

Information specifically for Year 12 students

UAC You Can Apply for Undergraduate Study

Applying is quick and easy.

Take a look at our short video guides for Year 12 students and post-school applicants.

You can apply or log in between 7.30am and midnight (Sydney time) and we'll automatically log you out if you're inactive for 30 minutes.

There is a non-refundable processing charge of \$82.00 AUD. You can pay using Mastercard, Visa or PayPal. Your application is not complete until you have paid.

Do not submit more than one application in each admissions year. Duplicate applications will be cancelled. Log back in to your application to update your contact details, qualifications or course preferences.

Offers are made on specific dates throughout the year. There are application deadlines for each offer round.

<https://www5.uac.edu.au/uacug/>

View all UAC events on the key dates page.

A full listing of all Uni news and deadlines.

<https://www.uac.edu.au/key-dates>

What is the ATAR?

The ATAR is a rank, not a mark.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to all the students in their age group (ie all 16 to 20 year olds in NSW). So, an ATAR of 80.00 means that you are 20 per cent from the top of your age group (not your Year 12 group).

Universities use the ATAR to help them select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank (your ATAR + any applicable adjustments). Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students (eg a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test).

<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/atar>

How to transfer to a different degree

Many students enrol in a course with a plan to transfer into another course after completing a year's study. A typical example is completing one year of a general degree (such as Arts) and then transferring to a more specialised degree (such as Arts/Law). Other students start a degree only to find it's not quite right for them. They'd like to move to a completely different degree. Whatever your reason for wanting to transfer to another course, how do you do it?

<https://www.uac.edu.au/media-centre/news/how-to-transfer-to-a-different-degree>

HSC and ATAR myth busting with NESA and UAC

If you're confused about how HSC marks and the ATAR actually work, you're not alone. Setting the record straight, NSW Education Standards Authority CEO Paul Martin, and UAC's ATAR expert Dr Helen Tam, are debunking myths and providing clarity around some common misconceptions. Whether you're a Year 12 student, a parent, teacher or just curious about the process, this myth-busting breakdown is essential viewing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp6fCjXaz30>

Information specifically for Year 12 students continued

Western Sydney University Free Online HSC Study Sessions for Year 12 Students

Organisation: Western Sydney University

Location: Online

Date: September 29 to October 3, 2025

From Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October 2025, 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 24 free sessions across 15 key HSC subject areas, with sessions that include content analysis, tips and strategies, and a detailed exploration of key syllabus and curriculum areas.

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

[Find out more and register](#)

ACU Early Entry Guarantee Applications Closing Soon

Closes 15 September

Guarantee your place at ACU, even before your Year 12 exams. The ACU Guarantee program offers Year 12 students (Australian citizens or permanent residents) a place at ACU based on Year 11 results. It is specially designed to reflect achievements in your whole life, not only your academic results.

Offers may be made as early as September. Of course, you must still complete your Year 12 exams and meet any course pre-requisites, but you can do so secure in the knowledge that you have an offer to study at ACU. You may also enhance your application by including short personal statements that give ACU an insight into your personal circumstances and motivation for university study.

<https://www.acu.edu.au/study-at-acu/admission-pathways/acu-guarantee>

University of Wollongong - Future Talk: What's Next? Successfully Setting Up to Start in 2026!

15 September

What an Early Admission offer means, what's next? This session will guide you through the next steps, including how to navigate UAC, finalise your enrolment, and prepare for university. You'll also hear from UOW's Accessibility & Inclusion, Wellbeing, and Safe & Respectful Communities teams on how we create a supportive, inclusive environment to help you thrive from day one.

Future Talk is a series of online information sessions designed specifically for a student's support crew.

If you're a parent or carer who is navigating the HSC with your year 12 student, we've got your back.

https://mkto.uow.edu.au/DOMUGWEB20253434FutureTalk2025_Registration.html

Western Sydney University HSC Study Sessions

29 September - 3 October

From Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October 2025, 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 24 free sessions across 15 key HSC subject areas, with sessions that include content analysis, tips and strategies, and a detailed exploration of key syllabus and curriculum areas.

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

Sessions Include:

Information specifically for Year 12 students continued

- English Advanced and Standard
- Mathematics Advanced and Standard
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Legal Studies
- Ancient History
- Studies of Religion
- Modern History
- Community & Family Studies
- PDHPE

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/free-hsc-study-sessions>

University of Sydney – online Sydney College of the Arts Portfolio Evening

16 September

Don't miss the opportunity to join us at the Sydney College of the Arts 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 or Bachelor of Visual Arts and Bachelor of Advanced Studies at the University of Sydney.

Event is also available online: <https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-college-of-the-arts-portfolio-evening-online-september>

<https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-college-of-the-arts-portfolio-evening-september>

Applications for Future Teacher Scholarships - Closes Soon

Closes 12 September

If your future plans include completing an initial teacher education degree or you are currently studying to become a secondary mathematics, science, technological and applied studies (TAS) or English teacher or an inclusive/special education teacher, teacher (K - 12), you could be eligible for the Teacher Education Scholarship.

The Teacher Education Scholarship provides financial support of up to \$7,500 per year whilst studying full-time, a \$6,000 appointment allowance and a permanent teaching position with the NSW Department of Education following successful completion of studies.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teach-nsw/get-paid-to-study>

University of Sydney Webinar - Scholarships at Sydney

17 September

At the University of Sydney, we offer over \$135 million worth of scholarships every year. We're dedicated to supporting you throughout your time at university and offer a variety of scholarships for domestic undergraduate students. To make the process easier and more accessible, we've created a centralised form where you can be considered for a scholarship through one simple application. Additionally, some of our scholarships require no application at all! In this webinar you will learn about the scholarships we offer, find out about your eligibility, get tips on writing a strong scholarship application and have your questions answered by our team.

https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cSKCyg96Ru2khHs2qqzflw#/registration

Information specifically for Year 12 students continued

UTS - Round 2 for Applications for Bachelor of Accounting

Round 2 closes 10 October

If you're a high achiever looking to kick-start a vibrant, successful career in accounting, the UTS Bachelor of Accounting is your perfect choice. A degree like no other, this cooperative scholarship program has been created in collaboration with leading industry partners, giving you the chance to connect with a range of invaluable professional opportunities throughout your studies.

What's more, as a student in this exclusive program, you'll receive scholarship funding of up to \$18,000 per year, depending on your major and elective choices. With its practical focus, industry connections and customisable learning, this program is your passport to a lucrative future in the exciting world of professional accounting.

<https://www.uts.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-accounting>

CSU – Check out and plan for Campus Accommodation

We have a variety of accommodation options at Charles Sturt University if you want to live and study on campus. You'll always be at the heart of campus life.

<https://www.csu.edu.au/current-students/uni-life/accommodation>

Southern Cross University Early Offer

Applications Close 30 September

The Early Offer program allows Year 12 students to secure their future the easy way with Southern Cross University. It provides an opportunity to gain entry into a degree before final Year 12 results are released. Designed to ease the pressure of the University Application process, this pathway allows students to shift their focus from waiting for results to excelling in their studies.

