# Going on to tertiary study: The facts

**Different types of courses teach different skills and take different amounts of time to complete. Think about the type of course that will help you achieve your aims.**

## Course types and durations

| | |
|---|---|
| Certificate I-III | 3-6 months |
| Certificate IV | 6-12 months |
| Diploma | 1-2 years |
| Advanced diploma | 2 years |
| Associate degree | 2 years |
| Degree | 3-4 years |
| Double degree | 4-5 years |

## Benefits

- Higher income
- Healthy living
- Greater life satisfaction
- Employability
- Confidence

## Challenges

Don't listen to urban myths about scaling.

Don't choose subjects based on how they were scaled in previous years.

## Actions

Choose studies you like and are good at.

Try different combinations of VCE studies using the VTAC Prerequisite and Course Explorer to see how different choices impact on your eligibility for different courses.

Create a list of what you like doing, what you're good at and what you have a passion for.

## TEACHING STYLES vary between institutions

**UNIVERSITIES** have formal lectures, tutorials, seminars, workshops, laboratory classes and work experience placements.

**TAFE INSTITUTES AND POLYTECHNICS** have small classes, individual attention and ensure practical learning while bridging the gap between work and education.

**PRIVATE COLLEGES** have lectures, workshops, laboratory classes, seminars, small group tutorials, practical work placements, industry visits and self-paced virtual classrooms.

## VET or Higher Ed?

- VET courses include: certificate I-IV, diploma and advanced diplomas
- Higher Education courses include: associate degrees, diplomas, bachelor degrees, honours, and postgraduate courses.

## Be confident in your choices

There are no right or wrong choices, so don't be frightened of making a mistake.