



2026 CAREERS BULLETIN

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Announcements

Another year ... Welcome to 2026!

Welcome to all our readers — students, parents and teachers. We're guessing you're feeling refreshed, fired up and ready to take on **2026!**

Options is here to help you explore different **career ideas**, make the most of opportunities and build the confidence to make smart choices about the future. It's all about:

- Helping **young people** feel positive and optimistic about what's ahead
- Giving **parents** up-to-date, reliable info to support career chats at home
- Providing **teachers** with resources that back up their school career programs

Most importantly, Options is about creating **hope for the future** and helping you to build the skills needed to make solid career decisions — without the stress.

So buckle up, it's shaping up to be another great year.

Food for thought - 10 times when you should stay silent at all costs ...

1. Be silent if you don't know the full story
2. Be silent if you feel unable to control your emotions
3. Be silent in the heat of anger
4. Be silent if your words can destroy an amazing friendship or relationship
5. Be silent if you are unsure about the topic or lack knowledge
6. Be silent when someone is sharing their struggles and vulnerability
7. Be silent if you can't talk without yelling
8. Be silent if your silence can save your bonds
9. Be silent if your speaking will only serve to boost your ego or seek validation
10. Be silent if your words can betray someone's trust

Options Career Information App - career information at your finger tips!

As part of your school community, you can jump into your school's **Options Career Information** subscription using the **Options Career Information App**

The app is available on the [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#) and makes it super easy to:

- Check out career info anytime, anywhere
- Keep track of important dates and key deadlines
- Check out something you read earlier or someone told you

To get started, just ask your Guidance Officer or School Counsellor for your school's access code. Download the app and start exploring ... it's free for your School Community through the School's Options subscription.

This fortnight's joke

I thought about fortune-telling, but I couldn't make a prophet and didn't see a future in it.

Apprenticeships & Traineeships



A great option - Apprenticeships and Traineeship pathways

There are 500+ job options out there through Australian apprenticeships, across 30+ different industries. Here's the lowdown:-

Apprenticeships:

- Finishing an apprenticeship is required for skilled trades like electrical, plumbing, carpentry, cabinetmaking, automotive, hairdressing, engineering fabrication, fire systems technician and more
- It usually takes up to 4 years
- Gives you a nationally recognised qualification
- Is highly respected overseas, too

Traineeships:

- A traineeship is common in areas like office admin, IT, tourism, hospitality, beauty therapy and more
- Takes around 1–3 years
- Also gives you a nationally recognised qualification and internationally accepted

If you want to see what's available:

- Click [here](#) for the full list of nationally accredited apprenticeships and traineeships
- Visit [Queensland Skills Gateway](#) for more info

Definitely worth checking out if you want a hands-on pathway with real job outcomes.

About vocational education and training (VET)

Doing an ATAR program at school isn't the only way to end up with a great career 📖 A Vocational Education and Training (VET) pathway can lead to heaps of well-paid, quality jobs and no, they're not all "on the tools" either. If you're curious about other options, this [link](#) breaks it all down, including:

- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- How can training help me?
 - school students
 - job seekers
- Training providers
- Training packages and accredited courses
- Related links for further exploring

School Leavers Information Kit

Life after school can actually be pretty exciting. There are loads of options out there. The School Leavers Information Kit (SLIK) is here to help you figure out your next step. You might find something you're really into, pick up new skills or get a clearer idea of what you want your future to look like. Yeah, change can feel a bit daunting but there are heaps of different pathways you can explore. You don't have to have it all sorted right now. SLIK can help you check out what's out there and make your next move with confidence. Click [here](#) to find out about:

- School leavers who are blind or have low vision
- All school leavers
- School leavers with disability



Australian Defence Force Information Sessions In Queensland

Upcoming ADF events and information sessions are listed below:

- 27/01/2026 [Cairns Army Careers Information Session](#)
[Townsville Army Careers Information Session](#)
[Gold Coast New Year New Career Information Session](#)
- 28/01/2026 [Maroochydore New Year New Career Information Session](#)
- 29/01/2026 [Brisbane New Year New Career Information Session](#)
[Gold Coast Army Careers Information Session](#)
- 02/02/2026 [Mackay Defence Careers Information Session](#)
- 03/02/2026 [Engineering Careers Information Session](#)
[Maroochydore Defence Careers Information Session](#)
[Brisbane Army Reserve Information Session](#)

Is the Defence Force for you?