<https://www.scu.edu.au/study/high-school-students/entry-pathways/early-offer/>

Southern Cross University – online Parent Information Session

18 September

Your child's educational journey is of utmost importance. As parents and guardians, it is essential to be well-informed of various opportunities and pathways that lie ahead.

Here at Southern Cross University, we are organising an exclusive session designed specifically for parents and students in Years 11 & 12 and encourage you to join us for an upcoming Parents Information Webinar.

<https://www.scu.edu.au/study/information-for-parents/online-parent-information-evening/>

UNSW Advantage Award Scholarship

Applications Close 12 November

Do you want to accelerate your career by joining Australia's #1 university for graduate outcomes and make a lasting impact? If so, we're making it even easier for you to study with us at UNSW Sydney. The \$10,000 UNSW Advantage Award supports all students from low-socioeconomic areas as they transition to UNSW.

If you live in an eligible low-socioeconomic area, receive an offer from UNSW and enrol for Term 1, 2025, you will be eligible to receive the \$10,000 UNSW Advantage Award to support you in your first year of studies. Low-socioeconomic areas are based on 2021 IRSAD and IEO indexes of SEIFA criteria.

Information specifically for Year 12 students continued

Additionally, for 2026, all students who attend a Gateway school, apply through the Gateway Admission Pathway and enrol at UNSW will receive a \$1,000 one-off payment to make the transition to uni easier, meaning you could be eligible for a total of an \$11,000 award to make the most of your studies.

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/undergraduate/admission-pathways/Gateway/admission-pathway>

ATAR Q&A. What Next?

January is just another month in the summer break for current tertiary students, but for recent school leavers it means one thing — university offers. If you're one of the many students nervously waiting for offer day, check out our Q&A below.

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/articles/education-blogs/tertiary-study/atar-q-a-what-next>

Part time Study. The Pros and Cons

Being a full-time student is the pathway for thousands of school leavers every year but the reality is, this isn't feasible for everybody. Whether it's due to employment or looking after a new baby, there are circumstances where full-time study isn't possible, so we've compiled a list with the pros and cons of studying part-time.

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/articles/education-blogs/student-life/part-time-study-pros-and-cons>

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme

Applications Close 30th October

Named in his honour and to continue his legacy, the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship provides scholarships to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to succeed in their undergraduate studies.

The scholarship provides access to financial, cultural, mentoring, and other supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying in health, including access to up to \$15,000 per annum (full time) for the normal duration of the course.

These supports are administered under Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control through Indigenous Allied Health Australia and the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners in partnership with Rural Doctors Network.

<https://www.ruralhealthpro.org/s/puggy-hunter-scholarship>

Real Futures Grant Now Open

Closes 31 October

Since Real Insurance was launched in Australia in 2005, our goal has been to protect the quality of people's lives. We do this by providing insurance products for Life, Funeral, Pet, Income Protection, Health, Travel, Car, Home and Landlords that meet the needs of everyday Australians and offer peace of mind at an affordable price.

We know that real health for you and your family is only ever as good as the people who are providing it. And we know that finances are a key factor for families as well as insurance products and services. So with that in mind, we are helping to encourage the best people into the healthcare, business and finance industries by providing the Real Futures Grant.

The value of this Grant is AUD \$5,000 (total amount). This amount is paid as a one-off payment to the Winner.

Information specifically for Year 12 students continued

To be eligible you must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Australian Tertiary Education Institution and be studying for a certificate, diploma, degree or traineeship in any of the following areas:

Business, Finance, Medicine or Health Care

To apply for the Real Futures Grant, you will need to write an essay (maximum 700 words) on why you want to work in your selected industry and the difference you hope to make in your particular field of study.

<https://www.realinsurance.com.au/grants/real-futures-grant>

Information for students in Years 7-11

University of Newcastle Campus Tours – September

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: UON Campuses

Date: September 12, 2025

Let our Student Ambassadors show you some of our must-see teaching and learning spaces, their favourite study spots, and of course - where to get the best coffee on campus. Not only will you get a personalised tour, but an opportunity to ask as many questions as you have about what uni life is really like!

Please be advised that:

- If you are interested in a Campus Tour of both the Newcastle and Central Coast campuses, you will need to register for two different tour dates.
- Campus Tours of Callaghan, NUspace and the Q Building can occur on the same day.

[Find out more and register](#)

Sydney Actors School & Sydney Film School Open Day 2025

Organisation: Waterloo Studios

Location: Waterloo Studios

Date: September 13, 2025

Come along and meet our incredible staff and students! Take a tour of the building, see our tutors in action, and even participate in some activities! Learn what makes Sydney Actors School & Sydney Film School the best places to begin your acting and filmmaking journey. Practical based learning within a strong community - there's nothing like it! See for yourself at our 2025 Open Day.

[Find out more and register](#)

Sydney Design School Open Day, September

Organisation: Sydney Design School

Location: Sydney Design School

Date: September 13, 2025

If you're considering studying with us, our Open Day is a great way to get to know us better. Explore our studios, browse through our Graduate Exhibition, meet students and Educators, watch a live Info Session and get creative making a mood board or digital model.

[Find out more and register](#)

National Art School Bachelor of Fine Arts Online Information Session

Organisation: National Art School

Location: Online

Date: September 23, 2025

Join our webinar to find out what makes NAS different from all other Fine Art degrees.

The BFA degree is designed to impart the skills, knowledge and creative independence required to sustain a career as an artist. Our staff will talk you through undergraduate study options, the admissions process and then offer the chance for you to ask any questions you might have, so tune in.

[Find out more and register](#)

University of Sydney - 2025 Gadalung Program Expression of Interest

Applications Close 28 September

Apply today to join our on-campus residential program **for Year 11 indigenous students**, held 8-12 December.

https://sydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eY7HgPF1RxyElQq

University of Sydney Webinar - Why study civil engineering at Sydney?

17 September

See how our civil engineering degrees can equip you for the challenges and opportunities in the evolving world of infrastructure and development. You will explore a variety of specialised fields such as water, structures, geotechnical, humanitarian and transport engineering. Gain insights into our Professional Engagement Program, modern engineering precinct and career paths available to our civil engineering students.

https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y4wWUh_xTtCv62tBZC63Gg#/registration

Australian Catholic University (ACU) Discover Teaching & Psychology at Strathfield Campus

1 October

Are you passionate about shaping young minds or helping others thrive? Take part in hands-on workshops where you'll gain practical insights into what it's really like to work as a teacher or psychologist.

Tour our facilities and hear firsthand from current students about their rewarding journeys and experiences in these impactful fields.

Whether you're interested in becoming a teacher or pursuing a career in psychology, this event will give you a closer look at how ACU can help you make a difference in the lives of others.

This free event is designed for high school students in Years 10 to 12, however anyone, including parents and caregivers, are welcome to attend and participate in select sessions.

https://acufuturestudents.swoogo.com/2025_Discover_ACU_STR

ACU Discover Business at ACU North Sydney

3 October

In today's fast-paced world, where technology and AI are reshaping industries, are you ready to take on the challenges of the modern business world? Discover how ACU can help you become a business leader, entrepreneur or social innovator in the modern global economy.

At this event, you'll take part in a hands-on workshop with current students and staff to learn how ACU can kickstart your career in business.

