



Pathways Programs to University in 2026



There are many different ways to get to the same destination, and that applies to university too. Sometimes students do not quite meet the entry criteria to go straight into a university course – maybe their ATAR was not high enough, or they did not attain the minimum study score in a prerequisite subject. The encouraging thing is that many universities have recommended pathway courses to degrees they offer.

Below are many of these pathway schemes:

➤ ACU Diplomas to ACU Degrees

Australian Catholic University (ACU) offers a number of 1-year diploma programs to domestic and International students at the Melbourne Campus. Completion of these diplomas takes students into the second year of various bachelor degrees. Applications for these diplomas should be made through VTAC.

- [Diploma in Biomedical Science](#)
- [Diploma in Business](#)
- [Diploma in Criminology](#)
- [Diploma in Educational Studies \(Tertiary Preparation\)](#) (may not be a full years' credit)
- [Diploma in Exercise Science](#)
- [Diploma of Liberal Arts](#)
- [Diploma in Nutrition Science](#)
- [Diploma in Visual Arts and Design](#)
- [Diploma in Youth Work](#)

➤ Box Hill Institute Pathways to ACU, Deakin, and La Trobe

Box Hill Institute places a strong emphasis on providing students with practical knowledge in their chosen area of study, preparing students for further study at Australian Catholic University (ACU), Deakin University, and La Trobe University.

Courses include *business, nursing, sport development, accounting, commerce, and IT* and some of these pathway courses are on offer to both domestic and international students.

For a list of pathway courses (some of which are guaranteed pathways) from Box Hill Institute to ACU, Deakin University, and La Trobe University, visit [Box Hill Institute to Universities](#).

➤ Carlton College of Sport Diplomas to La Trobe University

Carlton College of Sport offers two one-year diploma courses that may articulate into the second year of bachelor degrees at La Trobe University.

- [Diploma of Sport Coaching and Development](#) into a number of sport-related degrees
- [Diploma of Elite Sport Business](#) into a business-related degree

Find out more at [Carlton College of Sport](#).

➤ [Chisholm Institute to La Trobe University](#)

Chisholm Institute, in partnership with La Trobe University, has a full pathway agreement related to the following degree:

Students can complete a La Trobe University Bachelor of Nursing (Enrolled Nurse) at Chisholm's Frankston or Berwick Campuses - [Bachelor of Nursing \(Enrolled Nurse Pathway\)](#).

Find out more at [Pathways to Degrees from Chisholm Institute](#).

➤ [Deakin College to Deakin University](#)

Deakin College is a direct pathway to Deakin University, providing domestic and international students with an experience that supports successful transition to further studies at the University. Deakin College offers:

Diploma programs that lead into a number of second year bachelor degrees at Deakin University include -

- [Diploma of Business](#)
- [Diploma of Commerce](#)
- [Diploma of Communication](#)
- [Diploma of Design](#)
- [Diploma of Engineering](#)
- [Diploma of Film, Television & Animation](#)
- [Diploma of Health Sciences](#)
- [Diploma of Information Technology](#)
- [Diploma of Science](#)

Deakin College courses are conducted on three Deakin University campuses in Victoria: Melbourne Burwood Campus, Geelong Waterfront Campus and Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus. Being located on campus enables students to access and enjoy all facilities and services, creating a smoother transition to their degree at Deakin.

Note: Domestic students apply through VTAC, International students apply directly to Deakin College.

Find out more by browsing [Deakin College](#).

➤ [Deakin University Pathway Options to Deakin University](#)

Deakin University offers a number of pathway options for domestic students into its bachelor programs, including *transferring between campuses*, and *transferring between courses*. In other words, *pathways through Deakin*.

There are two courses that domestic students can apply for through VTAC. On completion of the Associate degrees, students have several options, including guaranteed transition and entry into a range of courses.

- [Associate Degree of Arts](#) (pathways into Bachelor of Arts or Criminology or International Studies)

- [Associate Degree of Education](#) (pathways into Bachelor of Education (Primary) or Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education, or the Bachelor of Health and Physical Education)

Find out more at [Pathways through Deakin](#).

➤ [Pathways from various TAFE Institutions to Deakin University](#)

The **Deakin Pathways Program** seeks to encourage increased participation in higher education, as well as providing a supported student transition to higher education through supported VET programs. These pathways provide students with a seamless transition from TAFE Diplomas / Advanced Diplomas to Deakin University degrees. The TAFE institutions that Deakin has a partnership with are -

[Bendigo TAFE](#)
[Box Hill Institute](#)
[Chisholm Institute](#)
[Kangan Institute](#)

[South West TAFE](#)
[TAFE NSW](#)
[The Gordon](#)

For further details in regards to the Deakin Pathways Program visit [TAFE to Deakin Pathways](#). Alternatively, email pathways@deakin.edu.au for assistance or further advice.

