skills for Work

### How to ask for a letter of recommendation

Getting ready to apply for university, a scholarship, or your first job? Not sure how to ask someone for a letter of recommendation, or what a letter of recommendation even is? Don't worry—we've got you covered with this easy guide.

It might seem daunting at first, but with a few simple steps, you'll be able to ask confidently and professionally, impressing both your current and future mentors.

#### **What is a letter of recommendation?**

You might be in the process of finalising an application when you come to the 'letter of recommendation' section. The purpose of a letter of recommendation is to verify your abilities with an external and reputable source, so you can't just ask your parents to write you one. You'd usually ask a teacher, mentor, or employer to provide you with a letter of recommendation – bonus points if the area you're applying for is within their field.

Even if the application doesn't ask for it directly, including a strong letter of recommendation can significantly boost your application, giving it a personal touch that highlights your strengths and achievements.

No matter if you're applying for university, a scholarship, or a job, knowing how to ask for a recommendation letter properly demonstrates your professionalism and respect for the writer's time. Plus, if you do it right, it might even give an extra incentive for the writer to talk you up to your prospective institution.

#### **Guidelines**

##### **1. Choose the right person**

Select someone who knows you well and can speak to your abilities and character. Ideally, this person should be familiar with your work ethic, skills, and achievements.

**Example:** "Dear [Teacher/Mentor's Name],

I hope you're doing well. I'm applying for [university/scholarship/job], and I was wondering if you would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for me."

##### **2. Ask politely and early**

Give your recommender plenty of time to write the letter. Asking at least a month in advance is a good rule of thumb, and you can follow up in this timeline as well.

**Example:** “I understand you have a busy schedule, so I wanted to ask well in advance if you would be able to write the letter by [specific deadline].”

### **3. Provide context**

Explain why you need the letter and what you hope it will achieve. Share information about the position or program you are applying for, and why you’re interested in it so the writer can better tailor the letter to suit.

**Example:** “I am applying for the [name of program/scholarship/job] because [brief explanation]. Your recommendation would greatly support my application as it highlights [specific skill or quality].”

### **4. Offer to provide supporting information**

Make it easy for your recommender by offering to provide your resume, a list of achievements, or specific points you’d like them to mention.

**Example:** “I’m happy to provide my resume, a list of my accomplishments, or any other information that would be helpful.”

### **5. Respect their decision**

Be gracious and understanding if the person you ask is unable to write the letter, and thank them for their time and consideration regardless of their answer. You never know – you might need them again for something in the future.

**Example:** “Thank you so much for considering my request, and I completely understand if you’re unable to write the letter at this time.”

### **6. Send a reminder**

If you haven’t received the letter close to the deadline, it’s okay to send a polite reminder. Be courteous and acknowledge their time constraints.

**Example:** “I just wanted to follow up on my previous request regarding the letter of recommendation. I appreciate your time and effort in helping me with my application.”

### **7. Show gratitude**

Once the letter is submitted, send a thank-you note to express your appreciation. A handwritten note can be a nice touch, but an email works too.

**Example:** “Thank you so much for taking the time to write the recommendation letter for me. Your support means a lot, and I’m very grateful.”

### **Tips for success**

- **Proofread your request:** Make sure your request is free of typos and errors before sending it, so your mentor can remember just how professional you are.
- **Be timely:** Respect your recommender’s time by asking well in advance and sending polite reminders if needed.

- **Follow up:** Once your application is submitted, let your recommender know the outcome and thank them again for their help.

### **Ready to Start?**

Asking for a letter of recommendation is a valuable skill that will benefit you throughout your academic and professional journey. By following these guidelines, you'll not only secure strong recommendations but also build positive relationships with your mentors and teachers.

Want more tips on career readiness and professional skills? We have loads more insightful blogs and resources to help you succeed right [here](#).