Made up of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is one of Australia's major employers. Click [here](#) to find out more about the Australian Defence Force and what they offer including:

- Defending our country and our interests
- Helping communities at home and abroad
- Protecting trade and commerce
- Adapting to complex strategic environments
- Choose how you serve in the Reserves

Career Exploration



9 podcasts to help kids start learning about careers

These 9 podcasts are a great opportunity for kids, young and old, to find out about jobs. It is a Canadian site with some USA podcasts which aren't accessible outside of the USA but there is still good stuff and well worth checking them out. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Busting the Career Myths Shaping Student Decisions

Walk into pretty much any high school and you can *feel* the pressure. Thinking about the future can be a lot — choosing subjects, meeting course prerequisites, sorting through online advice and dealing with well-meaning adults all telling you what they think you should do. Add in things like rising youth unemployment, constant talk about AI changing jobs and it's no wonder heaps of teenagers feel like they have to get every decision exactly right. This is a Canadian article but the info is still great for Aussie kids. Click [here](#) to bust the following myths:

1. "I have to pick one career direction for life – before graduating high school."
2. "Making a 'wrong' career choice will ruin my future."
3. "Good grades dictate how far I'll go in my career."
4. "I need a university degree to have a successful career."
5. "AI will eventually replace my future job."
6. "If I don't have a passion, I won't be able to figure out a career path."

Career pathways into the marine industry

The marine industry is fast-paced and super varied, with heaps of career options if you're keen on working around boats — big, small and everything in between. You could be on the water or right by it, working in some of the best waterways in the world. The cool thing is, you don't need a single "type" of background. The industry looks for people with all kinds of skills and interests and there are chances to work with local businesses or even national and international companies.

Some of the jobs you could check out include:

- Boat building
- Fit-out, refit and repairs
- Marina services
- Slipway and servicing
- Professional services
- Boat sales, tourism and service

- Boat operations
- Tourism roles

To help you figure out what jobs or training might suit you, the [Marine Industry Careers Guide](#) has been created to show what's out there and how you can get started in the marine industry.

Check out today's hottest IT careers.

IT is everywhere — how we live, play shop and work, so it's no surprise IT jobs are in high demand. Careers in IT are booming thanks to things like the growth of the internet and online shopping, the need for cybersecurity experts, smarter apps that analyse data, cloud computing, and the massive use of mobile devices. Click [here](#) to find out more (including how much they make and requirements) about:

- IT Security Specialists
- Help Desk Technicians
- Machine Learning Engineer
- Data Scientist
- User Interface Developer
- Mobile Application Developer
- Web Developer
- Network Administrator
- Video Game Designer
- Graphic Designer

... and many more!

Common Career Roadblocks for Doctors

Thinking about studying Medicine after school? It can be a long and pricey road, but it's also a career that can be incredibly rewarding. The key is knowing what you're signing up for before you jump in. Going into Medicine with your eyes wide open is a smart move. New doctors face some real challenges, and it's worth understanding what the job is actually like. If Medicine is on your career radar, click [here](#) and have a read — future you will thank you.

Is cyber security you?

If you're into solving puzzles, thinking smart or mucking around with tech, software or hardware, cyber security could be a pretty exciting career path. Myfuture is hosting a free webinar on 25 February, where industry experts will chat about:

- what employers actually look for when hiring
- the skills that matter most
- different study and training pathways into cyber security

Click [here](#) to find out more and to register. Definitely worth checking out if tech is your thing.

Need help figuring out your career options?

