



Careers Newsletter

4 November 2020

Disclaimer – all information is printed in good faith

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm all details with the appropriate institution.

To contact Ms Janes please call 9414 4377 or email djanes@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au

JobJump - Parents and students please watch YouTube video and sign up

Sign up to JobJump for information about tertiary study options, ATAR's and apprenticeship and TAFE information. Create a resume, sign up for news alerts.

To register go to <https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

Search school – St Pius X Chatswood

Register with an email address (use a private address, not spx)

Password – pius (lower case)

Parent information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZoyckJwvVg&feature=youtu.be>

[NIE | Confidence Development Strategy for Medical Interview – Webinar](#)

10 November 2020, 7:00 pm - 11 November 2020, 9:00 pm

Online

This program has been designed for those interested in further strategies that specifically counteract the *16 Core Doubts of Medical Interviews*, which some students form from their anxieties, fears and repetitive beliefs. This module may be especially helpful for chronic over-thinkers, or applicants who worry they will freeze up, talk too long, miss the points of questions, or who have difficulty answering negative questions about themselves in a socially appropriate way.

Find out more: <https://www.nie.edu.au/products-listing/product/2892-confidence-development-strategy-for-medical-interview-webinar>

[Endeavour College | Studying Complementary Medicine Webinar](#)

17 November 2020, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Online

Our Bachelor of Complementary Medicine is our 100% online course that provides students with a comprehensive grounding and foundation knowledge across natural medicine modalities. This webinar, hosted by Katrina Arch (National Sales and Admissions Director), will answer all your questions about the course, studying online, and career outcomes after you graduate.

This webinar will cover:

- The ins and outs of studying online
- Study plans and timetabling
- A look at our Learning Management System (LMS)
- Career outcomes
- Q&As

Find out more: <https://www.endeavour.edu.au/events/studying-complementary-medicine-session4/>

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[ACU | Blacktown Information Session](#)

21 November 2020, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Australian Catholic University, Blacktown Campus

Come along to one of ACU's Blacktown Information Sessions to get a sneak peek of the new campus and to learn more about degrees you're interested in studying. This will be the first event series held at our Blacktown campus, so along with getting more information you'll be one of the first people to experience our brand new facilities.

On the day you'll get to:

- Learn about our new campus and courses at Blacktown
- meet ACU staff and current students
- get a feel for the newest ACU campus
- learn about careers and work experience during your course
- hear helpful tips on preparing for university.

Find out more: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2020/november/acu-blacktown-information-session>

[The Hotel School | Sydney Open Campus](#)

1 December 2020, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Hotel School, Sydney Campus

Join us to start exploring how you can be a part of an exciting global career within the hospitality, hotel and tourism industry by attending our Sydney Open Campus.

Come into the campus and meet our staff and fellow students, discuss the courses in detail and enjoy a tour of our CBD campus and student spaces.

This day is also an opportunity to meet with our course advisors and discuss The Hotel School scholarship application process for Session 1 2021. Take advantage of their experience to ensure your application shines.

Find out more: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-hotel-school-sydney-open-campus-test-tickets-126368007111>

[ACU | Know Your Options Webinar](#)

16 December 2020, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Online

Come along to our Know Your Options webinar, an online event where you can learn about alternative entry and admission pathways, information about accepting your offer, and hear about scholarships and accommodation opportunities.

You'll also have the opportunity to get your questions answered through online chat.

Find out more: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2020/december/know-your-options-online-webinar>

[NIE | UCAT Interviews Preparation Workshop Online](#)

7 November 2020, 10:00 am - 8 November 2020, 4:00 pm

Online

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The unique NIE workshop program aims for students to gain an in-depth understanding and required knowledge of the medical interview processes for specific universities, including Multi-station Mini Interview (MMI), Structured, and Semi-structured panel interviews.

The workshop is structured and based on the models that are taught during our proven one-on-one personalised medical interview sessions. The workshop will allow each and every attendee to learn the required skills and practical understanding for the university which they received an interview offer from.

Find out more: <https://www.nie.edu.au/products-listing/product/44-umat-medical-interviews-preparation-workshop>

[University of Melbourne | Girls Do Jazz Series](#)

8 November 2020, 11:00 am - 13 December 2020, 12:30 pm

Online

Girls Do Jazz is a series of online workshops presented by the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and run weekly over six Sundays.