You'll explore the unique opportunities we offer, from working with cutting-edge technology and machine learning to making valuable industry connections, engaging with the community, and even studying abroad.

Don't miss your chance to discover how ACU can prepare you to lead, innovate, and drive positive change.

https://acufuturestudents.swoogo.com/2025_Discover_ACU_NSYSYD_BUS

University of Notre Dame - Medicine Information Session 2025

30 September

Join us for an online information session designed to provide you with crucial insights into Notre Dame's Doctor of Medicine program. This webinar offers a unique opportunity to delve into the program's structure, entry pathways and exciting new developments.

<https://events.nd.edu.au/doctor-of-medicine>

CQ University - Register for an Audition for Creative and Performing Arts

You've got the creativity, the talent and the passion. Applying to study a creative and performing arts course at CQUniversity could be the next step to the career of your dreams. Admission into our music and theatre courses requires an application and an audition. Find out more about the application and audition process below.

<https://www.cqu.edu.au/study/creative-performing-visual-arts/auditions>

UNSW Future Creators' Day

30 September

Future Creators' Day is a hands-on experience for **Year 10 and 11 students** passionate about creativity, design, and visual storytelling. Hosted by UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture, this event is the perfect opportunity to explore future study and career paths in the creative industries.

Join us on campus for a day of immersive workshops led by expert academics and industry professionals. Get a taste of our newly offered Game Art specialisation, along with workshops in Animation, Painting, Textiles & Fashion Design, Object Design, and Experience Design. Whether you're interested in digital art, interactive storytelling, or traditional design disciplines, this event is designed to help you develop your skills and discover your creative potential.

<https://www.events.unsw.edu.au/event/unsw-future-creators-day>

UNSW Aviation Open Day

20 September

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

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

<https://www.events.unsw.edu.au/event/unsw-aviation-open-day>

University - General

TAFE

Supporting You Every Step of the Way with TAFE NSW

Get the help you need to succeed The TAFE NSW Counselling and Career Development Service is free and confidential* and is designed to help you succeed in your studies at TAFE NSW, as well as in your chosen career. Prospective TAFE NSW students are able to access the service to assist with course choice decisions and career planning. Students enrolled with TAFE NSW are able to access a range of services to assist in career development and personal support.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/study/support-services/counselling>

TAFE NSW Sydney Wine Academy - The Very Best in Wine Education and Training

Proudly partnering with some of the leading wine education providers in the world, the TAFE NSW Sydney Wine Academy offers the very best in wine education and training.

Our team of highly respected industry experts include wine makers, authors, show judges and sommeliers. They draw on the skills and knowledge gleaned from years in the industry, both here and internationally, to take your tasting skills and wine knowledge to the next level.

Whether you're currently in the industry and need to stay up-to-date on vital trends, or just want to impress at your next dinner party, an in-depth course at the TAFE NSW Sydney Wine Academy utilises the latest resources and study materials to demystify the world of fine wine.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/specialty-schools/sydney-wine-academy>

Apprentice Traineeship Practice Aptitude Quizzes and Literacy and Numeracy

General industry based literacy & numeracy quizzes illustrating the levels required when undertaking Australian Apprenticeships qualifications.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.au/apprentices/how-to-find-and-prepare-for-an-apprenticeship/check-your-literacy-and-numeracy-skills>

Job Kit: Electrician

The future is clean. Meet real-life role models, discover electrician study pathways and next steps towards a role in helping Australia achieve net zero.

<https://careerswithstem.com.au/product/job-kit-electrician/>

Private Colleges

Real Estate Institute of NSW - Certificate of Registration Course

A course developed to meet NSW Fair Trading requirements for you to become an assistant agent. This course is the stepping stone to your future real estate career. The course will equip you with the skills and knowledge to be work ready. You can also continue your studies and complete the full Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice to become a fully Licenced Real Estate Agent.

<https://www.reinsw.com.au/Web/Courses/Course-Display.aspx?EventKey=VETQ02OLIN>

AIBI Higher Education Open Day

1 October

Come along to one of our open days to see what student life is like at AIBI HE!

Our team will walk you through our Bachelor's degrees, dive into course details, study options, and answer any questions you have about studying here.

<https://aibi.edu.au/open-day-registration/>

School holidays workshops

ANSTO Science Discovery Tour

Organisation: ANSTO

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre

Date: September 27, 2025

This tour provides an in-depth look into the world of nuclear science and the work ANSTO does in the areas of health, the environment and delivering solutions for industry.

Subject to availability, we will visit Australia's only nuclear reactor OPAL, the Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering, the ANSTO Nuclear Medicine facility and the Centre for Accelerator Science.

[Find out more and register](#)

Outward Bound Junior Adventure for Young People Aged 12-15 in Tharwa, ACT

Organisation: Outward Bound

Location: Tharwa, ACT

Date: September 29 to October 3, 2025

Get outdoors on a 5-day school holiday adventure with likeminded young adults, 12-15 years, from across the country.

Be introduced to authentic adventure the Outward Bound way. Embrace the peak activities including overnight journeying and camping, abseiling, climbing, and high ropes. Discover there is more in you than you thought possible, and bring home knowledge and skills that will support you in your future pursuits, no matter where you go.

[AOBDF Scholarships](#) are available to individual participants wanting to attend School Holiday Adventures, Duke of Ed or for Schools seeking funding assistance for individual students.

[Find out more and register](#)

ANSTO Lego EV3 – Mission to Space – Beginners Workshop for Ages 9-14

Organisation: ANSTO

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre, Lucas Heights

Date: September 29, 2025

Calling all future space explorers and tech geniuses! Are you ready for an epic, top-secret mission? Join us for a thrilling adventure where you become scientists and engineers, programming your very own EV3 robots to tackle space-themed challenges!

Dive into an action-packed day filled with hands-on STEM activities that spark creativity, teamwork, and out-of-the-box thinking. Work on our awesome Challenge Mat - a space playground where your ideas come to life as you find exciting solutions to real space problems.

This workshop is perfect for beginners, with our expert facilitator guiding you from basic to advanced programming at your own pace.

Gear up for a day of building, coding, and conquering space challenges! Become the commander of your own LEGO robot and see if you've got what it takes to explore the final frontier!

[Find out more and register](#)

LEGO EV3 – Bluetooth and Data Logging Masterclass Workshop for Students Aged 12-16 interested in Robotics

Organisation: ANSTO

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre, Lucas Heights

Date: September 30, 2025

Master workshop featuring "LEGO EV3 for Education" robotics kits.

Do you already have experience with LEGO EV3 or Spike and ready for the next level? Learn advanced functions such as Bluetooth and data logging and enjoy racing your robot in the Bluetooth Relay, calculate its top speed, and be the last one standing in Bluetooth Battle Arena. A fun and technical day to suit the keen coder and mathematician.

Additional information:

- Please arrive 5 minutes before the start of the workshop at the ANSTO Discovery Centre to sign-in. The workshop starts at 9:30 am sharp.
- Workshop includes a recess and lunch break outside (weather permitting). Please bring a bag with sunscreen, snacks/food, a hat and drink bottle.
- All workshops are delivered by accredited educators with experience in science, engineering, programming and robotics.
- Contact the ANSTO Discovery Centre on (02) 9717 3090 or education@ansto.gov.au if you have any questions.
- Creative Kids Vouchers accepted. Please email education@ansto.gov.au to redeem.