The Australian Government's Department of Employment and Workplace Relations [website](#) has info to help you explore your career choices and work out what might suit you. There is info and tools to help you make smart decisions about your future. You'll find things like:

- Help to make a decision on your current and future career
- Your education identifier
- Understand the Australian Labour Market
- Explore your future

If you're not 100% sure what you want to do yet, this is a great place to start.

Psychology, Counselling and Social Work ... but which one?

Trying to choose between psychology, counselling or social work? You're not alone. They all help people, but in different ways. Here's the quick breakdown:

Psychology focuses on understanding behaviour and mental health using science and therapy.

Counselling is about supporting people through personal challenges and helping them grow emotionally.

Social work looks at the bigger picture — supporting people, linking them to services, and pushing for social change.

Knowing the difference makes it way easier to work out which path suits you best. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Will job clusters actually help?

Yep — they can make career choices way less confusing. The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) grouped 1,000 jobs into seven job clusters based on shared skills like Carers, Technologists, Designers and more. Why this helps you:

- Skills from one job can transfer to heaps of others
- You can choose a cluster that matches your interests, not just one "dream job"
- Entry-level jobs can lead to lots of other roles in the same cluster
- Some clusters have better job growth than others
- You build a mix of skills that gives you more future options

Click [here](#) to check out FYA's article on how job clusters can help you plan your career.

2026 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition

Entries for the 2026 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition are now open and will close on 5 February 2026. All photographs must be of natural fauna, flora or natural land/sky formations and must have been taken in the ANZANG bioregion. Click [here](#) for more information and entry details.

IM2C International Mathematical Modeling challenge

The International Mathematical Modeling Challenge (IM²C) is a team Maths competition for Australian high school students. You work in a team of up to four from your school to solve a real-world problem using your own maths model. You've got five days to break down the problem, test ideas and submit a report. Top teams then go on to compete internationally. It's all about using maths in real life, working as a team, building skills and showing how maths can actually make a difference. Registrations open on 4 February 2026. Click [here](#) for more information including entry details.

QUT Accounting Challenge

The QUT Accounting Challenge is a fun, real-world case study competition made especially for Year 9 and 10 business and accounting students. It's open to all high schools across Queensland and Northern NSW. The competition is all about showing that accounting isn't boring — it's actually a practical, problem-solving skill that can lead to heaps of career options. You'll work through a real-life style case study created with industry partners, so it feels way more like the real world than a textbook. It's a great chance to try something new, build teamwork skills and see what accounting is really about. Registrations:

- 16/01/2026 Registrations open
- 06/03/2026 Register your team/s
- 01/05/2026 Case study submissions close

Find out more [here](#) and click [here](#) to register your interest and to receive updates.

QUT Blue Shift Business Case Competition

Grab a few mates and form a team of 3–4 students from Years 10–12, then go head-to-head with schools from all across Queensland. You'll build professional presentation skills, level up your creative problem-solving and get a real taste of what it's like working in the fast-paced world of business. What's up for grabs?

- Scholarships
- Cash prizes
- A prize pack from our sponsors
- the top three regional Queensland teams score a \$1,500 travel subsidy to help with expenses

[Register your interest](#) by 16 February 2026 with Finals Day on Saturday 9 May 2026 For competition resources, full info and prize details, visit the [website](#).

QUT High School Moot Competition

The QUT High School Moot Competition is a great chance for Year 11 and 12 students to experience what studying law at uni level is really like. You'll be given a fictional legal case to work up arguments for your "client" and then present your case in front of real lawyers and judges — just like a courtroom (but way less scary than it sounds). If you're curious about law, love debating or enjoy thinking on your feet, this one's definitely worth checking out. Click [here](#) for more info and to register for updates and entry details.

UQ's Sunflower Competition

Want to be in the next generation of plant and agricultural scientists? The Sunflower Competition is all about giving you some ideas that could get you started! You'll get stuck into hands-on experiments at school, learning science in a fun, plant-based way and seeing how this stuff connects to real-world agriculture and food production.

- Registrations are now open and close on 13 February.
- Growing starts in the week beginning Monday 23 February 2026
- Growing ends Friday 15 May 2026
- Video submissions open: 18–29 May 2026

If you like science, getting hands-on or just want to grow something cool, this one's for you. Click [here](#) to find out more including application details.