## **Jobs & Careers**

### **Getting a gig: opportunities for students**

A gig doesn't just mean a cool music show, even though the music industry tends to lay claim to the term as slang for live performances. It also commonly refers to doing short-term, freelance, or contract jobs, which is the kind of work we love for students because they fit really well around a school schedule.

If you're looking for a flexible way to earn some extra money while still in school, the gig economy might be the perfect solution for you. We'll dive into what the gig economy is, explore some suitable gig jobs for students, and provide tips on how to succeed in this growing sector.

### **What is a gig & how does it work?**

The gig economy is a type of job market where you do short-term or freelance work instead of having a regular job, which is great for students. Instead of working for one boss, you pick up various jobs or "gigs" through online apps or websites. These gigs can be anything from delivering food to doing graphic design.

Gig jobs are usually:

- **Flexible:** You decide when and where you want to work.
- **Varied:** There's a bunch of different gigs you can choose from.
- **Independent:** You work on your own, without a boss looking over your shoulder.

Apps like [UberEats](#), [TaskRabbit](#), [Fiverr](#), [Upwork](#) and [Airtasker](#) connect people (usually 18 years or older) who need work done with people who can do the work. This setup is super flexible, making it a great option for students who need to juggle work, school, and other activities.

### **Gig jobs for students**

#### **Tutoring**

If you're good at a certain subject, you can tutor younger students and earn some money on the side. Websites like [TutorTime](#) can help you find kids who need help with their homework across the world, or you can even self-advertise for gigs around your local community and organise sessions yourself.

#### **Babysitting or Pet Sitting**

Parents and pet owners always need reliable sitters, and if you love kids or animals, working as a sitter could be perfect for you. Because you'll be doing what you love, it might not even feel like work, which is an added bonus.

You can look on sites like [Care.com](#) or [Madpaws](#) for clients, or you can try the old fashioned method of self-advertisement and word-of-mouth.

### **Freelance Writing or Graphic Design**

If you like writing or designing, there are heaps of freelance gigs on websites like [Fiverr](#) or [Freelancer](#). You can work from home and pick your own deadlines and projects – plus it's a great introduction to self-directed working schedules.

If you want to start your own freelance business, that's an option too.

### **Delivery Services**

Companies like [pizza parlours](#), [pamphlet distributors](#), and even [newspapers](#) hire teens for delivery. You can choose your own hours and work in your local area – but keep in mind that if you want to work for companies like [DoorDash](#) and [Uber Eats](#), you'll have to be at least 18.

### **Social media management**

Small businesses often need help with their social media accounts. If you're good with Instagram or TikTok, this could be a fun gig for you. Getting paid to be creative online? Yes please.

You can reach out to small businesses directly, or keep an eye out for job ads that are looking for a casual or part-time social media manager.

### **Lawn care and home maintenance**

More of an outdoors kind of person? Maybe you're a [Maker](#), and prefer working with your hands over some kind of office job. Don't let that stop you from making money – you can offer to mow lawns, shovel snow, or do minor home repairs for cash. Apps like [TaskRabbit](#) can help you find people in your neighbourhood who need help.

### **Virtual assistant**

If you'd prefer a work-from-home environment, you can get a gig helping businesses or people with tasks like managing emails or scheduling appointments. This job can be done online and is pretty flexible, so is the perfect option for someone with a busy school schedule.

### **Tips for succeeding in gig work**

- **Set clear goals:** Know why you're doing gig work. Are you saving for something? Trying to get work experience? Having clear goals will keep you motivated.
- **Manage your time well:** Balancing gig work with school can be tricky. Use a planner or calendar to keep track of your work hours and schoolwork – there are also loads of [time management apps](#) that can be helpful for working students.



