

CAREERS NEWSLETTER 10 AUGUST, 2026



INVITATION TO JOIN JOB JUMP

We warmly encourage all **parents and students** to register for **Job Jump**, an excellent careers platform that supports young people as they explore future pathways.

Job Jump provides:

Up-to-date information on tertiary study options, ATARs, apprenticeships, and TAFE pathways.

Tools to create a resume, helping students present their strengths professionally.

Customised news alerts so families stay informed about important deadlines and opportunities.

Both parents and students can benefit from clear guidance and timely updates as they plan— whether that's choosing senior subjects, exploring university courses, or considering vocational training.

To register, simply visit:

<https://www.jobjump.com.au/register> and visit Careers 2026 on Canvas to access sign up details.

We hope you find Job Jump a valuable resource in supporting informed and confident career decision-making.

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. Hall please email chall@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au or call 9414 4733.

Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Kmart & Target Christmas Casual Recruitment Briefing 2026

Organisation: KMart Group

Location: Online

Date: August 10, 2026

Join the Kmart and Target recruitment team for an exclusive briefing on their 2026 Christmas Casual recruitment campaign. Learn about upcoming seasonal employment opportunities, the candidate qualities and availability requirements recruiters are looking for, and the application and selection process. This session will provide employment service providers with practical insights and tips to help participants prepare for and secure Christmas casual roles with two of Australia's largest retail employers.

[Find out more](#)

UOW Future Talk for Parents – Financial Considerations, Scholarships, Accommodation, Wellbeing & Support Services

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: Online

Date: August 10, 2026

Year 12 can be a stressful time for students and for the parents and carers supporting them. With big post-school decisions ahead, these sessions are designed to provide clarity, reassurance and practical advice to help you navigate the year with confidence.

Across the program, you'll gain insights into:

- Supporting students through the HSC and common challenges
- Understanding UOW degrees, pathways and study options
- How AI and emerging technologies are shaping degrees, careers and the future workforce
- Navigating university applications, Early Admission and UAC
- Financial planning for university, including scholarships, budgeting and accommodation
- Accessing UOW support services for a smooth transition to university
- Connecting with other parents and carers in a supportive environment

You'll also receive regular emails with practical tips, resources and expert advice to help you and your young person feel informed, prepared and supported throughout Year 12 and beyond.

[Find out more](#)

Central Coast Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expo 2026

Organisation: Brett Carter Events

Location: Mingara Recreation Club

Date: August 11, 2026

Our Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expos are held annually and have grown to a status where they are widely accepted as the premier events of their kind in NSW. The timing of the expos is a hit with families as they allow parents to attend with their children and have those all-important career chats with industry experts.

The Expos provide our career/job seekers, business and industry, education providers and employers with the opportunities to all come together under the one roof where exhibitors also get the chance to collect resumes and promote their organisation for upcoming recruitment drives.



[Find out more](#)

Career Conversations @ Home – Helping Parents Have Positive Career Convos!

Organisation: Arrive & Thrive

Location: Online

Date: August 12, 2026

Come join Tyson Day, the Co-Founder and Lead Facilitator of Arrive & Thrive, as he shares the best way to have impactful career conversations in and around your home environment that produce clarity, career discovery, and momentum. Tyson will share concepts and practices that he has learned through his 10+ years of experience in career education and the 85,000 students who have attended Arrive & Thrive workshops since 2019.

In our webinar, you can expect to learn:

- How can you positively influence your young person in their career decisions.
- How can you effectively navigate the future of work and understand your young person's options.
- How to communicate effectively through the GROW model to support your young person in career exploration.

We can't wait for you to join us!

All participants will receive a Career Conversation Kit to kick off conversations with their young person as soon as possible!

[Find out more](#)

Why Study business at the University of Sydney? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: August 12, 2026

Discover how our commerce degree prepares you for the future of work and a wide range of career opportunities. You will learn about the range of study areas (or majors) available – such as marketing, finance, or innovation and entrepreneurship - and the many ways in which you can combine your interests, with over 100 study areas to select from our shared pools of majors and minors.

Find out more about internships, industry-focused experiences, and global mobility opportunities on offer to our Bachelor of Commerce students.

[Find out more](#)

Conservation Science Careers Webinar

Organisation: Bush Heritage Australia

Location: Online

Date: August 14, 2026

All interested secondary school students and university undergraduates are invited to join Bush Heritage Australia's online event on the eve of National Science Week 2026 - Conservation Science Careers.

This virtual event offers the opportunity for students to connect with, learn from and be inspired by field professionals in conservation science.

Individual students are welcome to register, along with course managers or subject teachers who would like to bring a class or group together to join the event.

[Find out more](#)



University of Newcastle Open Day 2026, Newcastle

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: University of Newcastle, Callaghan & City Campuses

Date: August 15, 2026

Open Day is packed with everything you need to know about going to the University of Newcastle. Participate in degree presentations, info sessions and tours of the campus.

Enjoy a hands-on experience with our program activations, and ask our student ambassadors questions about uni life.

[Find out more](#)

ACAP Open Day 2026, Sydney

Organisation: ACAP University College

Location: ACAP University College, Sydney Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Ready to turn your passion into a purpose-driven career? ACAP Open Day is your opportunity to discover how our practical, people-focused courses can help you make a real difference – in your community and your life.

Join us on campus this August and experience what makes ACAP different. Whether you're considering counselling, psychology, social work, criminology, law or business, you'll get a firsthand look at the learning, support, and outcomes that set our students up for success.

From expert-led masterclasses and career panels to course advice and campus tours, Open Day is designed to give you the insight and inspiration to take the next step.

[Find out more](#)

Macquarie University Open Day 2026

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Open Day is your opportunity to discover everything a Macquarie University education can offer you.

We get to share with you why we're the #1 university in Sydney for teaching quality, as well as showcase our future-focused degrees, cutting-edge facilities, collaborative spaces for learning and leisure, and our stunning green campus.

Come along and find out firsthand how we can help you achieve your career – and your life – aspirations.

What you can do on Open Day:

- Attend info sessions
- Speak 1:1 with our academics
- Learn about our scholarships, adjustment factors, pathways, and RPL (recognition of prior learning) if you've studied before
- Chat to current students
- Join campus and faculty tours
- Engage in faculty-led workshops
- Alumni are welcome back to be a part of Alumni Reunion Day
- Participate in hands-on activities
- Enjoy entertainment and giveaways

[Find out more](#)



AIM August Open Day, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: Australian Institute of Music, Sydney Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Discover where your creativity can take you at the Australian Institute of Music's Sydney August Open Day.

Immerse yourself in our vibrant campus community, explore our studios and performance spaces, and see firsthand how AIM supports the growth of future artists and industry leaders.

Throughout the day, you'll have plenty of opportunities to meet our academics, hear from current students and alumni, and join interactive workshops covering our variety of courses.

You'll walk away with a strong understanding of our courses, the career paths they lead to, and how AIM's hands-on approach gives students real industry experience from day one.

Whether you're exploring your options or set on making your start in music, Sydney Open Day is your chance to discover how AIM can turn your passion into a lifelong career.

[Find out more](#)

ADFA Open Day 2026

Organisation: Australian Defence Force Academy

Location: ADFA Canberra Campus & Online

Date: August 15, 2026

ADFA Open Day is run each year in August. Join us online or in person to:

- Explore world-class UNSW degrees, with information sessions about Business, Arts, Science, Engineering, Computing and Cyber Security.
- Learn about military training, studying and life on campus from current ADFA Trainee Officers.
- Watch a variety of exciting displays, take a virtual tour, and much more

[Find out more](#)

SAE Open Day 2026, Sydney

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Sydney Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Whether you're still exploring your study options or you're ready to apply, SAE Open Day is the perfect place to get inspired, get informed, and get hands-on with your creative future.

Join us on campus this August to tour our studios, meet your future mentors, and experience what it's like to study at SAE – the University College built for creators and tech innovators.

Explore your study and career pathways across animation, audio, design, film, games, music, VFX and more. Connect with current students, industry-experienced lecturers, and alumni who've turned their ideas into careers.

[Find out more](#)

SCU Open Day 2026, Northern Rivers

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: Southern Cross University, Lismore Campus

Date: August 16, 2026

Open Day at Southern Cross University is a perfect opportunity to discover which courses spark your interest and the campus or study mode that works best for you.

Our friendly study specialists will be on hand to step you through the process of applying for your dream course and answer any questions you have about studying with us.

[Find out more](#)



CSU Open Day 2026, Albury-Wodonga

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Albury-Wodonga Campus

Date: August 16, 2026

Discover what uni life is like! Whether you're in high school, looking to upskill, want to change careers, or are a parent, teacher or carer – there's something for everyone.

- Jump on a campus tour – explore our facilities and accommodation.
- Get detailed info about courses.
- Chat to current students about Charles Sturt life.
- Be inspired by our expert teaching staff.
- Discover the social side of life at Charles Sturt.
- Enjoy live entertainment, giveaways, competitions and free food!

Plus, you can explore our expo, info, and career and skills hubs. Chat to our friendly teams about our support services, early offer programs and how to boost your hiring potential.

[Find out more](#)

ACU Open Day 2026, Strathfield

Organisation: Australian Catholic University

Location: Australian Catholic University, Strathfield Campus

Date: August 16, 2026

Open Day gives you the opportunity to ask our teaching staff any questions you might have about your dream course, the application process, pathway options, entry schemes and more.

Chat to current students and discover the facilities your new campus has to offer. And sit in on information sessions from each of the faculties to find out more about the courses you're interested in.

[Find out more](#)

La Trobe Open Day 2026, Albury-Wodonga

Organisation: La Trobe University

Location: La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga Campus

Date: August 16, 2026

Why attend Open Day at La Trobe?

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

[Find out more](#)

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Discover Western Webinar – Scholarships

Organisation: Western Sydney University

Location: Online

Date: August 18, 2026

If you're applying to study at university in 2027, you will also want to apply for Scholarships! This



webinar will go through the different types of Scholarships available, as well as the application process, and give you tips for writing your Personal Statement.

[Find out more](#)

Quantum Future Talent: From Curiosity to Career

Organisation: Sydney Quantum Academy

Location: The Concourse Chatswood

Date: August 18, 2026

Quantum is shaping the future of technology – from computing to cybersecurity – and it's opening new career pathways across a range of industries.