Youth of the Year Program

The Lions Youth of the Year program helps Aussie students build confidence and leadership as they finish high school. It recognises students who get involved in their school and community, can speak confidently, do well academically and take part in sport or cultural activities. It's all about supporting and celebrating the next generation of young leaders. Click [here](#) for more information including:

- How to enter
- Resources for participating clubs
- Find them on Facebook
- YOTY Videos

Disabilities



Disability Gateway

There's plenty of support out there to help you build skills, gain confidence and get ready for work. Whether you're looking for a job in a regular workplace or a more supported setting, there are services that can help you find meaningful work and stick with it. Click [here](#) for more information including:

- Employment - Employment training, finding and keeping a job, your employment rights.
- Key National Supports

Supported decision making

Supported decision making helps people stay in control of their own lives while getting help to make decisions when they need to. The support can come from family, friends, carers or professionals and it can change over time. Click [here](#) to hear Luke from Inclusion Australia explain what supported decision making is and how he helped shape the policy.

Employment, Job and Labour Market Info



A career in policing or security at all entry levels

Thinking about a job in security or policing? There are heaps of organisations you can check out, like [Queensland police](#), [Federal Police](#), [Defence](#), [Border Security](#), [Security Intelligence](#), [Corrective Services](#) and [Boating and Fisheries Patrol](#). When you're on their websites, look into:

- What jobs they offer
- What you'd actually do and the skills you need
- Entry rules (age, study, fitness, checks, licences)
- Whether you'd need to move away from home
- Recommended uni or TAFE courses
- If speaking another language helps
- How the recruitment process works
- FAQs and contact details

It's a good way to see which path might suit you best.

Casual jobs - pros and cons

Think a casual or short-term job isn't a *real* job or doesn't count for your future? Think again. Casual work can actually give you a big advantage when you start applying for jobs later on. A casual job helps you build workplace skills, learn how to manage your time, boost your confidence and communication and get a feel for how work actually works. Plus, it helps with life balance and gives you some handy pocket money. Check out [Job Jumpstart](#) - definitely worth a look if you're thinking about getting started.

Labour Force Data - November 2025

In seasonally adjusted terms, in November 2025:

- unemployment rate remained at 4.3%.
- participation rate decreased to 66.7%.
- employment decreased to 14,655,700.
- employment to population ratio decreased to 63.8%.
- underemployment rate increased to 6.2%.
- monthly hours worked decreased to 1,996 million.
- full-time employment decreased by 56,500 to 10,076,800 people.
- part-time employment increased by 35,200 to 4,578,900 people.

Click [here](#) for more info.

LinkedIn's 15 fastest growing jobs

LinkedIn has revealed the fastest-growing jobs for 2026, based on what's being posted on their site and AI Engineer has taken out the top spot. A few other trends popping up:

- Risk and regulatory roles are on the rise, as companies try to keep up with changing rules and compliance stuff
- Founders and start-ups are booming too, with AI making it easier for small businesses to compete
- The big, government-led jobs boom after COVID is slowing down but private companies are starting to pick up the slack

The top 15 jobs are:

1. AI Engineer
2. Chief Risk Officer
3. Mechanical Engineer
4. Director of Artificial Intelligence
5. Organisational Development Manager
6. Legal Director
7. Founder
8. Media Director
9. Regulatory Affairs Consultant
10. Power System Engineer
11. Head of Environment, Health and Safety
12. Psychotherapist
13. Head of Sales
14. Tax Specialist
15. Strategic Partnerships Manager

Definitely worth a look if you're thinking about where the job market is heading and click [here](#) for more info.