These workshops are designed for female and non-binary vocalists and instrumentalists (secondary school age and young adults) all around Australia who are interested in gaining insight and experience in jazz and improvised music.

The workshops will be run by Andrea Keller, Lecturer in Jazz & Improvisation. Current Jazz & Improvisation students will assist Andrea to work with you to engage in jazz and improvisation studies, covering music ranging from free improvisation, to tunes from the American songbook and those by contemporary Australian jazz musicians.

You do not have to have any experience in playing jazz as this will be an exciting introduction to this intriguing, creative music style!

Find out more: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/connect-with-us/events-for-future-students/all-events-listing/girls-do-jazz-series>

[ASE | Virtual Business Camp](#)

6 January 2021, 9:00 am - 8 January 2021, 4:00 pm

Online

This is a call out for young Aussies aged 7 to 14 years who want to make a positive change in the world through business and entrepreneurship!

In just 72 hours, you will experience the highs, lows, love, and pressure that make up the ever-changing world of business. You will meet the most amazing friends and mentors, along the way starting a business or social change movement.

Find out more: <https://events.humanitix.com/business-camp-virtual-summer-school-holidays>

[Capstone Editing Textbook Grant for Undergraduates](#)

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: March 4, 2020 – January 6, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarship](#)

Value: \$5,000 AUD per year

Open/Closing Dates: December 1, 2020 – February 12, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[UON Betty Josephine Fyffe Rural Equity Scholarships](#)

Value: Up to \$50,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2020 – March 3, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[CSU Foundation Rural Relief Scholarship](#)

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2020 – February 8, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[CSU The Inland Rail Scholarships](#)

Value: Up to \$20,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2020 – February 8, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[CSU Valerie Cox Memorial Scholarship – Commencing](#)

Value: Up to \$20,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2020 – February 8, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[UOW John, Belle & Richard Miller, Bridgewater Scholarships for Opportunity](#)

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: July 20, 2020 – December 11, 2020

[Find out more](#)

[UNE The Mildred and Betty Scholarship](#)

Value: \$6,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2020 – January 4, 2021

[Find out more](#)

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[UNE The Duncan Family Scholarship in Pharmacy](#)

Value: \$5,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2020 – January 4, 2021

[Find out more](#)

[The Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers](#)

The Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers recognizes outstanding young poets and is open to high school students aged 16-18 throughout the world.

The contest winner receives a full scholarship to the Kenyon Review Young Writers workshop. In addition, the winning poem and the poems of the two runners-up will be published in the Kenyon Review, one of the country's most widely read literary magazines.

Entries open each year on 1 November, and close 30 November.

Find out more and enter here: <https://kenyonreview.org/contests/patricia-grodd/>

[53-Word Story Contest](#)

Prime Number Magazine runs a monthly 53-Word Story Contest, open to writers of any age from around the world.

Each story can only be exactly 53 words in length, and must be based on the monthly theme. The winner has their story published in *Prime Number Magazine* and receives a free book.

The competition opens on the first day of each month, **and closes on the 15th of each month.**

Find out more and enter here: <https://www.press53.com/53word-story-contest>

[Science without Borders® International Student Art Contest](#)

The Science Without Borders® Challenge is an international contest that engages students and teachers in ocean conservation through art.

This annual competition inspires students to be creative while promoting public awareness of the need to preserve, protect, and restore the world's oceans and aquatic resources.

The theme for this year's Challenge is "The Magic of Mangroves."

Entries are open until 1 March 2021.

Find out more and enter here: <https://www.livingoceansfoundation.org/education/science-without-borders-challenge/>

Careers & Jobs

[Consider a Career in Cybersecurity](#)

Cybersecurity is a growing industry in Australia and around the world. Cyber attacks have risen by 330% since the start of the year, and more skilled professionals are needed to help stop them.

If you enjoy tech and problem solving, and are looking for a career in a booming industry, cybersecurity could be perfect for you.

Interested in finding out more? You can check out our [Job Spotlight on cybersecurity](#) to learn about the pathways and qualifications you need.