At Quantum Future Talent: From Curiosity to Career, you'll hear directly from people working in the industry and gain a clear understanding of what quantum is, why it matters, and how you could be part of this exciting and rapidly growing field.

This accessible introduction to quantum includes:

- Talks from industry professionals sharing their career journeys and insights
- An overview of study options and pathways into the field
- Opportunities to connect with universities (Macquarie, UNSW Sydney, University of Sydney and UTS)
- Interactive demonstrations and displays
- Time to ask questions and seek honest advice.

Whether you're considering subject selection options, exploring study pathways, or planning for future careers, this event offers practical insight into emerging opportunities in quantum.

Open to students in Years 8–12, as well as parents, teachers, and career advisors.

[Find out more](#)

Why the Honey Bee is Smarter than ChatGPT – Discover Lecture Series with Macquarie

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: August 18, 2026

How smart is the honey bee really? This lecture considers the biological marvel that is the honey bee brain, and the bee mind it supports.

Bees' brains incorporate rapid feedback on their actions, and can quickly learn different types of art, recognise abstract concepts and learn to navigate for kilometres around their hives. Professor Andrew Barron argues the honey bee is significantly smarter than ChatGPT and surpasses the best that contemporary AI has to offer. He will discuss what lessons AI and robotics developers could learn from consideration of the humble bee.

This event is part of Macquarie's [Discover Lecture Series](#), monthly talks suitable for ages 10 and up that offer inspiring insights and a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our future.

[Find out more](#)

Explore geosciences at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: August 19, 2026

Explore geosciences, from Earth to oceans, and discover how these fields address climate, energy and sustainability challenges.

[Find out more](#)

The Coolest Careers in Finance You've Never Heard Of Panel Event

Organisation: INCO Academy



Location: Canva Space, Surry Hills & Online

Date: August 19, 2026

INCO Academy is hosting a free hybrid careers event for young people who think finance is all spreadsheets and suits, and are ready to be proven wrong. It brings together professionals whose careers span everything from shaping city skylines and funding the green transition to building start-ups and driving innovation in banking. They'll share what their jobs really involve, how they got there, and the advice they wish they'd had early on.

It's designed for young people still at school, studying at TAFE or university, or simply figuring out what's next, and it's a chance to discover career paths they never knew existed. The evening includes a panel chat, a relaxed Q&A, snacks, and time to network with speakers and other young people exploring similar paths.

INCO Academy runs the event as part of [EnterFinance](#), a free career exploration program which supports young people to explore pathways in financial services, opening doors to a side of the industry most people never see.

[Find out more](#)

[UNSW Co-op Program Scholarship | 2026 Co-op Chat | What is Co-op?](#)

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: Online

Date: August 20, 2026

Discover Co-op: What It Is, Why It Matters and How It Can Shape Your Future

Curious about the UNSW Co-op Program and where it could take you? Join us for an engaging session exploring what Co-op involves, the benefits of becoming a Scholar and how the program can support your academic, professional and personal development.

Whether you are just beginning to explore your options or already considering an application, this session will give you valuable insights into the Co-op experience and help you decide whether the program is right for you.

Then, join us for our second session on 16 September, where we will walk you through the application process and share practical tips to help you submit a strong application.

[Find out more](#)

[QTAC Student Information Night 2026](#)

Organisation: Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

Location: Online

Date: August 20, 2026

Thinking of applying through QTAC? Join us for a live online session designed to give you the inside edge on submitting a successful application.

Whether you're applying straight from Year 12, returning to study, or changing direction, QTAC experts will walk you through key tips for a successful application.

This session is perfect for students (and parents!) wanting to feel confident and prepared throughout the QTAC process. Don't miss your chance to get insider advice straight from the source.

[Find out more](#)

[Galaxy Games Festival](#)

Organisation: Liquid Cat Studio

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: August 22, 2026

Join us for Macquarie University's premier games fest, co-designed and co-run by Game Development students and educators. We are partnering with Women In Computing Society at



Macquarie University to bring you this event.

This event welcomes emerging game developers and anyone interested in broadening their understanding about what the games industry encompasses, and exploring how the various aspects and fields of game development come together to create a refined, finished product.

We bring student showcases and presentations, and guest speakers from various areas of games and adjacent industries coming in to share their insights.

[Find out more](#)

Collarts Open Day 2026, Sydney

Organisation: Australian College of the Arts

Location: Collarts, Sydney Campus

Date: August 22, 2026

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

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

From guided tours to live demonstrations, here are some of the activities you can catch at the next Collarts Open Day:

- **Guided tours:** Experience our campuses firsthand with guided tours led by our enthusiastic Student Ambassadors.
- **Info hubs:** Our info hubs provide convenient drop-in spaces where you can have direct conversations with Program Leaders, Academics, and students about your desired course.
- **Demonstrations:** Demonstrations are your chance to see our course content come to life. They allow you to be actively involved in projects and see our cutting-edge equipment in action, so you can get a firsthand preview of what studying at Collarts is really like.
- **Displays:** Our campus displays are positioned throughout different areas of our campuses, offering a showcase of our community's achievements and journeys.

If you have specific accessibility needs or require additional assistance, please contact Collarts in advance, and they will do their best to assist you.

[Find out more](#)

Le Cordon Bleu Sydney Open Day 2026

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia

Location: Le Cordon Bleu, Sydney Campus

Date: August 22, 2026

Now is your chance to discover how Le Cordon Bleu Australia can help kickstart your career in cuisine, pâtisserie, hotel management, restaurant management or business.

Marvel at our chef lecturers who will host cooking demonstrations in cuisine and pâtisserie and see first-hand why our culinary courses are elite.

There will also be information seminars which will provide you with a Le Cordon Bleu overview, as well as our program content and structure. Plus, you'll get to chat with our sales representatives and discover how our Industry Engagement team assists you with your learning, every step of the way.

[Find out more](#)

CAD (Computer Aided Design) for Youth aged 14+

Organisation: Inner West Council Libraries

Location: Marrickville Pavilion

Date: August 23, 2026

Youth will learn the basics of digital design.



Learn the fundamentals of 3D design with Autodesk Fusion 360 in this hands-on CAD course for youth. Students will explore sketching, modelling, and creative problem-solving while designing real-world projects. Perfect for youth aged 14+ starting to learn!

[Find out more](#)

CSU Open Day 2026, Bathurst

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus

Date: August 23, 2026

Discover what uni life is like! Whether you're in high school, looking to upskill, want to change careers, or are a parent, teacher or carer – there's something for everyone.

- Jump on a campus tour – explore our facilities and accommodation.
- Get detailed info about courses.
- Chat to current students about Charles Sturt life.
- Be inspired by our expert teaching staff.
- Discover the social side of life at Charles Sturt.
- Enjoy live entertainment, giveaways, competitions and free food!

Plus, you can explore our expo, info, and career and skills hubs. Chat to our friendly teams about our support services, early offer programs and how to boost your hiring potential.

[Find out more](#)

FUTURE EVENTS

CQU Education Open Day Webinar

Organisation: CQUniversity

Location: Online

Date: August 24, 2026

With [courses](#) available across early childhood, primary and secondary teaching, our friendly education academics will explain what it's really like to study at CQU. You'll learn about our strong local networks, the [support services](#) that help you succeed, and how CQU prepares you for a rewarding career in the classroom.

[Find out more](#)

South Western Sydney & Macarthur Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expo 2026

Organisation: Brett Carter Events

Location: Liverpool Catholic Club

Date: August 25, 2026

Our Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expos are held annually and have grown to a status where they are widely accepted as the premier events of their kind in NSW. The timing of the expos is a hit with families as they allow parents to attend with their children and have those all-important career chats with industry experts.

The Expos provide our career/job seekers, business and industry, education providers and employers with the opportunities to all come together under the one roof where exhibitors also get the chance to collect resumes and promote their organisation for upcoming recruitment drives.

[Find out more](#)

Study medicine at Sydney

Organisation: University of Sydney



Location: Online

Date: August 26, 2026

Join us ahead of Open Day to discover what it's like to study medicine at the University of Sydney and learn how we prepare future doctors to make a meaningful impact in Australia and around the world. Through a live Q&A with our specialist staff you'll have your questions answered ahead of Open Day, so you can arrive informed, have meaningful conversations with our team, and make the most of your time exploring our learning facilities.

[Find out more](#)

Admission to medicine at Sydney

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: August 26, 2026

Join us ahead of Open Day to explore pathways to medicine at the University of Sydney.

Learn about admission requirements, application dates and timelines, and the assessment process.

We'll share details of the options available, whether you're applying to commence your studies after high-school, or after completing a bachelor's degree.

Through a live Q&A with our specialist staff, you'll have your questions answered ahead of Open Day, so you can arrive informed, have meaningful conversations with our team, and make the most of your time exploring our learning facilities.

[Find out more](#)

Study law at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: August 27, 2026

Join us ahead of Open Day to explore what it's like to study Law at the University of Sydney.

Our law degrees equip you for a rewarding and intellectually challenging career in legal practice, combined with expertise in an additional discipline of your choice.

In this webinar, we'll take you through the student experience and outline the pathways to studying law at Sydney, including our undergraduate combined law degrees, transfer options, and the Juris Doctor.

You'll have the opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A with our specialist team, helping you make the most of Open Day.

[Find out more](#)

Future Choices Expo for Young People with Disability, Central Coast

Organisation: Career Links

Location: Mingara Recreational Club

Date: August 27, 2026

Transitioning from school to adult life can bring unique challenges - and exciting new opportunities - for young people living with disability. The Future Choices Expos are here to help make that journey easier.

As the only events of their kind in the region, the expos bring together over 120 exhibitors, including:

- Employment services
- Employers
- Education and training providers
- Disability service organisations
- Government agencies

These expos are designed to connect school leavers with the support, information, and



opportunities they need to make confident decisions about their future. Whether you're a student, parent, carer, or educator, the Future Choices Expo is your opportunity to discover the pathways, programs, and services that can make a real difference.

[Find out more](#)

Say Yes to the Trades Expo

Organisation: Superior Training Centre

Location: Entertainment Park, Bankstown Aerodrome

Date: August 27, 2026

Say Yes to the Trades Expo is a trade-focused event designed for high school students who are curious about hands-on careers and the opportunities available in Australia's growing trade industries. The event brings together training providers, employers, and industry professionals to give students a practical introduction to careers in trades such as electrical, air conditioning and refrigeration, and metal fabrication.