Rare Earth industry jobs

Jobs in Australia's rare minerals sector are super varied from hands-on site work to engineering, geology and office roles. Big players like Lynas, Iluka and Northern Minerals, plus newer projects with Hastings Technology Metals are often hiring especially around new refineries like Eneabba. You'll usually find roles on job sites or company careers pages, with opportunities across construction, processing and technical jobs. Some of the key Companies & Projects Hiring:

- [Lynas Rare Earths](#): Major producer with operations in WA, seeking lab analysts, engineers.
- [Iluka Resources](#): Operates in mineral sands, with opportunities for technicians (e.g., Jacinth-Ambrosia).
- [Northern Minerals](#): Developing the Browns Range Heavy Rare Earths Project, offering roles in sustainable sourcing.

- [Hastings Technology Metals](#): Developing the Yangibana Project, hiring for roles in exploration and development.
- [Civmec](#): Building the Eneabba Rare Earths Refinery, seeking construction trades like carpenters, welders, concrete finishers.

Resilience of cultural and creative workforce

New research from the Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research (BCARR) has taken a deep dive into Australia’s cultural and creative jobs and for the first time, it shows just how strong and resilient this sector has been over the past decade. It looks at cultural and creative employment from 2008–09 to 2023–24 and lines up with the goals of Australia’s National Cultural Policy — *Revive*. Here’s what’s new:

- Phase 1 looked at how much money cultural and creative industries contribute to the economy
- Phase 2 (this report) zooms in on the people doing the work — aka the workforce behind the creativity
- The jobs counted in this research match the creative activities studied earlier, giving governments and industries solid info to plan future jobs, training and funding.

Why it matters - understanding who works in creative industries helps shape better policies around long-term careers, fairness, growth and support so creative talent doesn’t get overlooked.

Some key findings:

- Around 591,302 people worked in a cultural or creative job in 2023–24 — that’s a 7.1% increase from the year before
- The sector makes up 4.1% of all jobs in Australia, which is similar in size to industries like transport and wholesale trade
- The biggest areas for creative jobs were architecture services, advertising and promotion and visual arts and crafts

Click [here](#) to read more and explore the full report.

Whats out there job wise?

The Australian Government’s Jobs and Skills Australia website breaks down what’s happening right now in the Aussie job market.

They’ve spotted 37 fast-growing new jobs, grouped into four big areas:

- Health, care & medical (like health and medical tech)
- Data & technology (think cybersecurity)
- Net zero (clean energy and sustainability)
- Science & engineering (including bio, chem and engineering roles)

Click [here](#) to explore these areas and see what new jobs are popping up.

Who's in the top 'World's Best Employers' list - 17 Australian companies were

Seventeen Australian companies across eight different industries have made it onto Forbes' 2025 World's Best Employers list. (out of 900 organisations worldwide).

Key takeaways:

- Atlassian was Australia's top-ranked company, coming in at #117, thanks to its collaborative and flexible work culture
- Last year's Aussie number one, BHP Group, followed super closely at #118
- Banking and financial services dominated the list, with 6 of the 17 companies, including the Big Four Banks:
 - ANZ (#181)
 - Commonwealth Bank (#269)
 - Westpac (#278)
 - NAB (#418)
- Woolworths, Australia's biggest private employer with around 190,000 staff, ranked #819
- Qantas, the national carrier, came in at #872

Pretty interesting if you're curious about which Aussie companies are being recognised globally and where future jobs might be. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Financial Assistance & Scholarships



Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program

The Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program helps students from regional, rural and remote Australia afford boarding school. Starting in 2024, this pilot program offers scholarships to help cover boarding fees and related costs. It's designed for families who don't have suitable local school options or who need extra financial support to make boarding school possible. Click [here](#) for more info.

Managing your money - start early!

Whether you've got a job or get an allowance, learning how to manage your money now makes life way easier later. The Queensland Government has tips to help you take control of your cash and work towards your goals. Click [here](#) to find out more including:

- Money management
- Banking
- Budgeting
- Credit and debt
- Financial counselling
- First job
- Getting a car
- Getting a pet
- Insurance
- Investing
- Mobile phone deals and plans
- Moving out of home
- Online transactions
- Saving
- Scams
- Study costs
- Superannuation
- Tax
 - Getting a tax file number
 - Lodging your tax return
 - Income and deductions
 - Getting a tax refund

Scholarship research — start now!