[Boost your employability post high school](#)

If you're still at high school and already looking for ways to give your employment prospects a boost once you graduate, there's a few things that you can do:

- **Actively engage in career education** – ask questions, search for information, read resources, send an email to info@studyworkgrow.com.au if there's any specific careers you'd like to know about
- **Explore Work** – speak with people already working, find work experience, watch videos about jobs and read [job spotlights](#), learn about your [rights and responsibilities](#)
- **Apply for part-time or casual jobs** – create a [resume](#) and keep it updated, add to your skills, get practical experience

“Education and training, combined with active engagement with employers while at school, have been shown to be key factors in supporting that transition and building skills to help young people navigate and prepare for work.”

– aph.gov.au

Winning

When you take on part time work while you're still at school, not only will you be earning your own money, learning new technical skills and gaining great life skills; you'll actually improve your job prospects once school is over. In fact an [Education Council report](#) has found that students who are employed in paid work whilst they're still learning find full time roles faster than students who don't work part time.

Why's that?

Part time work, even if it's in a totally different field, will give you work-ready skills that make your more employable.

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For example, if you work part time at a fast food restaurant while you're still at school and/or university, you'll improve your ability to work with others, your communication, customer service skills, planning and time management, plus you'll develop your work ethic, which keeps you selling fries hour after hour while your peers are out partying on a Friday night. Even if you end up working in healthcare, the skills you pick up flipping burgers will come in handy (maybe not the actual burger flipping...).

Employers will see that you've got a positive attitude and good work ethic, you've had experience in the workplace and got an idea about what it takes to succeed. You may also have skills that will be valuable to them and reduce the amount of training they'll need to provide. You will also have an understanding of work and workplaces which could help make the transition to a new or full-time career easier, both on you and your employer.

If you've been employed previously, then prospective employers can check with your referees, learn about your strengths and understand how valued you were as a part of the team. That provides some indication of whether you are going to be a responsible, reliable and hard-working addition to their own crew.

The facts

The Education Council Report found that:

- By working 2,000 hours in a relevant job, you could accelerate your transition from full-time education to full-time work by 5 months
- By working 5,000 hours, you could accelerate the transition by 12 months

This means that it's been *proven* that the more hours of work experience you accrue while you're still at school, the sooner you could be employed in full-time work after leaving school.

So for example, if the Australian average transition period between school and full-time work (which doesn't include if you're studying, being a carer or working part time already) is 4 years. Your part time work experience could significantly reduce the time it'll take you to start working once you start applying. How great is that?

"Part-time jobs while studying are fundamental parts of young people's lives, and often their school-day jobs continue well into their post-school careers."

– Erica Smith, Federation University

The benefits of working part time throughout high school

High school is designed to teach us lots of different things, but there's nothing like real first-hand experience. Work experience opportunities are thin on the ground at the minute, and the evidence shows us that you need to stick with a part time job for a significant amount of time for it to make a difference. There's nothing that can replace the experience you can gain working part time.

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Just like school, workplaces are powerful learning environments, offering opportunities to learn more and extend the knowledge you've gained from school. You could gain technical skills and hands-on experience from experts using real-life equipment. Learn new soft skills e.g. communication, risk management, customer service and problem-solving, and get the chance to develop ones you've already got.

In short, part time work could:

- Complement what you learn at school
- Provide practical experience
- Teach you new skills
- Help you to network
- Make the transition from school to full time work easier and faster
- Provide recruit opportunities for full time work (your part time employer recognises your value and potential and offers you a full time job)
- Motivate you to work harder at school or find a rewarding full time career

Interested in reading all the facts, stats, findings and fine print? Head over to the full report [here: Education Council 2020](#).

How to find part time work

Thinking that you should do yourself a favour and find some part time work?

You could:

- Check local noticeboards and shop windows near you
- Search online
- Check out our [Summer Jobs](#) page for lots of tips and ideas
- Speak to family friends and your friends' parents – let them know you're looking
- Type up your resume and a few cover letters then hand deliver them to businesses in your area
- Spend some time calling businesses that you'd be interested in working for

Remember to find a healthy work-life balance

If you're feeling motivated to go out and start working right now, brilliant.

Just remember that you'll need to find a job that still allows you to get all your schoolwork done, take part in your hobbies and spend some quality time with friends and family.

Working too hard might just mean you burn out and that's not going to help your long-term prospects. It's easier to start working just a few extra hours a week and build up to more, if or when you feel like you're coping ok.