Students attending the event can explore different career pathways, speak directly with employers and industry representatives, and gain a better understanding of what it's like to work in a skilled trade. Exhibitors will showcase tools, equipment, and technologies used in the industry, helping students see how these careers operate in the real world.

In addition to learning about training and employment opportunities, attendees will also be able to enjoy the entertainment facilities at the venue, making the day both informative and fun. The event is designed to inspire students, answer questions about entering the trades, and help them take their first steps toward a practical and rewarding career.

If you're considering a future in the trades or simply want to explore your options, Say Yes to the Trades is the perfect place to start.

[Find out more](#)

Wodonga TAFE Careers & Futures Expo

Organisation: Wodonga TAFE

Location: Wodonga TAFE

Date: August 27, 2026

Thinking about the future? Whatever stage of the journey you're at, the Careers & Futures Expo can provide you with important information to help guide you on your path.

- **Meet with teachers:** Explore your future study options and experience what it's really like to be a TAFE student.
- **Connect with industry:** Discover real job outcomes and career pathways through industry experts and employers.
- **Chat with students:** Hear their stories and learn how TAFE can take you all the way to university and beyond.
- **Explore our facilities:** Join tours and interactive activities for a taster of the hands-on training we deliver, and what awaits beyond.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney West Careers & Employment Expo 2026

Organisation: Kym Jones Exhibitions

Location: Sydney Showground

Date: August 28 to August 29, 2025

The Sydney West Careers & Employment Expo will be at the Sydney Showground - Hall 4. The Expo will showcase over 80 organisations and employers with career opportunities for all ages. Entry is free.



The event is for school students, parents, teachers, graduates, job seekers, people looking for courses, and workers seeking new opportunities.

The Expo is packed with free advice, where you can:

- Talk with over 80 training organisations and employers
- Gain free career advice
- Discover jobs of the future
- Talk with leading organisations about training and apprenticeships
- Experience the free career seminars
- Learn how to write a winning resume

If you're looking for a job, career change, or course, or you're a school student looking for a career path, you can't afford to miss the Expo.

[Find out more](#)

University of Newcastle Open Day 2026, Central Coast

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: University of Newcastle, Ourimbah & Gosford Campuses

Date: August 29, 2026

Open Day is packed with everything you need to know about going to the University of Newcastle. Participate in degree presentations, info sessions and tours of the campus.

Enjoy a hands-on experience with our program activations, and ask our student ambassadors questions about uni life.

[Find out more](#)

Torrens University Open Day 2026, Sydney

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Torrens University, Surry Hills Campus

Date: August 29, 2026

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

- Talk to our academics and Future Student Advisors about choosing courses, scholarships and the application process.
- Embark on a guided tour of our campus facilities and get a feel of our recreational spaces, teaching spaces and more.
- Meet our current students and find out what their experiences studying at Torrens University is like.

[Find out more](#)

University of Sydney Open Day 2026

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus

Date: August 29, 2026

Join us at the University of Sydney Open Day. Experience our vibrant student life on campus, hear from academics and current students and discover what makes us different.

[Find out more](#)

UTS Open Day 2026

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: University of Technology Sydney, City Campus



Date: August 29, 2026

Discover UTS. What you can expect at Open Day:

- Ask questions about admissions, pathways and study options
- Attend course information sessions
- Speak with academics and current students
- Explore labs and learning spaces
- Learn about scholarships, accommodation and support services
- Join guided campus and facility tours
- Discover clubs, societies and student communities

[Find out more](#)

Notre Dame Open Day 2026, Sydney

Organisation: University of Notre Dame Australia

Location: University of Notre Dame, Sydney Campus

Date: August 29, 2026

Notre Dame's Open Day is your chance to explore what university life is all about! You'll discover study options, career pathways and our student support services. Plus, you'll experience an exciting program filled with activities for future students.

Whether you're in Year 10, 11 or 12, or a graduate thinking about postgrad study, our Open Day is open to everyone – including pathways and international students, who can chat with our dedicated team. Learn about scholarships and financial assistance to make your journey affordable.

[Find out more](#)

CSU Open Day 2026, Orange

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Orange Campus

Date: August 30, 2026

Discover what uni life is like! Whether you're in high school, looking to upskill, want to change careers, or are a parent, teacher or carer – there's something for everyone.

- Jump on a campus tour – explore our facilities and accommodation.
- Get detailed info about courses.
- Chat to current students about Charles Sturt life.
- Be inspired by our expert teaching staff.
- Discover the social side of life at Charles Sturt.
- Enjoy live entertainment, giveaways, competitions and free food!

Plus, you can explore our expo, info, and career and skills hubs. Chat to our friendly teams about our support services, early offer programs and how to boost your hiring potential.

[Find out more](#)

Avondale Lake Macquarie Open Day 2026

Organisation: Avondale University

Location: Avondale University, Lake Macquarie Campus

Date: August 30, 2026

Find out why Avondale University is ranks #1 in NSW for overall experience, learner engagement, student support, skills development and teaching quality

What to expect:

- Imagine being a student at Avondale University with interactive campus tours of our state of the art facilities and onsite accommodation



- Chat to current students about community, social life, sport and clubs
- Learn all about our courses and how to apply from our awesome staff who are here to help you reach your dreams
- Live entertainment, giveaways and of course free food!

[Find out more](#)

Monash Information Evening – Webinar

Organisation: Monash University

Location: Online

Date: September 1, 2026

Choosing a university is a big decision.

Join our Monash webinar to have your questions answered and get the key details you need to plan your next step.

You'll discover what it's like to study at Monash, and hear about our courses, accommodation, scholarships, support services and campus life. You'll also gain insights about moving to Monash and settling in.

This session is ideal if you're:

- Considering moving from interstate, or
- From regional or rural Victoria, or
- Live in Melbourne and are keen to know more about Monash.

Register now to secure your place.

[Find out more](#)

Torrens University Virtual Open Day 2026

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Online

Date: September 1 to September 2, 2026

Ready for the next step on your career journey? Join us online as our academics talk you through the courses on offer and how you can get the most out of studying with us. Learn about scholarships, study pathways, our industry partnerships with global brands and what sets us apart from other universities.

- Business, Education, Health, Hospitality, Technology and Higher Degrees by Research:
Tuesday 1 September - 6pm - 7pm (AEST)
- Design: Wednesday 2 September - 6pm - 7pm (AEST)

[Find out more](#)

Sutherland Shire Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expo 2026

Organisation: Brett Carter Events

Location: Tradies Gynea

Date: September 1, 2026

Our Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expos are held annually and have grown to a status where they are widely accepted as the premier events of their kind in NSW. The timing of the expos is a hit with families as they allow parents to attend with their children and have those all-important career chats with industry experts.

The Expos provide our career/job seekers, business and industry, education providers and employers with the opportunities to all come together under the one roof where exhibitors also get the chance to collect resumes and promote their organisation for upcoming recruitment drives.

[Find out more](#)



Study law at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 1, 2026

Still wondering what it's like to study Law at the University of Sydney? Bring along your questions to our specialist team who will be available to answer your questions via live Q&A. Our law degrees equip you for a rewarding and intellectually challenging career in legal practice, combined with expertise in an additional discipline of your choice. In this webinar, we'll take you through the student experience and outline the pathways to studying law at Sydney, including our undergraduate combined law degrees, transfer options, and the Juris Doctor.

You'll have the opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A with our specialist team, helping you make the most of Open Day.

[Find out more](#)

Avondale Sydney Nursing Open Day 2026

Organisation: Avondale University

Location: Avondale University, Sydney Campus

Date: September 2, 2026

Find out why our Nursing degree is ranked #1 in Australia for overall experience by Good Universities Guide in 2026 and why we are the #1 University for graduate employment.

What to expect:

- Experience interactive campus tours of our state of the art facilities
- Chat to current students about community, social life, sport and clubs
- Learn all about our courses and how to apply from our awesome staff who are here to help you reach your dreams
- Live entertainment, giveaways and of course free food!

[Find out more](#)

Study biomedical engineering at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2026

Discover how biomedical engineers improve lives by designing technologies and explore how to make a real-world difference.

[Find out more](#)

Study medicine at Sydney

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2026

Join us to discover what it's like to study medicine at the University of Sydney and learn how we prepare future doctors to make a meaningful impact in Australia and around the world.

Through a live Q&A with our specialist team, you'll gain valuable insights into your study options and ask any questions you may have as you consider your future in medicine.

[Find out more](#)

Admission to medicine at Sydney

Organisation: University of Sydney



Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2026

Join us to learn about admission requirements, application dates and timelines, and the assessment process. We'll share details of the options available, whether you're applying to commence your studies after high-school, or after completing a bachelor's degree. Through a live Q&A with our admission specialists, you'll gain valuable insights into the application process, better understand the options available to you, and ask your questions to help you plan your next steps with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

Rural Health Pathways Showcase for High School Students, Teachers & Parents

Organisation: Rural Doctors Network

Location: ICC Darling Harbour

Date: September 3, 2026

Discover your path in health – wherever you're from to wherever you're going.

Open to Careers Advisers, teachers, parents, and students in Years 9–12 interested in exploring careers in allied health, medicine, nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, paramedicine, Aboriginal health, caring, and more.

Connect with universities, training providers, peak bodies and health employers to explore study pathways and career opportunities. Meet health students, graduates and professionals, take part in hands-on activities, and gain real insights into a wide range of health careers.

The event includes an interactive expo, hands-on workshops and the popular Chat Corner, all running simultaneously. To fully experience all aspects of the event you attend for the entire scheduled time, rotating through allocated sessions.

[Find out more](#)

Crafting & Coding Animatronics for ages 13-18

Organisation: Woollahra Municipal Council

Location: Paddington Library

Date: September 3, 2026

Code and craft moving creations in this hands-on animatronics workshop.

Using VEX IQ systems and cardboard, participants will begin by coding existing animatronics to move, then design and build their own moving feature, such as limbs, eyes, eyelids, ears or a mouth, and program it to respond to sensory input.

As the workshop uses VEX IQ motors and sensors, participants will not be able to take home the electronic components of their creations.