There are heaps of scholarships out there from universities, TAFE, governments and industry groups. They cover things like sport, equity, specific courses, financial hardship and academic achievement. Scholarships can help pay for fees, books, accommodation, transport and living costs — so they're always worth checking out. You can find info on uni and [TAFE websites](#), [Study Assist](#), [The Good Universities Guide](#) or by chatting with your school guidance officer. Most open from Term 2, so start getting your info and documents ready early.

Tuckwell scholarship 2027

Click [here](#) and click on Reference Documents to check out the Australian National University (ANU) 2027 Tuckwell Scholarship guide. Make sure you're reading the latest version before applying or asking questions, as it can be updated. The guide explains everything you need to know about:

- Overview
- What we offer
- Scholarship eligibility
- Candidacy requirements
- Key dates
- How to apply
- ANU Direct Applications
- Tuckwell Scholarship Application Process Overview
- Tuckwell Scholarship Application
- Stage 1
- Stage 2
- Stage 3
- Attributes of a Tuckwell Scholar
- Contact us

Applications open early March and close on 13 April 2026.

First Nations Peoples



Anthony Mundine's MGM making a difference in work and life

In 2026, Anthony Mundine will hit 10 years of opening doors and creating real opportunities for his community. His business, Mundine Gosh Management (MGM) Australia, which he started with his lifelong mate Gosh Daher, focuses on creating clear job pathways for First Nations people in the construction industry. One of those success stories is Chris Phillips. He says work used to feel pretty unstable, but now he's thriving with the right people backing him. Now 26, Chris works as a traffic controller on a big project at Stockland's Figtree Hill housing estate in Sydney's south-west.

Growing up, work was never really steady for Chris. Finding a decent company was tough but things have changed. After two years with MGM, he says it's been challenging in a good way and has helped him build something solid. MGM works as a principal contractor, helping people like Chris move into stable, long-term jobs and proving how powerful the right support can be. Click [here](#) to read more.

Indigenous Careers with the Australian Government Development Program

The [Indigenous Careers website](#) helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people find jobs and career pathways in the Australian Government. You can:

- Search current government jobs through [APSjobs](#)
- Check out the Indigenous Graduate Pathway for uni graduates
- Find traineeships and apprenticeships across the Australian Public Service

It's a great place to start if you're keen on a government career.

QUT Indigenous Australian Accommodation Scholarship

The QUT Indigenous Australian Accommodation Scholarship helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students moving from regional, remote or interstate areas to study at QUT. It's a 12-month support program that includes subsidised accommodation to make your first year easier. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Aged 18–25? Take a paid gap year in agriculture

Get a full-time paid farm job, hands-on training and real industry experience. Choose the type of farm and where in Australia you'd like to go and you'll be matched to suit your interests and skills. What you get:

- Paid farm job with a passionate host farmer
- \$3,000 training bursary to upskill
- Industry events and experiences
- Ongoing support from a dedicated team
- A nationwide network of other young people

Check out AG Career Start opportunities [here](#).

Thinking about deferring? You're not alone

More students are taking a gap year to have a break, earn some money and get real-world experience before heading to uni or TAFE. It's a good idea to start planning your next move sooner than later even before offers come out. Click [here](#) for info on:

- Taking a break
- Taking advantage of university gap year programs
- Experiencing the world of work
- Qualifying for Youth Allowance

Considerations:

- Will a gap year affect your chances of a scholarship?
- For how long can you defer?
- Have you considered other options?

International Safer Internet Day

The 2026 Safer Internet Day (SID) theme is “Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI” It’s a global day all about making the internet a safer place, especially for kids and young people. The main day is Tuesday 10 February but events and activities will be happening all month long around the world. The idea is to get everyone involved — schools, families, tech companies and communities — working together to build a safer, better online space. Click [here](#) for more information (check out the top navigation bar for heaps of useful stuff).