➤ [Federation University Pathways to a Degree](#)

Federation University offers a few pathway options to a bachelor's degree.

1. Some Higher Education Diploma courses are offered that articulate into a bachelor's degree. On completion of the diploma, students can go into the second year of the bachelor degree. Three of these include –
 - [Diploma of Business](#) (International students only)
 - [Diploma of Business and Sports Management \(Higher Education\)](#)
 - [Diploma of Criminology and Criminal Justice \(Higher Education\)](#)
2. The [Federation Access Studies \(FAST\)](#) program. On successful completion of this 6-month program, students are guaranteed a place in a wide range of Federation degrees. Open to domestic students only.

Find out more at [Pathways to Federation University](#).

➤ [Kangan Institute Pathways to University](#)

Kangan Institute has partnered with leading universities in Australia to give students over 30 guaranteed pathway options to higher education.

Diploma programs including in *accounting, business, early childhood education, IT, logistics, management, nursing, beauty therapy, building & construction* lead into Bachelor degrees,

with up to one year's credit) at a number of universities including –

- [Deakin University](#)
- [Federation University](#)
- [La Trobe University](#)
- [Victoria University](#)

Find out more at [Kangan Pathways to University](#).

➤ [La Trobe College to La Trobe University](#)

La Trobe College is an alternative entry option to La Trobe University and provides a complete university experience within a personal and supportive environment and a fast-track pathway to an extensive range of degree options.

La Trobe College offers a range of Diploma courses, which are equivalent to La Trobe University's first year bachelor degree. Upon successful completion, students enter second year of their Bachelor Degree, choosing a degree from the university's five faculties.

La Trobe College pathway courses include -

- [Diploma of Bioscience](#)
- [Diploma of Business](#)
- [Diploma of Business Analytics](#)
- [Diploma of Cybersecurity](#)
- [Diploma of Engineering](#)
- [Diploma of Health Sciences](#)
- [Diploma of Information Technology](#)
- [Diploma of Media & Communication](#)
- [Diploma of Psychology](#)

Note: Domestic students may apply for these diplomas through VTAC, International students should apply directly to La Trobe College.

Find out more at [La Trobe College](#).

➤ [La Trobe University Pathway Options to La Trobe University](#)

1. [One-Year Diplomas](#)

La Trobe University offers a range of 1-year diplomas that, on successful completion, are guaranteed to articulate into certain bachelor degrees with some (or all) credit for units already completed in the diploma. Students will be able to apply through VTAC. These include –

- [Diploma of Arts](#)
- [Diploma of Biological Sciences](#)
- [Diploma in Business](#)
- [Diploma in Health Sciences](#)
- [Diploma of Information Technology](#)
- [Diploma in Languages](#)
- [Diploma of Rural Health](#)
- [Diploma of Science](#)
- [Diploma of Teacher Education](#)

Find out more at [La Trobe University Diplomas](#).

2. Associate Degrees

These two-year courses pathway into bachelor degrees with credit. They can be applied for through VTAC.

- [Associate Degree in Engineering Technology](#)
- [Associate Degree of Teaching Education](#)

3. Prepare for La Trobe

La Trobe's [Tertiary Preparation Program](#) is for students who –

- have not completed high school
- completed high school some time ago
- completed high school without an ATAR

Students can complete twelve *online and free micro-subjects*, each micro-unit requiring approximately 8-10 hours of independent study per week during a six-week term at La Trobe. The Tertiary Preparation Program will give students the skills to thrive at university, as well as an ATAR-equivalent score they can use when they apply. Eligible students will be able to apply for all bachelor's degrees except:

- Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours), (Regional Entry), Bendigo
- Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours), Bendigo
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Medical), Bendigo
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Medical), Albury-Wodonga

➤ Monash College to Monash University

A **Monash College** Diploma offers a direct pathway into second year at Monash University. Six diplomas are on offer that can lead students to a number of Monash University degree courses. Students should note that entry requirements into Monash College and Monash University do apply. Domestic students should apply through VTAC, International students apply directly to Monash College.

Diploma courses on offer include –

- [Diploma of Art and Design](#)
- [Diploma of Arts](#) (three streams: *psychology* OR *sociology* OR *media communication*)
- [Diploma of Business](#) (there is a *business* stream OR *commerce* stream)
- [Diploma of Education Studies](#)
- [Diploma of Engineering](#)
- [Diploma of Information Technology](#)
- [Diploma of Science](#)

Find out more at [Monash College](#).