[Find out more and register](#)

Discover Teaching & Psychology at Australian Catholic University in Strathfield for Year 10-12 Students

Organisation: Australian Catholic University

Location: ACU Strathfield Campus

Date: October 1, 2025

Are you passionate about shaping young minds or helping others thrive? Take part in hands-on workshops where you'll gain practical insights into what it's really like to work as a teacher or psychologist.

Tour our facilities and hear firsthand from current students about their rewarding journeys and experiences in these impactful fields.

Whether you're interested in becoming a teacher or pursuing a career in psychology, this event will give you a closer look at how ACU can help you make a difference in the lives of others.

[Find out more and register](#)

Stop Motion Animation Half-Day Workshop for Beginners Aged 8-13

Organisation: ANSTO

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre, Lucas Heights

Date: October 1, 2025

This is a beginner's class for those with little to no experience in creating Stop Motion Animations. Children will design their own backgrounds and film and edit movies starring their own toys and imaginations!

Learn movie-making techniques (claymation and stop-frame animations) used in TV favourites such as Wallace and Gromit, Morph, Pingu, and Shaun the Sheep.

Check out videos of the WeDo, Stop Motion and MicroBits workshops here: <https://goo.gl/tkPihH>.

Additional information:

- Please arrive 5 minutes before the start of the workshop at the ANSTO Discovery Centre to sign-in.
- Workshop includes a recess outside (weather permitting). Please bring a bag with sunscreen, snacks/food, a hat, and drink bottle.
- All workshops are delivered by accredited educators with experience in science, engineering, programming and robotics.
- Contact the ANSTO Discovery Centre on (02) 9717 3090 or education@ansto.gov.au if you have any questions.
- Creative Kids Vouchers accepted. Please email education@ansto.gov.au to redeem.

[Find out more and register](#)

Australian Institute of Music Holiday Workshop for Year 9-12 Students – Mastering Performance, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: AIM Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2025

AIM's new school holiday workshop is designed for high school students interested in Music Performance. Created for students in Years 9-12, the workshops provide incredible opportunities to experience playing and performing music, mentored by AIM's own accomplished musicians and educators.

Over the course of the workshop, students will work with two professional musicians, Adrianna Cicchitelli & Gian Timothy Gho, to expand their performance skills in a collaborative and inspiring environment. They will workshop communication in an ensemble, chart reading, rhythm, pitch, dynamic, improvisation, stylistic interpretation and performance. Under their guidance, they will use these new rehearsal and performance techniques to create a small set of diverse songs in collaboration with other students in the class to present a performance for family and friends.

[Find out more and register](#)

Australian Institute of Music Holiday Workshop for Year 9-12 Students – The Songwriter's Toolkit, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: AIM Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2025

Created for students in Years 9-12, AIM's new high school music workshops provide incredible opportunities to explore songwriting, mentored by AIM's own accomplished musicians and educators.

This songwriting workshop is essential for any high school students curious about writing songs and performing and is a golden opportunity to work with incredibly accomplished songwriters. Join us these school holidays and discover the songwriter and performer you were born to become.

[Find out more and register](#)

Discover Business at Australian Catholic University in North Sydney for Year 10-12 Students

Organisation: Australian Catholic University

Location: ACU North Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2025

In today's fast-paced world, where technology and AI are reshaping industries, are you ready to take on the challenges of the modern business world? Discover how ACU can help you become a business leader, entrepreneur or social innovator in the modern global economy.

At this event, you'll take part in a hands-on workshop with current students and staff to learn how ACU can kickstart your career in business.

You'll explore the unique opportunities we offer, from working with cutting-edge technology and machine learning to making valuable industry connections, engaging with the community, and even studying abroad.

[Find out more and register](#)

School Holiday 'Out There' Sailing Program for Young People Aged 12-17

Organisation: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club

Location: Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club

Date: October 7 to October 10, 2025

The 'Out There' School Holiday Sailing Program is for participants who are 12-17 years old looking to try a new activity, have some fun and engage with others whilst sailing.

This four-day program will include a variety of sailing activities that are focused on having fun and learning basic sailing skills. Sessions will be conducted on a mix of Club vessels, including the RPYC's fleet of Elliott 7 Keelboats, Pacer Dinghies, Windsurf and SUP Boards, Hobie-Cat dinghies and Powerboats.

[Find out more and register](#)

National Fashion College Styling Workshop for Ages 16+

Organisation: National Fashion College

Location: NFC Sydney Campus

Date: October 11, 2025

You're officially invited to the National Fashion College's Styling Workshop, hosted at their incredible Sydney Campus. Taught by one of Tiffany & Co's National Stylists, Emma Read, you're not going to want to miss this!

Attendees will also work on two street-style photo shoots with a renowned fashion photographer, as well as learn about:

- Styling celebrities and talent
- E-commerce styling
- Social media and content styling

By the end of the day you'll leave with a portfolio of digital images and receive a certificate of completion.

This experience is recommended for guests aged 16 and older.

[Find out more and register](#)

Sydney Design School - Interior Decoration Workshop

30 September - 1 October

Be inspired. Be creative. If you love interiors magazines and beautifully styled spaces, this fun two day workshop is for you. It's perfect for any interiors enthusiast who wants to decorate their home with skill and confidence. Perhaps you're considering a career in interiors? This beginners workshop will give you a taste of the Certificate IV in Interior Decoration course and you'll get a feel for our School and the passion of our Educators.

Get hands on as you learn how to put together a full interior decoration scheme for a living space in your own home. Plan the layout, select furniture and lighting, explore colour schemes and create a sample board of your ideas. This course is held four times a year in the School holidays in January, April, July and September/October. You can also study online with our partner Interior Design Online [here](#).

<https://sydneydesignschool.com.au/workshop/>

Arduino Intermediate Online Workshop for Students Aged 11-15 Interested in Coding

Organisation: ANSTO

Location: Online

Date: September 10 to September 24, 2025

Students will be stepped through the more complex and technical aspects of coding and designing projects with virtual Arduinos. Students with physical kits will be supported in setting up and using them at home.

Each week, students will be encouraged to complete extra coding challenges, as well as working on their own original games, in-between sessions.

What you'll learn:

- Connect and code your Arduino with more complex commands
- Use your own Arduino (if you have one) and solve common setup problems
- Understand what an Arduino is and how it works
- Build and simulate more complex virtual circuits (LEDs, sensors, buttons & more)
- Write and troubleshoot more challenging Arduino code
- Use digital & analog inputs/outputs effectively for a greater range of purposes
- Create and design mini projects in a safe, online environment with an experienced K-12 STEM teacher

What you'll need:

- A laptop or desktop with internet access
- A quiet workspace (headphones with microphone recommended)
- A physical Arduino would be great (but not required)
- Basic familiarity with Zoom or Teams
- Curiosity and a love for creating!

This is a small group workshop, so places are limited to ensure personalised support.