All experience levels are welcome. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

[Find out more](#)

UTS Elite Athlete Program Information Evening

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: UTS Moore Park Campus, Level 5

Date: September 3, 2026

Learn about the UTS Elite Athlete Program, meet current athletes, and explore your sporting pathway. UTS EAP supports students competing at elite and emerging levels of sport while undertaking university study. Through scholarships and tailored support, the program helps student-athletes manage the demands of both high-performance sport and academic life.

Each year, we support more than 300 athletes across 45+ sports, from state and national representatives through to world champions and Olympians!

What to Expect:

- On the night, you'll have the opportunity to:



- Ask questions about eligibility, applications and pathways into the program
- Learn about the scholarships, support services and opportunities available through the UTS EAP
- Meet current UTS student-athletes and hear about their experiences balancing sport and study
- Connect with representatives from UTS's high-performance sporting clubs

[Find out more](#)

National Art School Open Day 2026

Organisation: National Art School

Location: National Art School

Date: September 5, 2026

The National Art School is Australia's leading independent fine art school, with a hands-on studio-based teaching model that has delivered a rich tradition of art practice and world-renowned alumni for over 100 years. On the frontier of arts education, NAS provides a progressive and holistic approach to study, and we invite the public to join us on Open Day to share in our creative community.

Discover what life is like for students at the National Art School by participating in studio demonstrations, meeting with academic staff, visiting the NAS Gallery and student exhibition spaces across campus.

[Find out more](#)

ACU Open Day 2026, North Sydney

Organisation: Australian Catholic University

Location: Australian Catholic University, North Sydney Campus

Date: September 5, 2026

Open Day gives you the opportunity to ask our teaching staff any questions you might have about your dream course, the application process, pathway options, entry schemes and more.

Chat to current students and discover the facilities your new campus has to offer. And sit in on information sessions from each of the faculties to find out more about the courses you're interested in.

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Open Day 2026

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: University of New South Wales, Kensington Campus

Date: September 5, 2026

Open Day is an opportunity for future students, family, alumni and community members to explore everything a university has to offer, so they can make an informed decision about their future.

Whether you're starting uni soon, considering postgraduate studies or just curious, UNSW Open Day is a chance to discover UNSW and find out everything the University has to offer. At UNSW Open Day, we'll help you find your unique path to uni, and you'll discover the progress you could make as one of Australia's most employable graduates.

There will be more than 200 sessions available to help you explore your study options, tour our buzzing campuses, enjoy the free food – you'll get expert advice and have fun while you're at it.

[Find out more](#)

ACU Year 12 HSC Revision Webinars

Organisation: Australian Catholic University



Location: Online

Date: September 7 to September 10, 2026

Worried about your Year 12 exams? You're not alone.

Join our free online webinars from 7 - 10 September 2026. They are live, expert-led sessions designed to help you walk into your exams feeling prepared.

Can't attend live? Register anyway – recordings are available to registered attendees for one week after each webinar.

[Find out more](#)

Western Sydney Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expo 2026

Organisation: Brett Carter Events

Location: Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre

Date: September 8, 2026

Our Apprenticeship/Traineeship & Jobs Expos are held annually and have grown to a status where they are widely accepted as the premier events of their kind in NSW. The timing of the expos is a hit with families as they allow parents to attend with their children and have those all-important career chats with industry experts.

The Expos provide our career/job seekers, business and industry, education providers and employers with the opportunities to all come together under the one roof where exhibitors also get the chance to collect resumes and promote their organisation for upcoming recruitment drives.

[Find out more](#)

Exploring oral health at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 9, 2026

Discover the University of Sydney's Bachelor of Oral Health and the rewarding careers it leads to. Learn about course structure, entry pathways, and professional outcomes. Explore a first-in-Australia initiative supporting Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander students to pursue careers in oral health.

[Find out more](#)

Macquarie Incubator & Young Wisdom Student Startup Bootcamp for Years 9-10

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 11, 2026

We're thrilled to invite a group of your students and an accompanying staff member to our multi award-winning incubator for a full-day of entrepreneurial skills and confidence-building alongside peers from a range of Sydney schools.

In thought-provoking discussions and workshops, students and educators will gain an understanding of the skills, people, and resources leveraged by innovators and entrepreneurs to effect positive, sustainable change in the world.

Participants will build entrepreneurial skills and self-efficacy through: empathising with one another, identifying problems worth solving, designing solutions worth testing, and persuasively pitching new ideas - all on the same day!

Please note: *Only teachers/school staff should register for this event (we don't need you to provide student details or have them register themselves)*

[Find out more](#)

Macquarie [EX]plore Science Extension Conference

Organisation: Macquarie University



Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 14, 2026

Macquarie University is hosting a full-day conference showcasing the research of Year 12 HSC Science Extension students Monday 14 September.

Designed as an authentic research experience, the event brings together school students, undergraduates and PhD researchers to share a passion for science through presentations, posters, networking opportunities and Faculty of Science lab tours. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding presentations.

Year 12 students can register independently and will present their work at the conference (applications close 21 August), while Year 10 and 11 students must be registered by a teacher.

[Find out more](#)

[Prepare for the future of work with Sydney's Bachelor of Arts – Webinar for Future Students](#)

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Discover how the Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney can set you up for success. Learn how this flexible degree equips you with the critical thinking, creativity and communication skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing workforce. Explore your interests, build in-demand capabilities, and prepare for a future full of opportunities in arts and social sciences.

[Find out more](#)

[SCU Future Leaders Workshop, Northern Rivers](#)

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: Southern Cross University, Lismore Campus

Date: September 17, 2026

Join us for Future Leaders, a free full-day workshop facilitated by world record-breaking pilot and leadership development speaker, Lachie Smart. With engaging content, practical activities, and a supportive environment, the event aims to inspire students to unlock their potential, lead with confidence, and make a positive impact in their schools and communities.

This event is for Year 11 and 12 students; specifically student representatives, aspiring school leaders and anyone wanting to enhance their confidence and resilience in leadership.

- Explore our campus and experience our state-of-the-art campus facilities.
- Through interactive activities, develop strategic plans and acquire essential leadership skills.
- Meet current Southern Cross University students and network with us throughout the day.
- Enjoy a catered morning tea and lunch on us.

School staff can register online through the university's event page by filling out the registration form, indicating the number of students attending from your school and selecting the desired campus.

[Find out more](#)

[Macquarie Incubator & Young Wisdom Student Startup Bootcamp for Years 9-10](#)

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 18, 2026

We're thrilled to invite a group of your students and an accompanying staff member to our multi award-winning incubator for a full-day of entrepreneurial skills and confidence-building alongside peers from a range of Sydney schools.

In thought-provoking discussions and workshops, students and educators will gain an understanding



of the skills, people, and resources leveraged by innovators and entrepreneurs to effect positive, sustainable change in the world.

Participants will build entrepreneurial skills and self-efficacy through: empathising with one another, identifying problems worth solving, designing solutions worth testing, and persuasively pitching new ideas - all on the same day!

Please note: *Only teachers/school staff should register for this event (we don't need you to provide student details or have them register themselves)*

[Find out more](#)

Sydney Design School Open Day

Organisation: Sydney Design School

Location: Sydney Design School

Date: September 19, 2026

Step inside our world of design and get to know us. Explore our studios, check out amazing student work, meet the inspiring team, get creative making a mood board.

[Find out more](#)

Astronomy Open Night by Macquarie University

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 19, 2026

Sydney's most spectacular night of science and stargazing returns this September. Whether you're a lifelong astronomy enthusiast or simply curious about the universe, Astronomy Open Night offers an unforgettable evening for all ages.

Discover exciting new highlights, including The Big Cosmic Q&A, where you can put your questions to our experts, and So You Like Science – What Now?, a special session for students planning their next steps after high school. You can also explore our new experimental short film festival, Stories Across Worlds, featuring works from the Archival Futures Collective. Register ASAP as tickets sell out fast!

[Find out more](#)

Coding With Care: The Power of Compassion in the Classroom – Discover Lecture Series with Macquarie

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

When people think about programming, compassion is not one of the first words that comes to mind. Yet for Lecturer Charanya Ramakrishnan, it has become the most powerful tool in her teaching practices.

Charanya will share how she has integrated care and empathy into introductory computing units, a space often defined by logic and precision rather than human connection. By embedding a deeper level of care and empathy into her practice, Charanya creates classrooms where students feel supported, valued, and confident to take risks.

This talk will explore how small, intentional changes can significantly impact not only student success but also the establishment of a culture of trust and belonging within classrooms.

This event is part of Macquarie's [Discover Lecture Series](#), monthly talks suitable for ages 10 and up that offer inspiring insights and a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our future.

[Find out more](#)

Discover Sport & Exercise at UTS

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney



Location: University of Technology Sydney, Moore Park Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

Join us for an exclusive evening at the UTS Moore Park campus and discover where a degree in sport and exercise can take you.

Hear from leading academics and current students, explore exciting study pathways and career opportunities, and experience the cutting-edge facilities shaping the next generation of sport professionals.

Whether you're interested in performance, health, or the science behind sport, this is your chance to see what's possible. Places are limited, so secure your spot early.

[Find out more](#)

AIM Music Theatre Audition Workshop, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: Australian Institute of Music, Sydney Campus

Date: September 29 to September 30, 2026

If the stage is where you're headed, this is how you get there.

AIM's Sydney Music Theatre Audition Workshop is an immersive two-day experience for high school students who are serious about turning their passion into a career.

Working directly with the industry professionals who teach our Bachelor of Music Theatre, you'll build your skills, refine your repertoire, and walk away with the confidence and feedback you need to nail your audition.

[Find out more](#)

Create for a Day at SAE Sydney

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2026

This October school holidays, SAE University College Sydney is opening its doors for Create for a Day: a one-day, hands-on experience where you'll step into the studio, lab or production space and start creating.

Choose from:

- Animation
- Audio
- Computer Science
- Design
- Film
- Games
- Songwriting & Electronic Music Production
- VFX

Create for a Day lets you skip the textbooks and jump straight into building, recording, designing, coding or filming, all guided by lecturers who work in the industry.

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with your own finished project and a certificate of participation, plus a clearer idea of what studying at SAE is really like and where your skills could take you in the future.

Open to students in Years 10-12 and young creatives up to age 21.

[Find out more](#)

HSC Workshop: Visual Arts Induction, Marrickville

Organisation: Inner West Council Libraries



Location: Marrickville Library and Pavilion

Date: October 18, 2026

An essential presentation for students in Year 11 beginning the HSC Visual Arts Course in Term 4. Visual Arts teachers are also welcome!