➤ Monash University – Pathway Options to Monash University

1. Diploma of Tertiary Studies (DoTs)

The **Diploma of Tertiary Studies (DoTS)** is designed as an alternative pathway to university study. The one-year full-time course is particularly suited to domestic students requiring additional learning support in their first year of study. The **DoTS** pathway equips students with the skills to *write essays, undertake research, solve problems, think critically, develop projects, and communicate* their ideas more effectively. This pathway opportunity is offered at the Peninsula campus of Monash University. Providing a direct pathway to Monash University, successful completion of **DoTS** allows students to apply to progress to the second year of a number of Monash University degrees. When applying for DoTS, students will have the flexibility to choose a stream that interests them from *Business, Education or Nursing*. It is this stream that forms the first year of their degree and determines which Monash University degree they can pathway into. Students should note that they must meet the VCE prerequisites and a minimum ATAR required.

The pathways courses are –

- **Diploma of Tertiary Studies (Business) leads to:**
[Bachelor of Business Administration](#) (at the Peninsula Campus)
[Bachelor of Business](#) (at the Caulfield Campus)
- **Diploma of Tertiary Studies (Education) leads to:**
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Early Childhood and Primary Education](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Primary Education](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Primary and Secondary Health and Physical Education](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Secondary Health and Physical Education](#)
- **Diploma of Tertiary Studies (Nursing) leads to:**
[Bachelor of Nursing](#) (at the Peninsula Campus)

Visit [DoTS](#) to find out more.

2. Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE)

The **Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE)** is designed for domestic students who want to study a Bachelor of education, or a course in science, inclusive of mathematics or related areas at **Monash University**, but did not get the ATAR they need, or they did not quite meet the entry requirements for entry, having perhaps missed a prerequisite, particularly mathematics. On successful completion of this one-year, full-time course, students can apply to enter the second year of education, education/science, or several mathematics and science courses, and gain credit for the subjects they have already studied. The Diploma of Higher Education is offered at the Clayton campus. Students should note that they must meet the VCE prerequisites and a minimum ATAR required.

The pathways courses are –

- **Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE) Arts Stream leads to:**
[Bachelor of Arts](#)
[Bachelor of Criminology](#)
[Bachelor of International Relations](#)
[Bachelor of Media Communication](#)
- **Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE) Education Stream leads to:**
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Primary and Secondary Education](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Primary and Secondary Inclusive and Special Education](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) and Bachelor of Arts](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) and Bachelor of Business](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) and Bachelor of Science](#)
- **Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE) Science Stream leads to:**
[Bachelor of Science](#)
[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) and Bachelor of Science](#)
- **Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE) Learning Design and Technology Stream to:**
[Bachelor of Learning Design and Technology](#)

Visit [DoHE](#) to find out more.

➤ **Pathway Diplomas and Associate Degrees to RMIT University**

RMIT offers a diverse range of pathway programs to assist students in reaching their study and career destination. The pathways at RMIT provide opportunities for students to transfer from one program to another, receive recognition for their existing skills and knowledge, and can be credited towards a degree. RMIT offers numerous packaged pathways (i.e., diploma into degree programs) – and students are encouraged to browse Guaranteed Pathways and find out more.

An excellent pathway program for students keen on **teaching** is the – [Diploma of Teacher Education Preparation](#).

This course has been created for those domestic students who may not meet the entry requirements of the Bachelor of Education, and focuses on the education environment, inclusive education, approaches to learning and the teaching profession. This qualification may provide career opportunities in the education support sector, including education support worker, teacher assistant or integration/teacher aide. Successful completion of the diploma provides a guaranteed entry into one of the [Bachelor of Education](#) streams, and a couple of business undergraduate degrees.

Visit [Pathways to RMIT Degrees](#) and [Guaranteed Pathways](#).

➤ Pathway to Degrees at Swinburne University

1. Fee-Free UniReady Program (pending approval for 2026)

Finishing school without an ATAR? Want to change careers but haven't studied before? Our Fee-Free UniReady course is for you – because university is for everyone.

This *free* 18-week course will give domestic participants all the skills they need to enter university, with flexible study on-campus and online, supportive classes and no prerequisites to apply.

During the course, all students will study four subjects focused on foundational skills. On successful completion, students can then go on into one of the following bachelor degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology
- Bachelor of Science

Applications can be made directly to Swinburne. Find out more at [Fee-Free UniReady Program](#).

➤ 2. Pathways from TAFE

Students who complete a Victorian TAFE (vocational education) diploma or associate diploma, will receive guaranteed entry into a relevant Swinburne bachelor degree.

Visit [Guaranteed entry from TAFE](#) to find out more.