Open Days, Expos & Career Markets



2026 Sunshine Coast Daily Careers Expo

- **Tuesday 21 July**
- **9:00am – 2:00pm**

Check out loads of career, study and job options — all in one place. You can:

- Access the latest careers, course study and employment options.
- Get advice on enrollment procedures.
- Talk to local and national employers.
- Talk to admissions staff.
- Meet with interstate and overseas exhibitors.
- Get info on bursaries, scholarship and application procedures.
- Compare courses from different providers.
- Contact students services, GAP and exchange programs.

Click [here](#) for more info, registration and the venue location.

2026 TSXPO Tertiary Studies Expo

Planning your next move? Whether you're a student, job seeker or a parent helping out, the Brisbane Tertiary Studies & Careers Expo has you covered. What's there:

- Meet 100+ employers, unis and training providers
- Compare courses, pathways and scholarships
- Chat with current uni students about real campus life
- Join 100+ free live seminars with industry and career experts

One event. Heaps of options. Put it in your calendar - 17 & 18 July from 10am - 3pm. Click [here](#) for more info and register your interest.

Private Provider Updates



Australian Film TV and Radio school (AFTRS)

Kick off the new year strongly by sharpening your skills — or picking up brand new ones with AFTRS online short courses. Whether you're just starting out in screen and media or you want to level up your skills for the year ahead, you'll learn straight from industry pros who know their stuff. The training is practical, hands-on and designed to build your confidence. Check out the upcoming online courses below and save 15% on any January or February short course using the code SUMMER2026 ([T&Cs Apply](#)) Click the links below to explore courses and enrol in:

- [Storytelling for Business | 11 March \(online\)](#)
- [Intro to Directing | 26 Jan \(online\)](#)
- [Presentation Skills | 28 Jan \(online\)](#)
- [Intro to Media Skills | 11 Feb \(online\)](#)

Ever wanted to study overseas and be part of a global creative crew?

SAE's International Study Tour lets you travel abroad, experience a new culture and get hands-on learning at an SAE campus overseas — all while exploring the creative industries in another country. Click [here](#) and find out more.

NIDA courses in Brisbane

NIDA Open are offering [short courses](#) in Brisbane. Open classes in Brisbane include:

- Introduction
- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Upcoming courses

Project, Leadership and Entrepreneur Opportunities



Sail on the Young Endeavour in 2026

Aged 16–23? Jump on an 11-day sailing adventure where you'll learn to sail a tall ship, build leadership skills and work as part of a real crew. You'll be supported by trained Royal Australian Navy staff but you'll need to pitch in — it's hands-on and heaps of fun. Click [here](#) for details, how to apply and to [sign up](#) for updates on new voyage dates.

World Science Festival Brisbane (WSFB)

21–30 March 2026

Get stuck into fun, hands-on science with talks from real scientists, interactive activities and epic science shows — all highlighting cool STEM careers. You can also join in online with livestreams, podcasts and digital resources. Click [here](#) for more info, clicking on *Full Program*.

QTAC & Tertiary Entry



So, how does QTAC work?

In Queensland, most uni and TAFE courses are applied for through QTAC. QTAC works out your ATAR and handles applications for QLD unis, some interstate unis, TAFE Queensland and some private colleges.

What you need to know:

- The 2027 QTAC Guide goes online in July (no printed copies)
- It covers how applications and offers work, plus 1,600+ courses
- Applications open early August and usually close December (a few close earlier so watch out!)
- You can list up to 6 course preferences, but you'll only get one offer
- Offers are released November–February
- You can change preferences (for most courses) within QTAC deadlines

Some courses or providers aren't through QTAC — those are applied for directly. For interstate study, you usually apply through that state's admissions centre (except Tasmania, where you apply straight to UTAS).

Follow QTAC on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) for updates. Use [Course Seeker](#), [QILT](#) and [The Good Universities Guide](#).

Study Skills and Wellbeing



10 tips for students to survive Year 12

Year 12 is way easier when you've got a game plan. Torrens University shares [10 simple tips](#) to help lower the stress:

- Get enough sleep
- Don't skip meals
- Take regular breaks
- Stay organised
- Don't cram
- Review your notes
- Study with friends
- Turn your phone off
- Keep things in perspective
- Ask for help when you need it ... DON'T wait for the 'wheels to fall off!'