This session unpacks the dual role students will play as both artist and critic, offering a clear understanding of what lies ahead - from developing the HSC Body of Work to preparing for the HSC Written Exam, with practical advice on how to navigate course content, Case Studies, time management in preparing for school-based assessments and external exams. This induction equips students with tools to start strong and stay on track throughout the HSC Visual Arts journey. Visual Arts teachers are welcome to attend and bring a group of students or come along for their own professional development.

BYO pens, highlighters, clipboard, notebook and water bottle. A workbook will be provided.

[Find out more](#)

[Beginner Shakuhachi Workshop for ages 16+](#)

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Date: November 7, 2026

If you've always wanted to try the shakuhachi, now's your chance!

Shakuhachi Master Bronwyn Kirkpatrick will present this workshop and demonstration introducing shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese bamboo flute.

The demonstration/workshop is open to anyone 16 years of age and over and no prior musical experience is necessary.

It will interest students who feel drawn to Asian music and philosophies and people who want to find out more about the shakuhachi and its tradition. It may also be of particular interest to flute and recorder students who are exploring contemporary techniques on their instruments, as many of these techniques are similar to traditional shakuhachi techniques.

The demonstration will include the history of the shakuhachi and performances of different styles of music, from Zen Buddhist to contemporary. There will also be plenty of opportunity to try it out for yourselves! In the workshop, we will work on making sound and improving tone. We will learn to read basic Japanese notation and to play some simple Japanese folk songs.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

[Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy \(AusIMM\) Undergraduate Education Endowment Fund Scholarships](#)

Location: Australia

Value: \$15,000 AUD per year + other benefits

Open Date: July 27, 2026

Close Date: September 4, 2026

[Find out more](#)

[Larsen Jewellery Design Scholarship Program](#)

Organisation: Larsen Jewellery

Location: Australia

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open Date: May 18, 2026

Close Date: November 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)



UNSW Scientia Scholarships

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$10,000 AUD + mentoring + opportunities

Open Date: July 2, 2025

Close Date: November 26, 2026

[Find out more](#)

La Trobe Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship (Aspire)

Organisation: La Trobe University

Location: Australia, New Zealand

Value: \$5,000 AUD per year

Open Date: August 3, 2026

Close Date: October 9, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

Immerse Education Essay Competition

Organisation: Immerse Education

Location: All

Value: See details

Close Date: No closing date

[Find out more](#)

Write the World Micro Flash Fiction Competition 2026 for ages 13-19

Organisation: Write the World

Location: All

Value: \$100 USD cash plus other prizes

Close Date: August 24, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Global Logic & Reasoning Competition

Organisation: Global Logic and Reasoning Competition

Location: All

Value: Up to \$250 USD

Close Date: September 6, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Weekly Posts

STUDY

How to understand 'command words' in assessment tasks and exam questions

If you are asked to evaluate a source you might spend the entire response describing it instead, and someone asked to compare two texts might only end up writing about one. Both examples show solid content undone by the wrong kind of response, usually because of a single misread word in the question.

This guide breaks down the most common words used in assessment questions, grouped by what



they're actually asking you to do. Once you can tell the difference between them, you'll know what kind of response to write before you've even started planning it.

Words that ask you to show what you know

These words check whether you know a fact, term, or process. They don't want your opinion, just accurate information.

Define

Defining something means stating its precise meaning. In an assessment, this usually takes one or two sentences and needs to be accurate. An example on its own isn't a definition.

Asked to define renewable energy, you'd need to state what actually makes a source renewable, that it comes from something that naturally replenishes, such as sunlight or moving water

Identify

To identify something is to recognise it and point it out. Assessment questions using this word want you to name or select specific information from a text, image, or data set. You're not explaining why it matters yet, just showing you can spot it.

Once you can define renewable energy, identifying it is more straightforward: picking out which sources in a list or image, like solar panels or a wind turbine, fit that definition.

Describe

A description sets out the features or characteristics of something. In an assessment, you need to explain what something looks like, how it works, or what happened, in detail and in a logical order. Describing renewable energy goes further than identifying it, setting out how a source like wind actually works, its blades turning a rotor that drives a generator to produce electricity.

State

This is one of the more straightforward instructions you'll come across. Stating something means expressing it clearly and briefly, usually as a direct fact or answer, without justification or extra detail.

Where describing renewable energy means setting out how it works, stating something about it is narrower again, giving a single fact without elaboration, such as noting that solar and wind are among the most widely used renewable sources.

Words that ask you to walk the reader through something

These words ask you to make an idea or process understandable to someone else, using reasoning rather than just facts.

Explain

To explain something, you need to say what it is and why it happens or why it matters. A common mistake is describing something instead of explaining it. If your answer only covers what happened without covering why, the question hasn't been fully answered.

Explaining why renewable energy use has grown means giving reasons, such as falling costs for solar panels and wind turbines and stronger government incentives, rather than simply noting that growth has happened.

Clarify

Clarifying a point means making something confusing or ambiguous easier to understand. This might mean removing uncertainty around an idea, or taking a general statement and being more precise about what it actually means.



If a source described gas as a "clean" energy option, clarifying that claim would mean pointing out that gas still produces emissions and isn't classified as renewable, even though it's sometimes framed as a cleaner alternative to coal.

Interpret

Interpreting something goes beyond repeating information, it asks what that information actually suggests. If a question asks you to interpret data, a quote, or a result, you're working out its meaning rather than restating what's already there.

Interpreting a rise in renewable energy use might mean explaining what it suggests about public or government priorities, rather than just describing that the rise has occurred.

Illustrate

An illustration uses examples to make a point clear. In an assessment, this means backing an idea up with a specific example, case, or piece of evidence that shows it in action. A good illustration turns something abstract into something concrete.

To illustrate the appeal of renewable energy, you might point to a household that's cut its power bill after installing solar panels, a concrete case that makes the broader point easier to grasp.

Words that ask you to look at how things relate

These words want you to consider two or more things side by side, rather than write about just one.

Compare

Comparing things means identifying what they have in common. Most compare questions expect you to refer to all the items you're comparing throughout your answer, rather than covering one and then the other separately.

Comparing solar and wind energy means noting what they share, such as producing no direct emissions once installed and depending on weather conditions to generate power.

Contrast

Where comparing looks at similarities, contrasting looks at differences. Some questions combine the two, asking you to compare and contrast, in which case your answer needs to cover both.

Contrasting solar and wind takes that same pairing and flips it, pointing out that solar output depends on daylight hours while wind can generate power at any time, given enough wind.

Distinguish

Distinguishing between things means recognising what makes them different enough to be treated separately. This word often comes up when two concepts or ideas could easily be confused, and you're being asked to draw a clear line between them.

Distinguishing renewable sources from non-renewable ones draws a clearer line again, separating solar, wind, and hydro from sources like coal and gas, which don't naturally replenish.

Classify

Classifying something means grouping it according to shared characteristics. You'll usually need to sort information, items, or ideas into categories, and be ready to justify why each one belongs where you've placed it.

Classifying a broader list of energy sources builds on that same distinction, sorting each one into a renewable or non-renewable category and explaining what ties each group together.

Words that ask you to break something down



These words want you to go beneath the surface of a topic, rather than just describe it.

Analyse

Analysing something means breaking it into its parts and examining each one. This is one of the more demanding command words on this list, because it's not enough to identify the parts, you also need to explain how they relate to each other or contribute to a bigger picture. A common trap is analysing at the surface, describing each element without exploring the connections between them. Analysing the shift toward renewable energy means identifying the different factors behind it, such as cost, technology, and policy, and explaining how they connect rather than listing them separately.

Examine

Examining something means looking at it closely and carefully. It's similar to analysing but usually less demanding, asking you to consider specific aspects of a topic in some depth without necessarily drawing out relationships between every part.

Examining just one of those factors, like falling technology costs, means looking closely at that single piece without necessarily tying it back to the others.

Investigate

Investigating a topic means gathering information about it systematically, then presenting what you've found. Questions using this word often expect you to draw on multiple sources, rather than relying on just one.

Investigating why some places have been slower to adopt renewable energy goes further again, drawing on multiple sources to build a fuller picture, covering infrastructure, funding, and existing policy.

Determine

To determine something is to work it out using evidence or calculation, usually reaching a specific answer or conclusion through a process such as a calculation, comparison, or elimination of options, rather than simply stating what you already know.

Determining which renewable source would suit a particular location uses that same kind of evidence, weighing up factors like climate and geography to reach a clear conclusion rather than a general impression.

Words that ask you to judge or weigh up

These words want your own reasoned judgement, backed up with evidence, rather than just information.

Evaluate

Evaluating something means judging its value, quality, or effectiveness. You'll need to weigh up strengths and weaknesses, or evidence for and against, and reach a conclusion about how good, effective, or valid something is. The judgement matters less than the reasoning behind it, so show how you got there.

Evaluating a government incentive for solar panels means judging whether it has actually encouraged more households to switch, weighing that benefit against its cost.

Assess

Assessing something works similarly to evaluating, but often focuses on extent, such as how significant an impact was or how successful an approach has been. It still needs to be backed up with evidence rather than stated as opinion.

Assessing the impact of that same incentive shifts the focus slightly, looking at how significant the



increase in solar adoption has actually been, rather than simply whether the incentive worked at all.

Justify

Justifying a decision, opinion, or claim means giving reasons that support it. This usually means acknowledging why someone might disagree, then explaining why your reasoning still holds up. Justifying a call to expand that kind of incentive means acknowledging the cost involved, then explaining why the benefits are likely to outweigh it over time.

Discuss

This is one of the broadest command words you'll see. Discussing a topic means exploring it from multiple angles, setting out different perspectives or arguments, and reaching a reasoned conclusion rather than presenting only one side.

Discussing whether renewable energy can fully replace fossil fuels takes that same weighing up further, setting out the case for and against before reaching a conclusion.

Why the same word can ask for something slightly different depending on the subject

Even once you know what a word generally means, the exact expectations can shift depending on the subject you're answering it in. In a science subject, analyse often means working with data, identifying patterns or relationships in results. In English or a humanities subject, analyse is more likely to mean examining language, structure, or evidence in a text and explaining the effect it creates. Evaluate can work the same way. In maths, it might ask you to calculate a numerical answer, while in a humanities subject it's asking for a judgement backed up by evidence and reasoning. If you're ever unsure exactly what a command word means in a specific subject, your subject outline, marking criteria, or teacher's instructions are the best place to check. They'll usually spell out exactly what's expected.