If this time does not suit you, or if the program is fully booked, but you are still interested in similar programs, [please complete this form](#).

[Find out more and register](#)

Retro Game Jam Online Workshop for Students Aged 11-15 Interested in Making Video Games

Organisation: ANSTO

Location: Online

Date: September 10 to September 24, 2025

Love the idea of making your own video games but not sure where to start?

Retro Game Jam is a guided online workshop where students use MakeCode Arcade (a free, browser-based block+text coding platform) to design and build their own retro-style video games over three sessions. Facilitated by a qualified STEM teacher with experience in digital technologies and game design.

Each week, students will be encouraged to complete extra coding challenges, as well as working on their own original games, in-between sessions.

Each week includes:

- Live, step-by-step tutorials
- Facilitated times to develop their own games
- Structured guidance to help them objectively debug and assess computer games
- Show & tell segments where students get to share, celebrate, and constructively critique the work they've completed between lessons

No experience is required - just a laptop and a bit of imagination.

If this time does not suit you, or if the program is fully booked, but you are still interested in similar programs, [please complete this form](#).

[Find out more and register](#)

JMC Academy School Holiday Acting Workshop

27 September

4 October

Available to students in year 10 and above, and those who have finished high school, dive into the world of Acting with a choice of one or two full-day workshops. \$30 for each day, lunch included.
<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/acting-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Animation and Games Design Workshop

3 October

Available to students in year 10 and above, and those who have finished high school, immerse yourself in the creative world of Animation & Games with our holiday Animation & Game Design workshops offering hands-on experience and creative guidance.

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/animation-game-design-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Audio Engineering Workshop

27 September

Available to students in year 10 and above, and those who have finished high school.

Participate in our full day Studio Recording and Mixing Workshop for \$30, lunch included.

Go behind the glass and into the studio in this hands-on audio production workshop. Students will explore the technical and creative process of recording and mixing music in a professional studio environment.

Highlights:

- Studio Equipment 101: Learn the purpose and function of studio gear and software.
- Microphone Techniques: Discover the art of mic placement and sound capture.
- Tracking a Session: Participate in recording live instruments and vocals.
- Mixing Basics: Shape sound through EQ, panning, and levels.
- Industry Insight: Understand the roles of producers, engineers, and artists.

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/audio-engineering-sound-production-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Design (Visual Communication) Workshop

11 October

Available to students in year 10 and above, and those who have finished high school, immerse yourself in the creative world of Design with our holiday Design (Visual Communication) workshops offering hands-on experience and creative guidance.

Turn your creative work into a polished, professional portfolio in this focused design session.

Students will receive expert guidance on how to present their art, photography, or design work for course applications or creative jobs.

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/design-visual-communication-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Entertainment Management Workshop

11 October

Available to students in Year 10 and above, and those who have completed high school, immerse yourself in the world of Entertainment Business Management with this full-day workshop for \$30, including lunch. Working in teams, you'll design, plan and promote a festival

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/entertainment-business-management-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Film and Television Workshop

4 October

Available to students in Year 10 and above, and those who have completed high school, immerse yourself in the world of Film & Television with this full-day workshop for \$30, including lunch. Step behind the camera and experience the buzz of running a live broadcast TV show. This hands-on workshop introduces the key roles, skills, and calls that bring a professional production to life—before you crew your own sitcom shoot in a real TV studio.

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/film-television-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Music Workshop

27 September

4 October

Available to students in year 10 and above, and those who have finished high school, dive into the creative world of Music with our holiday Music workshops offering hands-on experience and creative guidance.

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/music-workshop-sydney/>

JMC Academy School Holiday Musical Theatre Workshop

27 September

Available to students in year 10 and above, and those who have finished high school, explore the creative world of Music Theatre with our holiday Music Theatre workshops offering hands-on experience and creative guidance.

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/news-and-events/events/music-theatre-workshop-sydney/>

JMC National High School Competition

Submissions Close 30 September

JMC Academy is proud to present our National Competition for 2025. We are inviting High School Students in Years 10-12 and Homeschooled students ages 15-18 to challenge themselves to create in an area they're passionate about.

Whether it be Acting, Music, Design, or Film & Animation, submit your work for a chance to win some awesome prizes worth up to \$2,000! There are No Limits to your creativity, so find the category that best describes you from the options below and get creating!

<https://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/no-limits/>

Create for a Day at SAE

20 September

11 October

SAE College University is opening its doors this July for a one-day program, designed to expand your skills and get you working on inspiring creative projects in the fields of Animation, Audio, Design, Film, Games or Electronic Music Production.

Don't miss out on your chance to experience life as an SAE student and discover what it means to be a creative professional, in state-of-the-art facilities with industry experts by your side.

During the workshop, attendees will learn valuable practical and collaborative skills to build a creative piece of work! They will also receive a certificate of participation to acknowledge the creative project they have undertaken.

Due to the level of workshop content, this event is open to school students aged 15 years and above (Year 10 and over).

<https://sae.edu.au/event/create-for-a-day/>

Term 4 activities

Charles Sturt University Deadly Pathways Festival for First Nations Students in Wagga Wagga

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: CSU Wagga Wagga Campus

Date: October 16, 2025

Deadly Pathways Festivals are back in 2025! 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 and register](#)

Experience Engineering! for Female and Non-binary Students in Years 7-10

Organisation: Engineers Australia

Location: WSU Kingswood Campus

Date: October 24, 2025

Experience Engineering! is designed to capture the imagination of female and non-binary students in Years 7-10.

They will discover how they can use their Maths, Science and Technical knowledge combined with their creativity and communication skills to solve set tasks and problems. This is what Engineering is all about!

The activities are devised by our Engineering Universities and delivered by current Engineering students - with the assistance of Engineers.

[Find out more and register](#)

University of New South Wales Water Research Laboratory Open Day 2025

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: UNSW Water Research Laboratory

Date: October 25, 2025

Ever wanted to know why rips form in the surf? Or what happens to all the sand on the beach in a storm? What amount of water does it take for a car to float? How are dams, harbours and breakwalls designed? And how, exactly, do these things get tested anyway?

Based on Sydney's Northern Beaches at Manly Vale, the [UNSW Water Research Laboratory](#) (WRL) is one of the biggest scientific and engineering facilities in Australia, tucked away below Manly Dam.

Come tour our massive labs, meet the experts, and see engineering and science at work.

[Find out more and register](#)

Charles Sturt University Making It In Media Workshop for Year 9-12 Students in Bathurst

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: CSU Bathurst Campus

Date: November 14, 2025

Are you passionate about content creation, news, journalism, media, advertising or public relations? If you're a student in Years 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, news and media, and strategic communication.

This interactive, hands-on experience invites you to collaborate with other students and explore the diverse majors you'll discover at Charles Sturt.

[Find out more and register](#)

Competitions

Snowy Hydro “Powering Up the Future” STEM Invention Competition for Australian Students

Organisation: Snowy Hydro Limited

Location: Australia

Value: Up to \$3,000 AUD

Open Date: August 4, 2025

Close Date: September 28, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Hachette Australia Prize 2025 for Young Writers in Secondary School

Organisation: Express Media

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Close Date: October 12, 2025

[Find out more](#)

General Careers Information

The Explorer Cadetship in the Thoroughbred Industry

The Explorer Cadetship Program is an industry designed ‘Gap Year’ program in the Australian Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Industry. It kicks off with a 13-week residential learning component of practical and theoretical training where Cadets study the Certificate II in Racing (a nationally recognised qualification), followed by two paid work-experience placements at a leading racing stable and stud farm.