Bear in mind that if you can't find a job, or just don't feel ready to work then that's ok too, there are other ways to pick up experience.

[Work the Harvest Trail](#)

Are you looking for casual work over the Summer to earn some extra cash?

The Harvest Trail Information Service provides information about harvesting jobs available across the country. If you're keen to work in the outdoors and are physically fit, there are plenty of jobs out there to suit you.

Search for jobs on the HTIS website here: <https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest>

[Learn About Starting a New Job with FairWork](#)

Starting a new job can be exciting and nerve-racking at the same time. If you're feeling a bit worried or confused, the FairWork Ombudsman provides an online course to help people about to start a new job.

The course can help you to understand your rights at work, what to expect in the workplace, and what questions you might need to ask on your first day.

You can also take a look at their guide to starting a new job [here](#).

Take the online course here: <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/online-training/online-learning-centre/starting-a-new-job>

[Outdoor Recreation and Leadership Careers](#)

If you are looking for a career that will get you moving with lots of opportunities to spend time outside, a job in outdoor recreation and leadership could be perfect for you.

Jobs in outdoor recreation and leadership are well-suited to people who are fit and healthy, enjoy spending time outdoors, are friendly and outgoing, and don't mind spending all day on their feet. The industry is predicted to have strong growth in the future, with around 1,000 new jobs available by 2024 (source: joboutlook.gov.au).

Some potential careers that these qualifications might lead to include:

- camp program manager
- environmental educator
- outdoor educator
- outdoor adventure guide, instructor or facilitator
- park ranger
- eco and adventure tourism

We've gathered some traineeship and study opportunities that you can apply for to help kick-start your outdoor career, and earn a qualification at the same time.

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- [Outdoor Recreation/Leadership Traineeship with Southbound Adventures](#)
- [CRU Summit Outdoor Trainee Program](#)
- [Careers with Outward Bound](#)
- [Study a Bachelor of Outdoor Leadership with the Outdoor Education Group and VU](#)
- [Traineeships with Outdoor Training College](#)
- [Christian Outdoor Education Traineeship with Youthworks](#)

You can also check out our Job Spotlights on the [Tourism Industry](#) and [Sport and Fitness Industry](#) to find out more.

[In-demand roles for 2 November 2020](#)

This week, particularly as restrictions eased in Victoria, there was continued strong growth in jobs in Hospitality & Tourism.

If you'd like to find out more about a jobs in this area, check out our Job Spotlights on becoming a [bartender](#), [sommelier](#), [cleaner](#), [food technologist](#), or [dive instructor](#), and the [tourism industry](#), [hair and beauty](#), and the [food industry](#).

Here are the roles with the strongest growth by location:

NSW – [Owner Driver](#) (240 jobs)

VIC – [Outreach Worker](#) (284 jobs)

QLD – [Performance Analyst](#) (98 jobs)

ACT – [Partner](#) (566 jobs)

WA – [Overseer](#) (417 jobs)

SA – [Parts Adviser](#) (Nation-wide) (652 jobs)

TAS – [Partner](#) (143 jobs)

NT – [Parts Adviser](#) (Nation-wide) (652 jobs)

Source: [Seek Australia](#)

Further Learning

[Do you need to Change your Preferences?](#)

So you've applied to uni – congratulations!

Perhaps you've applied through a [Tertiary Admissions Centre \(TAC\)](#) like UAC, QTAC or VTAC. Maybe you applied directly to the university of your choice.

Either way, did you know that once you've submitted your applications, they're still not set in stone? That means that you've got plenty of wiggle room and options to consider.

Preferences – the basics

By the time you've submitted your [applications](#), it's assumed that you understand 'preferences' and what it means to your application.

But just in case you're still a bit uncertain, here's what it means. **Preferences** are just a term for the courses you want to apply for, listed in the order you'd like to study them.

At Study Work Grow we recommend that you list your dream course(s) first, some more realistic options next, and one safe option last. That way you'll increase the odds that you'll get at least one offer in the main offer rounds.

Listing the maximum number of possible preferences on your applications is also a good strategy. Giving you the maximum opportunity to receive at least one offer – maybe more.

Flexibility can be handy

If you're certain that you have applied to the best uni and selected the best courses for you, that's great. Move on and wait for the offer rounds to start up.