Check your states official definition

The words in this guide come from the same source your assessment tasks do, official glossaries published by Australia's state curriculum and assessment authorities. If you want to see the definitions straight from where they come from, here's where each state publishes theirs:

- [NSW Education Standards Authority](#)

Before you start writing

Identify the command word in a question before you start planning your answer, and check you understand exactly what it's asking for. Underlining or circling it as you read can help you keep sight of it once you're deep into writing. Strong content won't count for much if you've answered the wrong kind of question, so this step is worth building into how you approach every assessment task. If you want more ways to strengthen how you approach study and assessments, head to our [study section](#) for further tips and resources.

STUDY TIPS, TIME MANAGEMENT

How to catch up when you've fallen behind in a subject

Catching up on a subject comes down to what happens after you know you're behind: how much time it takes, what to prioritise, and which techniques actually help you close the distance efficiently. A quick check of your notes, past assessments, and the course outline is usually enough to turn a vague sense of being behind into a short list of specific topics to work through, and that list is what the rest of your plan is built around.



If you're a few weeks behind

A few weeks of missed work usually doesn't call for a complete overhaul of how you study. An extra hour or two each week, on top of your normal workload, is often enough to work through your list. Set aside a fixed block of time each week specifically for that catch-up, and treat it as a short-term addition to your routine rather than something to fix in one session. Once you've worked through your list, you're back to your normal routine, nothing about the way you study needs to change long-term.

If you're months behind

Being months behind needs a different approach. A single extra study session a week won't be enough to close that much distance, so it's worth setting up a dedicated study schedule specifically for catching up. This should run separately from your regular homework and revision, with its own fixed time each week, and needs to continue consistently over several weeks rather than as a one-off effort. Break your list into weekly chunks so the schedule has a clear endpoint, and group related topics into the same session where you can, since jumping between unrelated ones wastes time resetting your focus.

Prioritise what's relevant to current content first

Rather than working through your list in the order it was originally taught, it's often more effective to start with whatever's directly relevant to what's being taught in class right now. If a current lesson assumes you already know something you don't, that's the first thing to fix, since it affects your ability to follow everything that comes after it. Once you can follow current content, work backward through older material in order of how much it's likely to come up again, rather than in the order you originally missed it.

When there's an assessment before you've caught up

Sometimes an assessment lands before your catch-up plan would normally reach the content it covers. When that happens, it's worth shifting your priority list temporarily. Work out exactly what the assessment covers, and move those specific topics to the front of your schedule, even if they're not next in your normal order. Everything else on your list can wait until afterwards. Once the assessment's done, go back to working through the rest in its usual order, rather than trying to take every assessment into account when you're first planning.

Techniques that make catching up more efficient

How you work through missed content matters as much as when. Re-reading notes or a textbook chapter feels productive, but testing yourself, through practice questions or by trying to explain a topic without checking your notes, shows you much faster whether it's actually sunk in. Past assessment questions covering the topics on your list are also worth seeking out, since they show you the level you're expected to work at rather than just the content itself. Explaining a topic out loud to someone else, a classmate, a family member, anyone who'll listen, tends to expose weak spots in your own understanding the moment you have to put something into your own words.

Keeping on top of current work while you catch up

Catching up only works if it doesn't come at the cost of falling behind on new work as well. Keep your regular homework and revision separate from your catch-up sessions rather than letting one absorb the other, and treat both as fixed commitments rather than something to juggle depending on how the week's going. If a week gets busy, it's usually better to shorten a catch-up session than to skip current work altogether, since new content builds on itself in a way that older missed content generally doesn't. Checking in on both each week, what's due now and what's still outstanding from before, keeps one from taking over the other.



Using the right resources to catch up efficiently

You don't need to work through your list from scratch by yourself. Recorded lessons, textbook sections, or videos on a specific topic can help you cover missed content faster than starting from the beginning of your notes. Your teacher can tell you which topics matter most for upcoming assessments and may be able to point you toward materials or explain something outside of class time. Classmates who already understand a topic can walk you through it in a way that fills in specific blanks casual re-reading won't. If your school offers tutoring or study support, that's really worth factoring into a longer catch-up schedule too.

Managing the plan over time

Check your progress every couple of weeks, whether you're still catching up or have just finished, and adjust from there. If you're moving through your list faster than expected, you can shift to a lighter, less frequent schedule. If new content keeps getting added faster than you can clear the old, that's a sign you need more time each week rather than the same amount stretched further. Once you're fully caught up, the same check keeps doing its job at a lower frequency, catching anything new before it turns into its own catch-up project.

For more ways to build a study routine that actually holds up, our [study tips](#) section has plenty more to work through.

JOB SPOTLIGHTS

How to become a Community Liaison Officer

Community Liaison Officers connect project teams with the people affected by development and infrastructure work. They communicate project information, gather feedback, and make sure that communities have a genuine voice in how projects unfold around them.

If you're a natural communicator who enjoys working with people from all walks of life, can navigate difficult conversations with patience and empathy, and want a role where relationships are at the centre of everything you do, this could be a great fit.

What skills do I need as a Community Liaison Officer?

- Empathetic & approachable
- Excellent communicator
- Active listener
- Conflict resolution ability
- Organised & thorough
- Culturally aware
- Report writing ability
- Relationship builder

What do Community Liaison Officers do?

Before a project goes public, you'll be involved in planning how the community engagement process will work. This means identifying who needs to be informed or consulted, developing communication materials, and setting up the channels through which community members can ask questions or raise concerns. Getting this groundwork right matters because it shapes how a community responds to a project from the outset.

During active project phases, you're the primary point of contact between the project team and the public. You'll organise and facilitate community meetings, respond to enquiries, manage complaints, and document feedback in a way that can be reported back to the project team and used to inform decisions. When concerns escalate or misinformation spreads, you'll work to address it quickly and



constructively. The ability to stay calm, listen carefully, and communicate clearly under pressure is central to the role.

Between major engagement milestones, you'll prepare reports summarising community sentiment, track outstanding issues, and maintain relationships with key stakeholders including local councils, community groups, and resident representatives. Some Community Liaison Officers work across multiple projects simultaneously, while others are embedded full-time in a single large infrastructure project. Those working on major projects may develop expertise in particular engagement methods or community contexts over time.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Community Liaison Officers work for infrastructure project teams, construction and engineering firms, local and state government agencies, and community engagement consultancies. The role appears across a wide range of project types, from road and rail infrastructure to urban development, utilities, and environmental works. Some practitioners work in-house for large organisations with ongoing community engagement needs, while others work for specialist consultancies across multiple clients and projects.

Hours are generally average, though community meetings and public events often fall in the evenings or on weekends to accommodate residents who work during the day. The role is primarily office-based, with regular travel to project sites and community venues. Flexibility is relatively high for desk-based tasks, and many roles accommodate hybrid working arrangements.

The work is people-focused and can be emotionally demanding, particularly when communities are strongly opposed to a project or when individual concerns are complex and sensitive. Salaries are average, and the outlook is strong, supported by sustained investment in infrastructure and an increasing expectation from governments and developers that community engagement is handled professionally and meaningfully.

How to become a Community Liaison Officer

- **Build a foundation in a relevant field:** There is no single qualification that leads directly into community liaison work. People enter the role from backgrounds in communications, planning, social work, community development, and project management, among others. A degree in any of these areas provides a useful foundation, but it is your communication skills and people experience that employers tend to prioritise.
- **Gain experience working with people and communities:** Volunteer work with community organisations, local councils, or advocacy groups is valuable preparation. Any experience that involves facilitating conversations, managing competing views, or communicating with diverse groups of people builds the practical capability this role requires.
- **Develop your writing and documentation skills:** A significant part of the role involves producing clear written records of community feedback, preparing reports for project teams, and drafting public-facing communications. Strong writing is as important as strong speaking in this profession.
- **Seek out project environments:** Work experience or entry-level roles with infrastructure project teams, construction firms, or engagement consultancies give you direct exposure to how community liaison operates in practice. Even an administrative or support role within a project team can open the door to more active engagement responsibilities over time.

From here, you could move into senior community engagement roles, lead consultation programs for major infrastructure projects, specialise in a particular type of community or project context, or transition into broader stakeholder management, communications, or planning roles.

What can I do right now?

If you're in high school and interested in working as a Community Liaison Officer, here are some



practical steps:

- Get involved in community organisations, school councils, or local volunteer groups where you can practise facilitating discussions, representing others' views, and managing different perspectives
- Develop your written communication skills by contributing to school publications, community newsletters, or social media channels that require you to write clearly for a general audience
- Look for work experience with your local council or a community organisation involved in local development or planning, where you're likely to see community engagement in action

Find out more about alternative careers on [our Job Spotlights page](#).

JOBS & CAREERS

Pathways into Dentistry

If you like science, enjoy working with your hands, and want a job where you help people every day, dentistry might already be on your list. It's among the most competitive courses to get into at university - but don't let that put you off. It just means if you're really determined to make it in, you'll need to start preparing early. And we always recommend having a backup plan ready. If you're still in high school, you've got time to make sure you're well prepped and ready to make a great impact during applications. We'll walk you through the basics in this article.

What does a dentist actually do?

Do you think of dentists as the people who check and clean your teeth twice a year? Well, you're not wrong and that's a big part of the job for lots of dentists. General dentists can spend a lot of their time performing check ups and maintenance, treating decay, fitting fillings, removing teeth, looking out for gum disease, and advising patients on how to look after their teeth. Some dentists take their training further and specialise in areas like orthodontics, oral surgery, or treating children. Where dentists work can look different too. Some run their own practice or clinic, while others work in hospitals, community centres and educational institutions, as well as the defence forces. They might move between locations, work in mobile settings, or travel to rural and remote communities. There's also research and public health work to consider, for anyone who wants to shape dentistry rather than just practise it.

Subjects to focus on in high school

Universities want a solid science background, so your subject choices matter. Chemistry and biology are essential, since they explain how the body works and set you up for anatomy and pharmacology later on. Maths is commonly required too, since you'll measure, calculate, and interpret data throughout your career.