Cadets accommodation is arranged throughout the year to take the stress out of where you will live, and for 9 of the 12 months, you will be earning an income while you learn.

The Explorer Cadetship fits perfectly into one year and if you are serious about building a career with horses, this is the ultimate entry pathway on offer.

<https://tbindustrycareers.com.au/overview/>

SummerJobs.com.au

All the Christmas casual jobs in Australia in one place! We know it's a weird time and nobody's sure what's happening but as we move into summer and the school term comes to an end it's the perfect time to get a summer job. Even though we can't travel there's no reason we can't save for a trip! To make it easy we've found all the current open positions for Christmas Casuals in New South Wales. It also has a really useful blog designed specifically for first-job seekers.

<https://summerjobs.com.au>

Why Become a CPA Accountant?

CPA Australia is one of the world's largest accounting bodies with more than 168,000 members working in over 100 countries and regions. There are more than 25,000 CPA Australia members working in senior leadership positions.

The CPA Program goes beyond the numbers. It teaches you the skills that will help you reach the next level in leadership, strategy and business.

Being a CPA gives you a competitive advantage over your peers. CPAs are internationally recognised and membership is associated with a strong legacy, international presence and thought leadership. CPA Australia builds and maintains strong relationships with high-profile companies globally, including more than 400 Recognised Employer Partners, ensuring the CPA certification and the quality skillsets of our members are internationally promoted.

<https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/become-a-cpa/>

Australian Design Centre

An amazing resource to see the leaders and trend setters of design in fashion, interior, architecture, product design and more. Recognising the leading lights of designers, thinkers, and makers of a growing resource dedicated to promoting and advocating for Australian contemporary craft and design on the world stage. Australian Design Centre (ADC) is a major contemporary craft and design organisation igniting creative ideas and building cultural vibrancy. Through our exhibition, festival, touring, retail, publishing and learning platforms, we take a lead role developing and supporting Australia's makers and designers and building audiences for their work across the country and internationally.

<https://australiandesigncentre.com>

Careers in the Outdoors

The Outdoor Industry provides exceptional opportunities for those willing to combine the hard skills and the soft skills and tertiary institutions provide exceptional opportunities to commence an excellent career in the Outdoors.

Courses vary from the Certificate of Attainment for the activities we love to do, that will enable you to lead or participate in guided ventures. Certificate III, IV or Diplomas expand on this content and provide a great mixture of outdoor leadership in activities to the business and management challenges that could be experienced.

Universities also offer degrees in Outdoor Education, Outdoor Environmental Studies, Outdoor Recreation and Masters

<https://www.outdoorsnswact.org/work-in-the-outdoors>

Careers at Council Current Vacancies

Local Government is a great place for students and school leavers to start their career. A huge range of traineeships, apprenticeships and cadetships are available in councils across NSW. For more information and our Jobs Board for vacancies available now.

<https://www.careersatcouncil.com.au/jobs/>

Skills for Work

How social media affects your job prospects

Social media isn't just about sharing memes and staying connected with mates anymore. It's become a powerful career tool that can either open doors or slam them shut before you even know they existed.

Whether you're scrolling through TikTok or crafting the perfect LinkedIn post, [every digital footprint you leave could be shaping your future job prospects](#). Think of your online presence as a 24/7 billboard advertising who you are – and employers are definitely taking notice. In this blog, we'll take a quick look at how social media posts could have both positive and negative effects on your future careers.

The reality check: What employers are really doing

"Social media posts can reveal a more honest view of an applicant than what they might share during an interview."

Marlene Allen Murray, Business Litigation Attorney at Fennemore Craig

As far back as 2018, a [CareerBuilder](#) study of over 1,000 employers revealed some eye-opening statistics:

- 70% of employers said they use social networking sites to research job applicants during hiring process
- 28% say they use social media to gather more information before calling in a candidate for an interview
- 47% say that if they can't find you online, they're less likely to call you for an interview
- 20% of prospective employers polled said they expect applicants to have an online presence
- A whopping 54% of companies admitted to eliminating a candidate based on their social media fee

In 2023, [Zippia](#) research painted an even clearer picture:

- 57% of job seekers use social media to find job opportunities
- 73% of job seekers aged 18-34 found their latest job through social media
- 84% of organisations use social media for recruitment 67% of employers research potential candidates on social platforms
- 94% of recruiters use social media to find and vet candidates
- 71% of hiring managers believe social media profiles effectively screen applicants

As Jeff Williams from Paychex puts it:

"It's 2023, and what is posted on TikTok, Instagram, Twitter - and even Facebook for the nostalgic - is an accessible, non-invasive way of gaining insight on your candidate."

What exactly are they hunting for? Here's the breakdown:

- 58% said they're looking for information that supports your qualifications for the job
- 50% are looking to check your professional persona
- 34% are checking to see what other people have posted about you
- 22% are looking to see if there are any reasons not to hire you.

And [Queros](#) found in 2024:

- [57%](#) of job seekers surveyed [used social media to look for jobs](#)
- 73% of millennial job seekers (aged between 18 and 34) have found their latest job through social media
- [84%](#) of organisations use social media for recruitment
- [67%](#) of employers use social media sites to research potential job candidates and learn more about their professional and personal achievements
- [70%](#) of managers have successfully hired through social media and built a more inclusive workforce.

Ultimately, what this means is that if you're still in high school and are thinking about future career goals, it's going to be worth your time creating an online presence, even if it's just a professional account that you only use as job prospecting tool. Otherwise you could find that you'll miss out on opportunities.

The pitfalls: When social media works against you

Your digital reputation could mean more than you think - here are the main ways social media could affect your career prospects.

Inappropriate content

Those party photos from last weekend or that rant about your boss might seem harmless in the moment, but they're creating a permanent record of poor judgement. Employers aren't looking for saints, but they do want evidence of maturity and professionalism.

Questionable conduct

This extends beyond your own posts - being tagged in situations involving illegal activities or poor decision-making can raise red flags about your character and judgement. Even if you weren't the one posting, association can be damaging.

Poor communication skills

These shine through in every typo-riddled post and aggressive comment thread. If you can't communicate respectfully online, why would an employer trust you with their customers or colleagues?

Values misalignment

This can happen when your online persona clashes with a company's culture. That edgy humour or controversial opinion might not mesh with their workplace values, no matter how qualified you are. The harsh truth? Over a third of employers (42%) monitor current employees' social media, and [70% have disciplined or fired staff based on social media misuse](#) in the workplace - meaning your digital behaviour doesn't stop mattering once you land the job either.

The opportunities: Making social media work for you

On the flip side, there are lots of ways that social media, used appropriately, could help you to show yourself as a credible, proactive, forward thinking, and showcase your expertise or work experience, connect with other industry professionals, and ensure you stay updated on the latest trends and opportunities.