- **Build a strong profile:** Your profile on gig apps is like your resume, so make sure it looks professional and highlights your skills and experience. Include any good reviews from previous gigs – a previous guarantee tends to put potential employers at ease.
- **Communicate clearly:** Good communication is key, so be clear about when you're available, ask questions if you're unsure about a job, and keep your clients updated.
- **Deliver quality work:** Always try to do your best work. Happy clients will leave good reviews and might hire you again.
- **Be professional:** Treat gig work like any other job. By being on time, being polite, and acting professionally, you'll build a good reputation, which leads to more clients.
- **Stay safe:** Always be careful, especially if you're meeting clients in person. Use reputable apps and follow their safety guidelines, and always share your location with someone you trust when it comes to first-time meetings.

The gig economy is a great way for students to earn extra money and gain work experience. By understanding how it works, choosing the right gigs, and following these tips, you can make the most of gig work. Whether you're delivering food, tutoring, freelancing, or more, gig jobs can help you reach your goals while still having fun.

### Want more?

Want more tips on finding jobs and skills for work? We have heaps more insightful blogs and resources to help you succeed right [here](#).

## Grow

### Gap Years

#### [WWOOF your way around the world](#)

Ever thought about WWOOFing in your gap year? No, we're not just barking at you – WWOOF stands for Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms, and it's a super popular organisation that pairs you with a farm across the globe. You'll work on an organic farm of your choice, in your preferred country, and receive free food and accommodation in exchange for help around the farm.

If you've ever dreamed of spending time on a farm, or wanted a budget friendly way to explore the world, WWOOFing could be exactly what you've been looking for.

#### Why WWOOF?

First of all, this is not a monetary exchange program, so if you're like us you're probably already excited at the prospect of not having to pay for food or board. But there's way more to this experience than just saving money. Here's what you could gain from a WWOOF adventure:

#### Learn new skills

One of the most rewarding aspects of WWOOFing is the opportunity to acquire new skills. From organic farming techniques and sustainable living practices to learning about local cultures and languages, the possibilities are vast.

For example, you might find yourself learning about permaculture, animal husbandry, or even eco-building. These skills are not only valuable but can also be a great addition to your resume.

### **Experience different cultures**

WWOOFing is an immersive cultural experience. Living and working with local hosts gives you a unique perspective on their way of life, so it's a fantastic opportunity to learn about new cultures, make lifelong friends, and see the world from a different viewpoint.

*“WWOOFing has taught me that there's other ways, other lifestyles, that are possible and great and sustainable for the environment. I've also met a lot of people who are doing what they want with their life – their “job” isn't a job for them, and I think that's something I really want for myself.”*

*Rebecca, WWOOFer*

### **Enhance your career prospects**

WWOOFing can also be a great way to enhance your career prospects. The skills and experiences you gain can be directly relevant to many fields, including agriculture, environmental science, and tourism. Even if your career path lies elsewhere, the independence, problem-solving, and teamwork skills you develop will be highly valued by future employers.

### **Planning your WWOOFing adventure**

If you're considering WWOOFing, the first step is to research your options. There are WWOOFing opportunities in countries all over the world, from Italy to Zambia. Consider what you want to gain from the experience, and choose a location that aligns with your interests and goals.

### **Start by joining WWOOF**

To get started, join the [WWOOF](#) organisation in the country you're interested in. You'll gain access to a database of hosts and can start planning your adventure – it's important here that you make sure to communicate with potential hosts to understand their expectations and ensure it'll be a good fit for you.

### **Be prepared**

While WWOOFing is an exciting adventure, it's important to be prepared. Make sure you understand the work involved, and be ready for a hands-on experience. Pack appropriately, and be open-minded and flexible – and most of all, be prepared to have a life-changing experience.

### **Want more?**

If you're thinking about a [gap year](#), going on to [university](#), or perhaps embarking on an [apprenticeship](#), we've got you covered. We've got tips and resources on all that and more, right [here](#) on our site. Still in two minds if a gap year is right for you? You might like our [gap year quiz](#).