But if you've decided that you're not happy with the universities or courses you've listed, or perhaps the order you listed your preference just isn't sitting right with you anymore, guess what?

There's good news – the whole applications system is designed to allow you to change your preferences.

When can you change your preferences?

Most universities and TACs provide plenty of opportunities to change your preferences.

1. After submitting your application and before you take your exams or get your results, you can usually log into your application and adjust your preferences.

TIP: If you've received an early conditional offer for one or more of the courses on your preferences, and you'd still like more offers during the main rounds – it's best to call the admission centre or institution directly if you're unsure about what to do next.

Note: Changing your preferences is usually free, but some TACs may charge a fee if you change them more than two or three times.

- Between receiving your exam results and the main offer round taking place, there is a window of time to change your preferences.

Here are the Change of Preference cut-off dates for the main rounds of offers after ATAR release date:

Tertiary Admission Centre	Results Date	Main Round Offers Date	Change of Preference Cut-off for main round
UAC	ACT 16 Dec NSW 18 Dec	22 December 2020	Midnight 18 December
VTAC	30 Dec	14 January 2021	12pm 4 January 2021
QTAC	19 Dec	23 December 2020	12pm 21 December 2020
TISC	21 Dec	15 January 2021	11pm 8 January 2021
SATAC	15 Dec	15 January 2021	7 January 2021
UTAS	17 Dec	Mid Dec – TAS TBC Early Jan – Interstate TBC	TBC

Note: You may need to contact UTAS and other institutions directly for any cut-off dates if you've applied by direct entry.

- Once the main round offers have happened, another window is usually opened up. You'll get the chance to change your preferences again and possibly receive more offers so you can choose which one to accept. Or, if you didn't get an offer in the first round, you can have another go in the subsequent rounds.

Top Tips for Changing Preferences

- Spend some time considering why you want to change your preferences before you go ahead and do it
- Check if any fees or cut-off dates (and times) apply
- If you're unsure about what to do, pick up the phone and call someone at the TAC or university for advice

Do you really need to change your preferences?

Consider adjusting your preferences if:

- Your ATAR was better than you expected. Good work, if there's a competitive course that you hadn't listed or had placed low down your preferences because you didn't think it was a realistic option before your exams, change your preferences
- Your ATAR wasn't as good as you had hoped for and you'd like to ensure you get offers, change your preferences to list courses with pre-requisites that match your score up the top of your list
- You have had a change of heart about the ideal course or the best university for you
- There's a new course that's become available and you think it would be perfect for you
- You've discovered a course you didn't know about when you applied, add it to your list
- You've been advised that the pre-requisites for a course you had on your list have changed, or a course you'd applied for has been dropped by the university
- Perhaps you're having a look back over your application and you realise that you didn't put your preferences in the right order

If any of these options ring true for you, then it could be a good idea to change your preferences.

Is changing your preferences really necessary?

If you get a higher ATAR than you expected (yay you), **DON'T** immediately rush off and change your preferences just because you *can* apply for Law or Engineering now. If you're happy with your preferences, then stick with them – there's no such thing as 'wasting' a good ATAR.

You might feel pressured into thinking you should change your list, particularly if your friends are talking about changing theirs and cut-off dates are coming up. Hold off, spend some time researching any changes you're thinking of making, and be sure you're making the changes for all the right reasons.

Double check any course pre-requisites as well as your eligibility before you go adding any new courses or moving them up your list. It would be a real shame to miss out on receiving more offers or the offer you really wanted because you didn't take a few minutes to read the course entry criteria.

Don't panic

If you miss the change of preference cut-offs for the first round, you'll get the chance to change them again before the next offer round.

Once all the offer rounds are over and you have an offer but it's not for the course you really wanted, call up the university and find out what your options are. Perhaps you can transfer internally if there are spaces left or when places open up later in the year.

Most importantly, if you don't receive any offers at all please remember that you still have lots of options. Find out about [alternative pathways](#) from universities, you may be happily surprised to

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learn about the number of choices available that could help get you into the uni course you'd like to study.

Need more information?

If you're still after more information including key dates and change of preference events being held by the TACs and universities, our [Changing Preference Guide](#) could answer all of your questions.

[Join the Australian School of Entrepreneurship](#)

The Australian School of Entrepreneurship offers young people who are interested in entrepreneurship the chance to grow their skills and knowledge.