Physics is an important subject too, as dentists need to understand fields like mechanical forces, material properties, and imaging technology on a daily basis. English shouldn't be an afterthought either, since dentists write clinical notes and explain treatment options to patients, the ability to write and speak clearly matter more than people expect.

Start researching in Years 9 and 10 if you think this is the right pathway for you. We recommend checking all the accredited courses available and reading up on the prerequisites and assumed knowledge for each course. That ensures you'll make the right choices at subject selection time. And, if some of the subjects are ones you don't enjoy or struggle with, you might want to start exploring other careers in the industry or think about different pathways that might suit you better.

Skills not just grades



Grades get your application noticed, but on their own they won't make you a good dentist and it might not be enough to secure your spot on a dream course. Tertiary courses will teach you the technical skills and knowledge you'll need, but there are key skills required to work in dentistry that you could start working on right now. They could put you ahead of the pack during the application and interview process.

When you think about what dentists do, fine motor skills and [manual dexterity](#) are vital, since you'll work with small instruments in a small space for long periods.

[Good communication](#) is super important, anxious patients need someone who can put them at ease, and all your patients will need to understand any concerns, recommendations, procedures, and treatments that you're sharing with them.

Dentists constantly weigh up symptoms and history to decide on treatment plan, so you'll need to be great at [problem-solving and critical thinking](#). On top of all that, the job is physically demanding, so physical stamina will be important too.

Getting experience before university

Hands-on experience in a dental clinic is probably not going to be possible to arrange, since privacy and insurance rules limit what students can do (and even observe). That doesn't make it impossible though. Some local clinics might let you shadow for a day so it's worth getting in touch, just remember to give them plenty of notice ahead of school holidays. Volunteering with community health or outreach services could also open doors, and a starting a vocational certificate in dental assisting is another practical thing you can do while you're still at school.

There's always virtual work experience to consider as well. Providing a taste of what the role looks like and giving you a little more insight if it's something you'd like to pursue. [Springpod](#) and [MentorVerse](#) could offer a couple of experiences to get you started.

Accredited courses in Australia and New Zealand

Only a handful of universities offer dentistry degrees that directly lead to registration as a dentist. In Australia, check the course is accredited by the [Australian Dental Council \(ADC\)](#). In New Zealand, check with the [Dental Council of New Zealand](#).

Undergraduate entry, straight from high school (five years):

- [Charles Sturt University – Bachelor of Dental Science](#)
- Griffith University – [Bachelor of Dental Health Science](#)/[Master of Dentistry](#)
- [James Cook University – Bachelor of Dental Surgery](#)
- [La Trobe University – Bachelor of Dental Science \(Honours\)](#)
- [Adelaide University – Bachelor of Dental Surgery](#)
- [University of Queensland – Bachelor of Dental Science \(Honours\)](#)

Graduate entry, after completing an undergraduate degree first (three-and-a-half to four years):

- [University of Melbourne – Doctor of Dental Surgery](#)
- [University of Sydney – Doctor of Dental Medicine](#)
- [University of Western Australia – Doctor of Dental Medicine](#)
- [University of Queensland – Doctor of Dental Medicine](#)

In New Zealand, the University of Otago is the only dental school. Its [Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours](#) is accredited by the Dental Council of New Zealand, entry requires an A- average in the fourth year of the standard [Otago Bachelor of Dental Surgery \(BDS\)](#) program. Selected students complete an intensive final year that includes advanced clinical practice and a specialised research project.

Remember it's always worth double checking a course's accreditation status before you apply, since it can occasionally change.

Just how competitive is dentistry?



There's no getting around it, dentistry is a hard course to get into. Undergraduate-entry courses usually need an ATAR (or equivalent) in the high 90s and a strong UCAT score. Graduate-entry courses look at your GPA from your undergraduate course and GAMSAT score instead. It's more than likely you'll have to attend at least one interview, and there may be other elements to your application such as personal statements, letter of recommendation, even background checks. Places are limited everywhere, which is why having a backup plan is a sensible idea, just in case the competition is strong the year that you apply.

Backup plans if you don't get in

A lower ATAR or a disappointing GAMSAT score doesn't have to be the end of the road. One option is to begin a related science degree, do well in first year, then apply for a transfer into dentistry with proven results behind you. Another is to study a Bachelor of Oral Health, which qualifies you as a dental hygienist, therapist, or oral health therapist, which are careers that could end up being a great match for you, but you'll also start building clinical experience and skills for a future application into post-graduate dentistry courses later.

You could also consider studying overseas at an accredited school, then applying for a license or registration to then practice back home. It might take a little longer, but it's a proven route and you'll be in the same industry, working and earning. Or taking a gap year and getting in more experience and practice through volunteering, work experience, or vocational qualifications, then reapplying later.

Dental careers other than dentist

Not everyone who wants to work in oral health needs to become a dentist, there are lots of other jobs in the industry that you might like to explore.

You could complete a Bachelor of Oral Health and become a qualified, registered dental hygienist, therapist, or oral health therapist. They all provide preventative care, hygienists clean teeth and treat gum disease for all ages. Therapists provide fillings and extractions (mainly for children). While oral health therapists combine both roles into a single dual-qualification.

Dental prosthetists are also registered independent oral health professionals. They specialise in the design, construction, fitting, and repair of removable dentures and mouth guards. They consult directly with patients, take mouth impressions, then construct the appliances, making sure they fit the patient and are working correctly.

Dental technicians are the people who work behind the scenes in a lab. They're sent molds of a patient's mouth by a dentist, with instructions on what's required. They get to work building the crowns, bridges, dentures, or braces and send them back to the dentist to fit on their patient.

Dental assistants support dentists and oral health teams by preparing treatment rooms and patients, sterilising instruments, taking x-rays, managing patient flow, and handing equipment over during procedures. You can often get into these roles with a vocational certificate rather than a degree.

There are also non-clinical roles in the industry from practice managers and treatment coordinators who work in clinics and private practices alongside the dental teams. As well as the product manufacturers, research coordinators oversee trials for new dental materials, techniques, or devices, dental writers who create educational materials, journal articles, or content for dental brands, and so many more to explore.

Any of these roles are a smart way to gain experience, start networking, and find out if dentistry is the right career for you.

Ready to get started?

The reality is dentistry takes years of study, it's hard work, and there will be competition at every step, but if that doesn't put you off then it could be the perfect career for you. By focusing on the



right subjects in school, chasing every scrap of work experience, and building your human skills starting now, there's every chance that you'll be successful in your goals. Just remember to keep checking all your (accredited) options, have a solid plan b, and keep your eyes on the prize. For more ideas about careers and pathways head over to our [Job Spotlights](#) page or for learn more about [human skills](#) you can build on now.

FIRST JOBS, STUDY TIPS

How to keep a part-time job from swallowing your study time

A part-time job is a great way to earn some money, build skills, and get a taste of the workplace while you're still at school. It can also creep into your study time without you really noticing, one extra shift here, one late finish there, until you look up and realise your assignments have been pushed to the very last minute for weeks. Keeping the two in balance takes a bit of deliberate effort, but it's a skill worth building early.

Working out how much is too much

There's no single number of hours that works for everyone, since it depends on your subjects, your assessments, and how you personally manage your energy. Instead of aiming for a fixed number, it helps to pay attention to a few signs. Are you consistently finishing assignments at the last minute? Is study time getting pushed later and later into the evening after a shift? Are you more tired in class than you used to be? These are better indicators than any hours cap, and they're worth checking in on regularly rather than waiting until results start to slip.

Getting your roster to work with you

Most employers are used to scheduling around students, but they can only do that if you tell them what you need. Being upfront about your availability, including exam periods or weeks with major assignments due, makes it much easier for your employer to build a roster that doesn't clash with your study. It's worth flagging these dates as early as you can, since rosters are often built weeks in advance and last-minute changes are harder to accommodate.

If a shift does land right before something important, it's reasonable to ask if it can be swapped or moved. Most workplaces would rather know in advance than have you show up unprepared for a shift or an assessment.

Watching for your busiest weeks

Exam blocks and major assignment deadlines are worth treating differently to a normal week. If you know these dates ahead of time, let your employer know as early as possible and ask about reducing your hours for that period specifically, rather than trying to push through a full roster on top of a heavier study load. A short stretch of fewer shifts around your busiest weeks makes a bigger difference than trimming hours evenly across the whole term.

The cost of saying yes to every shift

Extra shifts are easy to say yes to, especially when the money's useful or a colleague asks for a favour. Each one on its own rarely feels like a big deal, but they add up quickly, and it's often not until you're behind on study that you notice how many extra hours you've picked up over a few weeks.

It's fine to take on extra shifts sometimes, but it helps to check in with yourself before agreeing, particularly around busier points in the term. Asking whether this week can actually absorb another shift, rather than assuming you'll find the time somewhere, makes it much easier to say no when you need to.



Making study time non-negotiable

It's easy to treat a work shift as fixed and study time as flexible, since one has someone expecting you to turn up and the other doesn't. Flip that thinking and block out specific times for study the same way a shift gets blocked out, on a calendar, with a start and end time, and treat that time as a genuine commitment rather than something to fit in around everything else.

This doesn't mean every study session needs to be hours long. Even short, protected blocks straight after school or before a shift can cover more ground than a longer session squeezed in late at night when you're already tired.

When to scale back

Sometimes the answer isn't better scheduling, it's fewer hours. If you've noticed the signs of falling behind and adjusting your roster hasn't helped, it might be time to have a conversation with your employer about reducing your shifts, especially around exam periods or when major assignments are due.

This conversation is easier than it sounds. Most employers understand that school comes first, and being upfront about needing fewer hours for a while is far better for your reputation at work than cancelling shifts last minute or turning up unprepared. You can always pick hours back up once things settle down.

A skill that carries beyond school

Learning to manage a job alongside your study is one of the first times you'll have to balance genuinely competing commitments, and it's excellent practice for further study or full-time work later on, when you'll likely be juggling even more. The habits you build now, communicating early, protecting your time, and knowing when to pull back, are ones you'll keep using well beyond school. If you want more tips on managing your study alongside everything else going on, check out our [study section](#).

COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, STUDY

How to handle uneven workload in a group assignment

If you've ever finished a group assignment feeling like you did most of the work you're not alone. Uneven workload is one of the most common frustrations students run into with group assignments, and it's rarely because someone set out to be unfair. Most of the time it comes down to unclear expectations from the start.