➤ 3. UniLink Diplomas

UniLink diplomas are an option for both domestic and International students who miss direct entry to a degree or who would benefit from a more supportive style of learning. They are equivalent to the first year of university and can provide a pathway to the second year of a related Swinburne University bachelor degree. Students who successfully complete their diploma course are guaranteed a place in a range of business, information and communication technologies, and science degrees. Domestic students can apply for the diplomas and packaged diplomas; International students must apply for the packaged diplomas.

UniLink diplomas are available in the areas of:

- [arts and communication](#) – leads to *media & communication, games & interactivity, criminal justice & criminology, arts, health science, aviation management, etc.*
- [business](#) – leads to *business, business information & communication technology, business analytics & analysis, aviation management, media & communication, etc.*

- [design](#) – leads to *architecture, design, interior architecture, games design, industrial design, etc.*
- [engineering](#) – leads to *aviation, aviation management, engineering, etc.*
- [health science](#) – leads to *exercise & sport science, health science, psychological sciences, science, aviation, aviation management, etc.*
- [information technology](#) leads to *cyber security, data science, information & communication technology, computer science, games & interactivity, business analytics & analysis, etc.*
- [science](#) leads to *science*

Students wishing to undertake a UniLink course can apply through VTAC and must attain an ATAR of approximately 40 - 50, and meet any prerequisites, to be eligible for consideration.

For more information about the range of UniLink courses on offer, visit [UniLink Diplomas](#).

➤ [Diploma in General Studies \(DiGS\) to University of Melbourne](#)

Completion of the one-year ***Diploma in General Studies (DiGS)*** gives domestic students a pathway into degree courses at the University of Melbourne. The Diploma in General Studies program is a sampler of the Melbourne bachelor's degrees, and provides students with the opportunity to study *biomedicine, commerce, design, science, arts, or agriculture*. The ***Diploma in General Studies (DiGS)*** gives students a year of breathing space to decide what they really want to do next and provides a structured stepping stone to a meaningful outcome – whether that is employment or further study at the University of Melbourne.

This one-year course also assists students to study prerequisite subjects they may have missed in high school, including science, mathematics, business and environments. On completion of the one-year course, students may receive a guaranteed entry into one of six University of Melbourne bachelor degrees depending on their performance.

An ATAR above 50.00, and an English (20) or EAL (25) is required to be considered for the course, and the DiGS program is taught at the Dookie Campus.

DiGS gives students the opportunity to explore a range of fields and develop their general education, and can be used as their pathway to one of the following University of Melbourne bachelor's degrees:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Bachelor of Agriculture | • Bachelor of Commerce |
| • Bachelor of Arts | • Bachelor of Design |
| • Bachelor of Biomedicine | • Bachelor of Science |

Find out more at [Diploma in General Studies](#).

➤ Victoria University – Pathway Options

Victoria University offers a range of ***diplomas to degree programs***. Pathways in *arts, business, education, engineering and science, health and biomedicine, law and justice, and sport and exercise* are available.

Students should research whether applications are to be made through VTAC or directly to VU. Examples of pathways include the -

- [Diploma of Accounting](#) pathways to the [Bachelor of Accounting](#) or [Bachelor of Business](#)
- [Diploma of Beauty Therapy](#) pathways to the [Bachelor of Dermal Sciences](#)
- [Diploma of Business \(Enterprise\)](#) pathways to second year [Bachelor of Business](#)
- [Diploma of Cyber Security](#) pathways to second [Bachelor of Cyber Security](#)
- [Diploma of Information Technology](#) pathways to second year [Bachelor of Information Technology](#)
- [Diploma of Nursing](#) may pathway to the [Bachelor of Nursing](#) (limited places via this pathway)
- [Diploma of Education Studies](#) -
Successful completion earns students a place in the second year in one of these specialised courses:
 - [Bachelor of Education Studies](#): to lead learning programs outside the traditional classroom
 - [Bachelor of Early Childhood Education](#): to teach and care for children from birth to five years
 - [Bachelor of Arts](#): choose to study fine art, communication, digital media, history, sociology and more.

After completing additional requirements, students will also be eligible for:

- [Bachelor of Education \(P-12\)](#): to teach all age groups – from Prep to Year 12
- [Bachelor of Education \(Primary\)](#): to teach in primary schools.

Find out more at [education pathways](#).

Students are encouraged to browse [Pathways to VU](#) to learn about all options available.

Victoria University offers a range of pathways into university degrees through partnerships with a variety of providers. VU recognises the value of certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas and wants to recognise other qualifications by guaranteeing entry or providing credits into future studies.

Browse [Pathways into VU from our partners](#) to learn more.