As a member, you will have access to learning content made by young entrepreneurs, a private community of other like-minded youth, your own personal ASE mentor, and more.

You don't need a business idea to join – just a passion to create change in the world.

Find out more here: <https://ase.edu.au/membership>

[Take a Beginner Course at AIE](#)

Are you interested in learning more about game design, programming or 3D animation?

AIE are offering beginner-level courses in those three areas, available to study online. The courses will give you a solid foundation in game design, programming or 3D animation, as well as valuable experience and work to show off in your portfolio.

The next round of online courses start on November 23, and run for 4 weeks.

Find out more here: https://aie.edu.au/course_category/beginner/

[Study Online with Le Cordon Bleu](#)

Are you interested in studying hospitality, food, tourism or business? Le Cordon Bleu has taken their courses online.

Their series of Undergraduate Certificates can be studied fully online. The only requirement for entry is being at least 15 years of age – no ATAR or high school certificate required!

The next intake for the Undergraduate Certificates is January 2021. FEE-HELP is available for domestic students.

Find out more and apply here: <https://www.cordonbleu.edu/australia/higher-education-certificates/en>

[From Young Empath to Emerging Nurse Leader](#)

Thinking about a career in Nursing?

Perhaps you'll find some inspiration from this motivating interview with Swinburne Bachelor of Nursing graduate Amy Humme.

Amy has dreamt of becoming a Nurse since the early age of eight. Her caring nature and strong desire to help others making her an ideal candidate for this career.

Amy's now happily working at Monash Health's in their graduate program, where she had also been named as one of the Australian College of Nursing's Emerging Nurse Leaders of 2020. Amy isn't done yet though, with her sights set on a future in Emergency, or on a Cardiac Ward.

[Click here](#) to read the whole story and learn about the pathway that has enabled Amy to reach her goals.

Work Experience

[Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession](#)

Get virtual vet work experience before embarking on a veterinary degree.

This is a free online course run by the University of Nottingham on FutureLearn. During the course, you'll get insight into the reality of life as a vet so that you can make an informed decision before embarking on a veterinary degree course.

What topics will you cover?

- Introduction to the veterinary profession and how to begin a veterinary career
- Where and how vets work
- Roles of the wider veterinary team in and out of practice
- The benefits and challenges of the vocation
- Current and future issues for veterinary medicine and science

[Learn more](#)

[Navitas Professional Virtual Internships](#)

With a virtual internship, you will be able to gain valuable real-world experience and workplace knowledge of real Australian businesses to help you stand out from the crowd. Feel empowered as you work through the Virtual Internship at your own pace and from anywhere you can get on the net.

Each Virtual Internship stream consists of a number of key development areas and subjects that consist of real-world examples of tasks that you would be expected to complete in a real workplace.

Available streams include:

- Finance & Accounting
- Australian Corporate
- Australian Health Industry
- STEM
- Career Search

[Learn more](#)

Resources

[Be prepared for University in 2021](#)

There's an awful lot going in Year 12, we get that.

If you're planning on going to university in 2021, we've put together a simple checklist that could help you to keep track with what you need to do next.

- Tick off the steps over the next 4 months
- Write important dates and notes on it
- Stick it above your desk at home as a visual reminder
- Or pop it on the fridge door where everyone can see it and help you to stay accountable

It could help you to free up some headspace and stress less trying to remember it all by yourself.

[Click here to download the Checklist.](#)

[On Campus vs Online](#)

This year has seen a huge uptake in universities moving their learning online, and it's an option that's more popular and accessible than ever.

But for some people, it's not quite the same as being able to attend classes on campus. So what's the best option for you if you're looking to start your studies at university next year?

There are both advantages and disadvantages to both, and at the end of the day the decision comes down to what will best suit you. Let's take a look at some of the pros and cons to help you make up your mind.

On Campus – Benefits

It's easy to meet new friends

Studying on campus means you will have to meet a whole bunch of new people – whether you want to or not. But this is a great opportunity to make new friends, and even start a study group. It's always nice to have people to talk to and study with to make life that little bit easier.

Easy access to resources

Being on campus gives you access to all of the resources the university has to offer: the library, student support, computer labs, study spaces, and most universities even have things like cafes and gym facilities. Everything you could possibly need is right there at your fingertips.