What fair actually looks like

Before you can sort out an uneven workload, it helps to know what "fair" actually means in a group assignment.

It's not an even split by task count

Some tasks take five minutes, others take five hours. If one person is writing the introduction and another is building the entire results section, an equal number of tasks doesn't mean an equal amount of work. Fair comes down to the time, effort, and difficulty involved in getting the whole assignment done, not just how many jobs are on each person's list.

What's actually yours

It also helps to separate what you're individually responsible for from what's shared across the group. Usually you'll have a specific section or task with your name on it, alongside shared responsibilities like giving feedback on other people's sections, attending meetings, or helping pull



the final version together. Knowing which is which makes it much easier to tell whether you're falling behind on your own part, or whether the group as a whole is dropping the shared load.

Setting things up to avoid it

A lot of workload problems can be avoided before they start. Early on, sit down as a group and divide the assignment into clear tasks, with a name attached to each one. Vague tasks like "help with research" tend to end up being done by whoever's most organised, while everyone else assumes someone else has it covered.

Agreeing on deadlines for each part, not just the final due date, gives you a way to check progress along the way instead of finding out too late that someone's behind. It's also worth agreeing early on how the group will communicate, whether that's a group chat, regular check-ins, or a shared document everyone updates, so no one's left guessing where things stand.

Noticing it early

Uneven workload rarely appears out of nowhere. Usually there are signs before it becomes a real problem: someone consistently missing check-ins, sections left blank close to a deadline, or the same one or two people always chasing everyone else for updates.

Paying attention to these signs early means you can address them while there's still time to fix the balance, rather than scrambling to cover gaps the night before the assignment is due.

Raising it with the group

If you notice the workload isn't balanced, raising it directly with the group is almost always more effective than picking up the slack or waiting for it to sort itself out. Frame it around the task rather than the person. Instead of saying someone isn't pulling their weight, try asking how their section is coming along, or whether they need a hand with anything.

If a group chat isn't cutting it, suggest a quick meeting to check in on where everyone's at. Most of the time, an conversation is enough to get things back on track, especially if someone's fallen behind for reasons the rest of the group didn't know about.

If it doesn't improve

If you've raised the issue and the imbalance continues, keep a simple record of who's done what. This doesn't need to be anything formal, a shared document noting who completed which task and when is enough. It protects you if the workload issue needs to be raised more formally later, and it gives the group something concrete to work from rather than relying on memory.

If the group can't resolve it between yourselves, most teachers would rather hear about a problem before the due date than mark a finished assignment with an obvious imbalance. Letting them know doesn't need to be about placing blame. A short, factual explanation of what's happened and what you've already tried is usually all that's needed.

Why this skill matters beyond school

Group assignments are often the first real experience of managing shared responsibility with people you didn't choose to work with, which makes them useful practice for further study and workplaces later on. Learning to divide tasks fairly, notice problems early, and raise concerns constructively are skills that carry well beyond the classroom.

If you want more on managing the parts of study that go beyond just the coursework, you can find more in our [study section](#).



What's the difference between full-time and part-time study?

Deciding how to structure your study is just as important as deciding what to study. Full-time and part-time aren't just labels, they shape how your week looks, how long a course takes to finish, and what else you can realistically fit around it. Here's how the two compare.

What is full-time study?

Full-time study means enrolling in the standard course load your institution expects for a given period, which usually leads to finishing your qualification within its intended timeframe. It's the pace most people picture when they think about study: a fuller weekly timetable, and less room to spread things out.

At university

A full-time university load is typically four subjects, or units, each semester, adding up to eight over a full year. This is often referred to using the term equivalent full-time student load, or EFTSL, which universities and the government use to measure study load consistently. Staying on this pace generally means completing a standard three or four year degree within that original timeframe, though the exact number of subjects and their weighting can vary between courses and providers.

In vocational education

At places like TAFE, full-time is usually defined by hours rather than subject count, generally around 20 to 25 hours of scheduled training each week, running across most of the year. Exact contact hours still vary depending on the course, and some full-time programs combine classroom time with practical or workplace-based components.

What is part-time study?

Part-time study means enrolling in less than the standard full-time load, which stretches your course out over a longer period in exchange for a lighter week-to-week commitment.

At university

Part-time usually means enrolling in fewer than four subjects a semester, sometimes just one or two. A degree that would normally take three years full-time might take five or six years part-time, depending on how much you take on each semester and whether that changes over time.

In vocational education

Part-time TAFE study generally means fewer weekly contact hours than the full-time equivalent, often delivered through evening classes, block release, or a mix of on-campus and online learning designed to work around a job or other commitments.

How the study experience differs day to day

Full-time study concentrates more hours into fewer years, which usually means a heavier weekly timetable and more time spent on independent study outside class, especially around assessment periods. It also tends to come with a stronger sense of being part of a single cohort, since you're moving through the course alongside the same group of people.

Part-time study spreads that same workload out, so any given week tends to be lighter. The trade-off is that your course takes longer to complete, and you might find yourself studying alongside people at a different stage of the course rather than a consistent group moving through at the same pace as you.

What each option means for your other commitments



Full-time study generally leaves less room for a substantial job or other major commitments alongside it, simply because more of your week is already accounted for. It tends to suit people who can focus mainly on study for the duration of their course, whether that's straight out of school or at another point where other responsibilities are lighter.

Part-time study is often the better fit if you're working regular hours, in an apprenticeship-style arrangement, managing family responsibilities, or want to test out a field without committing to it fully straight away. It's common among mature age students, but there's no rule that says younger students can't choose it too, especially if it means being able to work while studying.

Things that can depend on your study load

Whether you're studying full-time or part-time can affect more than just your timetable. In Australia, income support payments like Youth Allowance and Austudy generally require a full-time study load, though the definition used for payment purposes is based on a percentage of a standard load rather than a fixed number of hours, so it's worth checking your own situation rather than assuming. You can find the current rules on the [Services Australia website](#).

For university students with a HECS-HELP loan, your study load doesn't change how the loan itself works, since that's based on how much you've borrowed rather than how many subjects you're taking. It can, however, affect how long it takes to finish your course and reach a point where compulsory repayments might start. These settings change from year to year, so it's worth checking current thresholds directly on the [Study Assist website](#) before factoring them into a decision.

How to decide which suits you

There's no single right answer here, and plenty of people switch between full-time and part-time at different points in their course if their institution allows it. Some things worth thinking through: how much time you can realistically commit each week once work, family, or other responsibilities are accounted for, how quickly you'd like to finish, and whether an intensive pace motivates you or wears you down over time. It's also worth checking with your institution early on, since moving between full-time and part-time partway through a course is often possible if your circumstances change.

If you want to explore more about study options and pathways, head to our [study section](#) for more.

HEALTH & WELLBEING, UNIVERSITY

Making the leap from high school to university

Heading off to university next year? Making the transition from high school is a significant milestone, and it's totally normal to feel both excited and nervous. Whether you're moving away from home or staying local, here's some practical advice to help you settle in.

Get organised early

University can throw a lot at you in the first few weeks. Lecture times, reading lists, assignment deadlines, society sign-ups, and it all lands at once. A planner, a shared calendar, or even a simple notes app can stop things slipping through the cracks. It's a good idea to have everything set up and ready to go before semester starts, not during week three when you're already behind.

It sounds like a small thing, but students who build this habit early tend to spend far less time panicking later.

Find and establish a study routine

School gives you structure, university gives you freedom, which means you'll be responsible for your own progress. Nobody chases you up if you skip your reading or don't come to a lecture.

In addition to making a schedule for your lectures, tutorials, and labs (depending on your course), try



blocking out regular times each week for reading, assignments, and revision, and treat those blocks like appointments you can't cancel. Some weeks will be busier than others, so having some flexibility is great. But having a rough rhythm means you're not scrambling to catch up before every deadline and means you can still find time to fit in work, socials, and other things that are important to you without your grades slipping.

Use the support that's already there

Most universities offer far more help than students realise. Tutors, academic advisors, writing support, study skills workshops all these exist because plenty of students need them, not just a struggling few. Find out what's available in your first fortnight (or before you start), that way you'll know what help is on offer for you before you actually need it. That way, if things get tough, you'll already know where to go.

Look after yourself, not just your grades

It's easy to let sleep, good food, and exercise slide when deadlines pile up, especially if you're living away from home from the first time too. But your brain works better when your body is looked after. So try to take your parents advice and remember to get enough rest, eat properly, and move around during the day, even if it's just a walk between lectures.

If you're feeling overwhelmed, talk to someone. Friends, family, and your university's counselling or wellbeing service are all there for exactly this reason. Asking for help early is far easier than waiting until things feel unmanageable.

Talk to your lecturers

Lecturers and tutors aren't just there to deliver content, they're also there to guide you and share their expertise. So ask questions in class, turn up to office hours if they're offered, take any opportunities to extend your learning and understanding. A five-minute chat after a lecture could clear up something that would otherwise cost you hours of confusion later, and it helps your Professors get to know you as more than a name on a roll.

Say yes to things outside the lecture theatre

University isn't only about lectures and assignments, it's a chance for you to grow socially and emotionally too. Clubs, societies, and sports teams are where a lot of growing up happens. You'll pick up skills you can't learn from a textbook, and you'll meet people outside your course which all combines to make your time at university more fun. We recommend picking just one or two things that interest you rather than trying to join everything in freshers' week, you can always change or add more later when you feel settled in.

Set goals you can actually hit

Big ambitions are great, they serve as a roadmap, helping you stay focused and motivated but they usually work better broken into smaller pieces. Set yourself short-term goals for the week or month, alongside the bigger picture for the semester or year. Keep them realistic, and don't be afraid to adjust them as you go. Celebrate all the wins, even the small ones.

Stay curious and open-minded

University is a place of exploration and discovery, giving you time to explore subjects and ideas you never came across at school. Keep an open mind to new ideas, subjects, and experiences, even in the modules you don't expect to enjoy. Curiosity fuels learning and personal growth which is what makes the whole experience worthwhile, not just the grade at the end of it.



Keen to start prepping?

As well as being exciting and exhilarating, the jump from high school to university can bring real challenges, and it's completely normal to hit a few bumps along the way. Stay patient with yourself, lean on the support around you, and trust your own abilities, you'll adjust faster than you think. If you'd like more advice on settling into university life, courses, and everything in between, take a look at our [university hub](#) for more articles like this one.

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