Showcase your professionalism

Platforms like [LinkedIn](#) can help you make a good first impression online. This isn't just about listing your achievements; it's about demonstrating your ability to communicate professionally, engage thoughtfully with industry content, and present yourself as someone worth investing in.

Engage with industry-specific content

This can help you position yourself as a keen and informed future professional. Following thought leaders, commenting meaningfully on posts, and sharing relevant articles shows you're genuinely interested in your chosen field, not just looking for any old job.

Build your personal brand

Consistently share content that aligns with your career goals: if you're passionate about environmental science, share articles about sustainability. If marketing excites you, engage with digital marketing discussions. Your online presence should tell a coherent story about who you are professionally.

Network strategically

Use social media as a way to connect with professionals, alumni, and industry leaders. Social media breaks down traditional barriers, allowing you to learn from people you'd never otherwise meet. But remember – quality connections beat quantity every time.

Discover opportunities

There are some opportunities online that might never appear on traditional job boards. Many companies share openings on their social channels first, and building relationships online can lead to insider knowledge about upcoming roles.

Your action plan: Taking control of your digital story

Feeling overwhelmed? Don't worry – transforming your online presence doesn't require a complete digital makeover overnight. Start with these practical steps.

Audit your current presence

Google yourself and review all your social media accounts through fresh eyes. If you wouldn't be comfortable with your headteacher or your Grandma seeing a post, potential employers probably won't be thrilled either.

Update your privacy settings

Remove anyone you don't recognise from your friends list and be more selective about who you accept in future. You should also limit who can tag you in posts so that you're not unknowingly or unwillingly associated with content that might not sit well with others.

Create separation

Consider using a nickname for personal accounts while using your real name for professional platforms. This isn't about being fake, it's about being strategic.

Think before you post

Ask yourself: "Would I be happy for this to represent me in five years' time?" If there's any doubt, don't hit publish.

Be proactive

Take some time to curate your professional presence. Share achievements, volunteer experiences, and insights about your interests. Show potential employers the ambitious, thoughtful person behind the application.

Work social media to your advantage

Social media isn't going anywhere, and neither are employers who use it to evaluate candidates. Rather than seeing this as a threat, view it as an opportunity to stand out from the crowd in all the right ways.

Remember, every post is a choice. Every comment is a decision. Every share is a statement about who you are and what you value. Make sure they're all working towards the future you want to create. By [being professional](#), respectful, looking for relevant content, building a positive personal brand, and networking, you'll be able to harness the power of social media to your advantage.

Want more?

[We have heaps of other blogs on professional development and careers for you to read on our website here.](#)

Apprenticeships & Traineeships

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships explained

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships offer high school students a unique pathway that combines traditional schooling with real-world work experience and vocational training. They're a valuable pathway for students who want to obtain their high school certificate while also building practical skills and earning money in their chosen field.

But what do school-based apprenticeships and traineeships involve and why might you consider doing one? We're going to cover all that and more, so let's take a look.

What exactly are school-based apprenticeships and traineeships?

As the name suggests, [school-based apprenticeships and traineeships](#) (also known as SBATs) allow students to combine their school studies with work and vocational training.

You can begin an SBAT in Year 10, 11, or 12, splitting your time between three key components:

- continuing essential school work
- undertaking formal vocational training (either in person or online)
- working part-time and receiving hands-on training and mentoring

They're perfect for students who learn best by doing, are keen to get a head start on their career, may be struggling with traditional school, or aren't interested in heading to university straight after high school.

The timeline and commitment

Like a regular apprenticeship or traineeship, SBATs typically take between 1-4 years to complete. The exact length of an SBAT will depend on the qualification you want to study and how much time you can dedicate to part-time work each week. Some students may need to continue their training after leaving school to complete their qualification.

During this period, you'll need to make a genuine commitment to both your education and your employer. You'll be learning to balance multiple responsibilities, which is excellent preparation for adult working life.

What can you gain from a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship?

By the time students complete Year 12, they could walk away with:

- a high school certificate
- a nationally-recognised qualification
- an ATAR (depending on their subject choices)
- paid work experience
- practical, industry-specific skills
- industry contacts and mentors
- a head start in their chosen career

Perhaps most importantly, many students receive full-time job offers from their employers once their SBAT is complete. If you show commitment, work ethic, skills, and you're a good fit for the team, you could walk into your first full-time job without the hassle of applications and interviews.

How long have school-based apprenticeships and traineeships been around?

SBATs are a tried and tested pathway with strong foundations, and have been [part of Australia's education landscape since 1996](#).

The numbers speak to their popularity and effectiveness: in 2023, [approximately 252,105 school students](#) undertook VET as part of their senior schooling, and 19,310 (or 7.7%) of these students participated in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

How are school-based apprenticeships and traineeships funded?

SBATs and other vocational qualifications for young people are designed to be accessible, so they're often [fully funded](#) by federal or state governments. This means there are typically no additional costs beyond normal school expenses, removing financial barriers that might otherwise prevent participation.

Who can participate?

To be eligible to undertake an SBAT, you must:

- be enrolled full-time at school
- be aged 15 or older
- have your school's agreement
- find an employer willing to take you on
- have parental permission (if you're under 18)

Most students who meet these basic requirements can participate, though it's a good idea to check specific requirements with both your school and in your state or territory, as these can vary slightly.

Who's involved in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship?

Similar to regular apprenticeships and traineeships, SBATs involve commitment and support from multiple parties.

The Apprentice Connect Australia Provider

[Apprentice Connect Australia Providers](#) (or ACAPs) provide you with free advice and resources to start your SBAT. They'll work with you and other parties to finalise your training contract, find an employer and Registered Training Organisation, and help you claim any financial support you're eligible for.

Note that you can't start an apprenticeship or traineeship without an Apprentice Connect Australia Provider.

The employer

Before you can start, you'll need to find an employer willing to hire you for the duration of your SBAT. Your employer is responsible for providing you with work, on-the-job training, and the same [minimum entitlements](#) as any other employee (such as wages, superannuation, and leave).

In some cases, your employer may also cover some of the costs of your training, like your education fees or necessary tools and equipment.

The training provider

As well as work, you'll also complete formal education as part of your SBAT, delivered by a [Registered Training Organisation](#) (or RTO). RTOs are educational institutions like TAFEs, universities, or private providers - in some cases, your training may even be delivered directly by your school.

Your RTO will work together with you and your employer to create a training plan, which covers everything you'll learn and how you'll learn it throughout your SBAT.

The school

Of course, you'll need approval and support from your school to undertake an SBAT. They can provide you and your family with information about how the process works, let you know which school subjects you still need to take, and create your new timetable.

The parents

Anyone under the age of 18 needs permission from a parent or guardian to undertake an SBAT, so speak to them early if it's an option you're considering. They can help you explore your options, find an employer, and work with the school to negotiate your new timetable. You might also need extra help from them to travel to and from work and your RTO.

The student

Last but certainly not least, you also need to be fully on board at each stage of the journey through your SBAT. You'll need to show up to school, work, and training, manage your time effectively, and let your school, employer, or family know if you need additional support.

Starting a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship

Starting an SBAT involves several steps, but you have plenty of support throughout the process.