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The schedule is done for you

It doesn't matter if you don't have the best time management skills, because your class times are all set for you. All you have to do is show up!

On Campus – Downsides

The cost

Depending on how far away you live from your nearest campus, you might find yourself spending a lot of time (and money) commuting back and forth from campus. Some universities have on-campus accommodation, but this can also be costly. And if there is no university near you, you'll have to spend a lot of money moving away from home.

The time commitment

Studying full-time on campus means that you will be spending most of your time at university. This doesn't leave much time for other things like work. If you need to rely on your income, this might not be the best option.

The rigidity

Having your schedule set for you can be good, but you might find that certain classes can conflict with other activities you have planned, such as sports and social time. And in most circumstances, going to class will be the option that wins. Sometimes you might even have two classes that clash, meaning you will need to choose between one or the other.

Online – Benefits

The flexibility

When you study online, you can generally set your own pace. You can take as long – or as little – as you need on a certain topic. You can also choose when to study. If you're an early riser, you can study in the morning, and if you're more of a night owl, then you can study at night instead. It also gives you the flexibility to fit your study around other commitments, such as work.

Minimal disruption

Even if there is no university campus nearby, studying online means you don't have to move away to access top-notch education. This could save you heaps of money in travel expenses and accommodation. And you don't have to shift your whole life half way across the country.

Meet people from all over

Studying online isn't necessarily lonely – you will often be able to chat to your other classmates and lecturers virtually, either by video or text. You can meet people from all over Australia, and even overseas, giving you a broader perspective during your studies.

Online – Downsides

Requires serious time management skills and discipline

Studying at your own pace can be a blessing – or it can be a curse. If you're the kind of person who's more likely to stay in bed and get distracted scrolling through Facebook or Instagram, online study might not be the best option.

Liberating Education

Less access to resources

Depending on where you live, you might not have access to a library in town. Or perhaps you still live at home with younger siblings and your house is often crowded and noisy, making it difficult to study. At times like these it's nice to have certain facilities on hand at campus.

No face-to-face contact

Even though you will still chat regularly with your lecturers and other students, it can still be lonely for some people without proper face-to-face time with friends. Be careful not to get sucked into the trap of never leaving your house either! Having support and connections through other means (family, other friends, etc) is still important.

The Decision

At the end of the day, which study option is best for you is a very personal decision. There are a lot of things you need to take into consideration, and what's right for one person might not be right for you.

But here's something else to consider: a lot of universities also offer flexible or blended study modes. This means you can combine both on campus and online study to suit your needs. And there's nothing from stopping you trying one out – you can do your first semester online, and if you find it isn't quite working for you then you can swap to on campus for the second, or vice versa. Whatever path you choose, have fun with your studies and remember that you always have options.

[The School Leaver's Checklist for 2020](#)

This checklist has been designed for anyone who's leaving high school to start the next chapter of their life.

It applies to you whether you are:

- Leaving high school in Year 10 or Year 12
- Heading off to uni or TAFE in 2021
- Planning to study online next year or sometime down the track
- Taking a gap year
- Starting an apprenticeship, or
- Diving headfirst into full time work

There are a few basic tasks that you'll need to accomplish. Being organised now and at least knowing what you'll have to do could help you to transition more easily into 2021.

Don't stress, it's nothing that you'll urgently need to address in the middle of your exams (unless there's an application that you haven't submitted that is time critical).

Perhaps you could consider downloading it, then sticking it on your wall, or in your diary. You can come back and pay it some attention once all your finals are out of the way.

[Download the School Leavers 2020 Checklist here.](#)

Job Spotlight

[How to become a Scrum Master](#)

What do Scrum Masters do?

Scrum Masters are important within Project Management teams who use “[Scrum](#)” frameworks when they’re working on complex projects that can change a lot during their progress (e.g. [Agile Software Development](#)). Scrum Masters manage communications between team members and departments, provide focus and clarity, and remove obstacles and distractions to ensure plans stay on track through appropriate collaboration and organisation.

If you have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, along with mentoring and management know-how, and you’re looking for a job that will be varied and challenging, then a career as a Scrum Master could be highly rewarding.