## Health & Wellbeing

### 7 tips for tackling procrastination

Ever found yourself scrolling through TikTok or playing video games when you should be doing homework? Or maybe instead of facing that essay you've got coming up, you'd prefer to embark on an unnecessary cleaning spree. Sound familiar? You're not alone – [studies show](#) that almost all students procrastinate once in a while, and that 75% of students consider themselves habitual procrastinators. While procrastination is [normal human behaviour](#), letting it get out of hand can be really bad for your mental health and overall wellbeing. Getting rid of that “due today, do today” mindset can eliminate anxiety, give you more time, and boost your self-esteem.

We've got some tips to help you tackle procrastination and get back on track with your projects.

#### **What is procrastination?**

Procrastination is delaying or postponing tasks that need to be done. Ever chosen to do something more enjoyable or easier instead of tackling what's important? That's procrastination. Procrastinating often leads to stress and a mad rush to meet deadlines, which in turn results in a lower quality of work. Being a habitual procrastinator can affect your grades, your stress levels, and your overall well-being. By learning to manage it, you can improve your performance, reduce anxiety, and have more free time to enjoy the things you love.

#### **Why do we procrastinate?**

Procrastinating doesn't have just one root cause – there can be a ton of things that contribute to why people procrastinate, and it's different for everyone. Here are some common reasons why people procrastinate:

- **Fear of failure:** Worrying that you won't do well can make you avoid starting a task.
- **Perfectionism:** Wanting everything to be perfect can make it hard to begin.
- **Lack of motivation:** If a task seems boring or uninteresting, it's easy to put it off.
- **Feeling overwhelmed:** Not knowing where to start can lead to delaying the task altogether.
- **Poor time management:** Struggling to prioritise tasks correctly can result in procrastination.

Luckily, we've got some tips for targeting these common causes, so you can get ahead with your tasks and start eliminating stress.

#### **How to overcome procrastination**

##### **1. Break tasks into smaller steps**

Large tasks can be overwhelming, so try breaking them into smaller, manageable steps to make them less daunting.

**Example:** Instead of thinking, “I need to write a 5-page essay,” break it down into steps like researching, creating an outline, writing a draft, and revising.

##### **2. Set clear goals**

Set specific, achievable goals for each study session or task. This gives you a clear direction and makes it easier to start.

**Example:** “I will read and take notes on one chapter of my textbook today.”

### 3. Use a planner or calendar

Keep track of assignments, deadlines, and study sessions using a [planner](#) or digital calendar. This can help you manage your time and stay organised in an easy to access, visual system.

**Example:** Write down all your homework assignments and due dates in a planner, and plan out when you’ll work on each one.

### 4. Eliminate distractions

Find a quiet place to work and remove distractions like your phone, social media, or TV. Creating a focused environment can help you stay on task – we’ve also got a blog for [the perfect study setup](#) if you’d like to optimise your study time.

**Example:** Turn off notifications on your phone and find a quiet spot in the library to study.

### 5. Use the Pomodoro technique

Work for 25 minutes, then take a 5-minute break. After four work sessions, take a longer break for up to 30 minutes – this can help you stay focused and prevent burnout. You can read more on this productivity hack right [here](#).

**Example:** Set a timer for 25 minutes, work on your homework, then take a short break to stretch or grab a snack.

### 6. Reward yourself

Give yourself a reward for completing tasks and trick your brain into wanting to do more. This can be something small like letting yourself have a treat or taking a short break to do something you enjoy.

**Example:** Finish your math homework, then watch an episode of your favourite show.

### 7. Find an accountability partner

Try sharing your goals with a friend or family member who can help keep you accountable. Check in with each other regularly to stay on track, or try studying together so you can have accountability in real-time.

**Example:** Form a [study group](#) with your friend or classmate, and track your goals together.

### Moving forward

Procrastination can be a tough habit to break, but with the right strategies, you can manage it and improve your productivity. By breaking tasks into smaller steps, setting clear goals, and eliminating distractions, you can stay on top of your work and reduce stress.

Want more tips on managing your time and staying productive? Check out our [website](#) for more helpful blogs and resources to help you succeed in school and beyond.

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