Do your research

Before making a decision, explore different industries and careers to find something that genuinely interests you and offers good long-term prospects. You might like to check out resources like the [Pathways Explorer](#) or [Your Career](#).

Talk to your school

You should always begin by talking with your school's VET coordinator, careers advisor, or guidance officer to understand the available options and how they fit into your academic and career plans.

Find and apply for jobs

An ACAP is usually your first point of contact, as they can help you find suitable opportunities. [Group Training Organisations](#) (GTOs) can also connect you with employers looking for apprentices or trainees. Your school might also have existing contacts or employers for you to explore. This is also the stage where you (or your employer or school) will choose an RTO.

Sort out the practicalities

Don't forget the essential admin, like obtaining a [Unique Student Identifier](#) (USI), opening a bank account, applying for a [tax file number](#) (TFN), and exploring [financial support](#) options.

Sign your contract and enrol

Once your employer, RTO, school, and ACAP have finalised your [training contract](#), all that's left to do is for you and your parent or guardian to sign it and you're ready to begin.

Starting your career journey

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships offer an excellent pathway for students who want to combine academic achievement with practical career preparation. If you think it might be the right option for you, start exploring your options now so you can make the best decision for your future goals.

You can find more comprehensive information and resources to help guide your decision on our [apprenticeships and traineeships page](#).

First Jobs, Skills for Work

How to nail your job application video

If you've been on the hunt for a job, you may have come across an employer asking you to submit a video as part of the application process. This can be a great opportunity to showcase your personality and skills beyond what's on your resume. But if you've never made one before, it might seem a bit daunting. Don't worry – we've got you covered with some tips to help you create a standout job application video.

Why do employers ask for video applications?

Video applications give employers a chance to see more of your personality and communication skills. They can also be a way for you to demonstrate specific skills relevant to the job. For example, if you're applying for a role that requires public speaking or presenting, a video is a perfect way to show off those abilities.

7 tips for creating a great job application video

Want to know how to create a video that will help you stand out from the crowd? Here are our top tips.

Understand the requirements

Before you start filming, make sure you know exactly what the employer is looking for. Read the instructions carefully. How long should the video be? Are there specific questions you need to answer? What format should you use? Following these guidelines is your first chance to show that you can follow instructions – an important skill in any job.

Plan your content

Just like you wouldn't go into a job interview unprepared, don't start your video without a plan. Write a script or at least prepare some bullet points of what you want to say. Practice a few times so you feel comfortable with the content.

Choose the right setting

Find a quiet place with good lighting to film your video. A plain background is usually best – you want the focus to be on you, not what's behind you. Make sure there's nothing distracting or inappropriate in the frame.

Dress appropriately

Dress as you would for an in-person interview. This shows the employer that you're taking the application seriously and understand professional expectations.

Check your tech

Before you start recording your job application video, test your camera and microphone to ensure they're working properly. Poor audio or visual quality can be distracting and may negatively impact your application.

Be yourself

While it's important to be professional, don't forget to let your personality shine through. Employers want to see the real you, not a robotic version reciting memorised lines.

Keep it concise

Respect the employer's time by sticking to the requested length. If no time limit is specified, aim for 1-2 minutes. Remember, you want to give enough information to interest them, but leave them wanting to know more.

What to include in your video

Your job application video should typically cover:

1. **A brief introduction:** State your name and the position you're applying for.
2. **Your relevant skills and experiences:** Highlight why you're a good fit for the role.
3. **Your interest in the position:** Explain why you want this particular job.
4. **A call to action:** Thank them for their time and express your interest in hearing back.

Review before you submit

Once you've recorded your video, watch it back. Check for any technical issues, and make sure you've covered all the key points. If possible, ask a trusted friend, family member, or teacher to watch it and give you feedback.

Final thoughts

Remember, the video is usually just one part of the job application process. Make sure you've also prepared a strong resume and cover letter (if required), and don't forget to follow up after submitting your application – it shows initiative and genuine interest in the position.

Want more tips on finding and securing work? [You can read more blogs on our website here.](#)

Job Spotlight

How to become a Chef

Chefs are the creative masterminds behind delicious meals in restaurants, cafés, hotels, and catering companies. They plan menus, prepare food, manage kitchen staff, and ensure every dish meets high standards of taste, presentation, and food safety.

If you love food, thrive in fast-paced environments, and enjoy leading a team, a career as a chef could be perfect for you.

What skills do I need as a chef?

- Creative and innovative
- Excellent time management
- Can work well under pressure
- Strong leadership abilities
- Great attention to detail
- Physically resilient
- Adaptable and reliable
- Passionate about food and cooking

What does the job involve?

- Planning and creating menus
- Preparing, cooking, and presenting food
- Ordering ingredients and managing budgets
- Leading and training other kitchen staff
- Ensuring food safety and hygiene standards
- Monitoring food quality and consistency
- Coordinating with front-of-house staff

- Managing kitchen equipment and inventory

What industries do chefs typically work in?

- Accommodation and Food Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance

What Career Cluster do chefs belong to?

This is a hands-on career that requires a high level of both technical skill and specialist knowledge, so most chefs fall into the [Maker Cluster](#).

What kind of lifestyle can I expect?

Most chefs work split shifts, with preparation time during the day and service during evening hours. Weekend and holiday work is common, as that's when hospitality venues are typically busiest. You'll be on your feet for hours, working in hot environments, and managing multiple tasks simultaneously. Chef salaries vary significantly based on experience, location, and type of establishment, but most chefs can expect to earn an average wage throughout their careers.

You won't be able to work from home as a chef, as you will need to physically be in the kitchen to prepare food and perform other important duties. But some experienced chefs do move into roles like food writing, recipe development, or culinary consulting that can offer more flexibility.

How to become a chef

To become a successful chef, you'll need to learn the practical skills required for the job. This is usually done through a combination of relevant educational training and hands-on work experience. Many chefs start with formal culinary education through certificate or diploma courses at culinary schools or vocational institutions. These programmes cover cooking techniques, food safety, menu planning, and kitchen management, and are typically done as part of an apprenticeship, which combines hands-on experience with classroom learning.

Some chefs start as kitchen hands or commis chefs and work their way up through experience and on-the-job training. This pathway requires dedication and patience, but offers real-world learning from day one.


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

If you're in high school and considering a career as a chef, here are some steps you can take to start exploring:

- Start cooking at home regularly. Experiment with different cuisines, master basic techniques, and learn to cook without recipes.
- Look for part-time work in restaurants, cafés, or catering companies. Even roles like dishwashing or food service can give you valuable insight and help you decide if the environment suits you.
- Consider taking hospitality or food technology subjects at school (if they're available) to start learning about food safety, nutrition, and industry practices.

Where can I find more information?

- [Worldchefs](#)
- [Australian Culinary Federation](#)
- [New Zealand Chefs Association](#)
- [Institute of Hospitality](#) (UK)
- [Restaurant Association of Ireland](#)

- 
- [American Culinary Federation](#)
 - [The Culinary Federation](#) (Canada)

Similar careers to chef

- Pastry Chef
- [Baker](#)
- [Sommelier](#)
- Waiter
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