About you:

- Knowledge of Scrum theory, practices, rules, and values, as well as [Agile methodology](#)
- Strong communication skills with the ability to bring people together
- Effective coach and trainer helping new and existing team members adapt to new projects and developments
- Great at problem-solving using creative and critical thinking to bring the best solution
- High levels of organisation, time management and excellent reporting skills

The job:

- Determine the projects goals and timelines
- Split up projects into “Sprints”, providing teams with short timeframes for specific jobs and goals to be achieved
- Ensure the accurate and up to date flow of information between the client, project managers, developers and other team members by organising regular scrum events (meetings)
- Providing training and coaching as needed
- Helping to solve problems or conflicts within teams and motivating those who are stuck
- Buffering teams from interference and distractions during sprints, helping to ensure they meet their goals and targets
- Responsible for carrying out tool maintenance (e.g. Jira software) and regular reporting

Lifestyle Impact: Medium

- There are Part Time opportunities for Scrum Masters, although it may be as part of a full-time role within an organisation.
- Scrum Masters salary (average) \$140,000* per year (Source: [seek.com.au](#)) *based on full time work. Salaries vary between locations, field, and level of experience
- Future career growth: Stable with a projected job growth of 1.2% over the next 4 years (Source: [seek.com.au](#))
- As a Scrum Master you’ll do most of your work within regular business hours, but there’s a high probability that you may have to work overtime in order to overcome problems and meet tight deadlines. This job could be stressful as you’ll be dealing with the challenges associated with team dynamics, project hiccups, timelines and client needs. If you love

thinking on your feet and work well under pressure though, a career as a Scrum Master could be exciting every day.

Scrum Masters are most in demand in these locations:

There is most demand in New South Wales, followed by Victoria and the ACT.

How to become a Scrum Master in Australia

There are no formal qualification requirements to become a Scrum Master, however without sufficient, relevant work experience and some form of recognised certification, you might find it hard to be successful applying for these roles.

Step 1 – Completing Year 12 with English and Maths could be useful, as well as business and IT subjects

Step 2 – Work in a business environment as e.g. a Coder, Tester, Developer, Software Architect or Product Owner. Gain lots of relevant work experience and insight into project management.

Step 3 – Complete a relevant qualification e.g.:

[Certificate IV in Project Management Practice](#)

[Diploma of Project Management](#)

[Bachelor of Project Management](#)

[Bachelor of Training and Development](#)

Step 4 – Complete workshops, short courses and certified training as a Scrum Master or in Agile Delivery. E.g.:

[Agile Scrum Master Certification](#)

[Agile Delivery](#)

Step 5 – After some work experience as a Scrum Master, you could specialise and become a business coach, mentor, product owner, or manager. Or you might choose to remain a Scrum Master and apply for jobs in more challenging (and even better paid) positions.

Find out more here –

<https://scrum.com.au/>

<https://www.scrum.org/>

Similar Careers to Scrum Master

Project Manager

Test Manager

Delivery Manager

Administrative Assistant

Business Analyst

Business Coach

Technical Lead

Marketing Manager

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- **What is Scrum?**

Scrum is the name for a business framework or methodology that organisations use if they work on complex projects that could benefit from a flexible and adaptable approach to problem solving.

- **Do I need to go to university to become a Scrum Master?**

Not necessarily, but some employers might specify that they'd like specific qualifications that may include a degree. However, it's not essential to go to university. If you're prepared to work at entry level positions, work hard, get lots of experience and network, you could work as a Scrum Master without a degree.

- **What does a Scrum Master do?**

Simply put, a Scrum Master manages the processes of a project and communications between teams. That is to say they don't get involved in decision making about products or technicalities, but they work to streamline how the end product or goals are achieved, mediating between teams, working out timelines and phases of jobs.

- **Where do Scrum Masters work?**

Scrum Masters can work in lots of different industries from Retail and Construction, to Financial and IT. Roles are generally office based as you'll need to be around to meet with people and be on hand to help out at all times.

- **What are 3 things I can do right now to help me become a Scrum Master?**

If you're at high school and you think a career as a Scrum Master would be perfect for you, here's a few things you could start doing right now:

1. Volunteer as a mentor and get involved with any coaching and training opportunities. You'll develop your interpersonal and communication skills, as well as develop an awareness of your own mentoring style.
2. Get IT savvy – learn to use lots of different project management tools, software and apps.
3. Read up about what Scrum Masters do, watch videos about the processes they manage and if possible, get some work experience in a project management setting.

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