Attitude: why it matters

A new year = a fresh start. Set yourself up with a positive mindset from day one. Things to remember:

- Show empathy – understand others (especially teachers) and meet them halfway
- Attitude matters – grades count but a good attitude helps way more than you think
- Be flexible, not fragile – adapt, stay resilient and roll with challenges
- Back yourself – ignore the negativity online and believe you can do hard things
- Balance your life – managing school, work, sport and friends cuts stress big time

Have a great 2026 and back yourself

Getting back into school mode

Holidays were great... late sleeps, binge-watching and friends. Now it's back to classes, homework, chores, sport and maybe work too. So how do you make the switch without losing it?

Click [here](#) to check out tips on:

- Plan, plan and plan
- Set your alarms beforehand
- Prepare your outfits beforehand

- Sleeping and eating - Get that energy right
- Give it time

You've got this.

Start 2025 strong!

Now's the perfect time to level up your study habits. Use this checklist to get sorted:

- Study space: Find a quiet spot with no TV, socials or distractions
- Focus first: Tackle the hardest subjects when your brain's freshest
- Time routine: Study at the same time each day if you can — tell others so you're not interrupted
- Breaks matter: Know how long you can focus, then take short 5–10 min breaks
- Be prepared: Have everything ready — books, notes, pens, charged devices, internet
- Eat smart: Big meals before study = sleepy brain
- Just start: Don't put it off — starting is the hardest part
- One task only: Multitasking sounds cool, but it doesn't work
- Sleep smart: Stop studying at least 30 mins before bed

Start 2025 how you want to finish it — organised, balanced and on track



The Good Universities Guide 2026 Rankings

The 2026 rankings are out, with updated student experience ratings. They're a quick way to compare what different unis do best. Click [here](#) and then on a uni, hit Rankings and check things like:

- Learning resources
- Overall experience
- Skill development
- Student support
- Teaching quality
- Social equity
- Graduate salary
- Teacher:Student ratio

Use it to compare — not to stress

Australian Catholic University

ACU Guarantee, entry programs and pathways - start researching!

Might not get the entry you wanted? No stress as there's always another way. Pathways and entry programs can help you get into your dream course. Click [here](#) to check out pathways that may see you starting at ACU including:

- Recent secondary education
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Vocational education and training study
- Pathway certificates and diplomas
- International pathways
- Didn't get the ATAR

Check out the Brisbane campus

The McAuley Campus (Banyo) is chilled, green and only 12km from the city. Enjoy mild winters, heaps of clubs and activities and easy access to Brisbane's river, parks, nightlife and nearby beaches. Do a [virtual tour](#).

New courses at ACU

ACU has added and updated a bunch of courses some are brand new, others improved and some are new to certain campuses. Click [here](#) to see what's on offer. It might be exactly what you're looking for such as!

- Bachelor of Computer Science/Master of Data Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Psychological Science/Master of Teaching (Primary)
- Bachelor of Business

Central Queensland University

CQU has 10 campuses across Queensland

There are campuses at Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville, plus regional study hubs. Click [here](#) and scroll down to check out each campus and find more info.

CQU has short videos on its YouTube channel

They give a [quick look](#) at CQU's campuses and courses, are easy to watch and a great way to see what CQU's all about.

From uni degrees to TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships, CQU has loads of options

You can study on campus or online, full-time or part-time, depending on the course. Head to the CQU [website](#) home page to explore all the study areas available like:

- [Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)
- [TAFE courses](#)
- [Entry Pathways](#)
- [Skills for Tertiary Education Preparatory Studies \(STEPS\)](#)

SUN (Start Uni Now)at CQU

In Year 10, 11 or 12? SUN lets you study CQU subjects while still at school. Pass at least one SUN uni subject and you could get direct entry to a degree after Year 12. Term 1 applications close: 16 Feb 2026. Visit the [SUN website](#) to see if it's right for you and check 2026 term dates and deadlines (under *Important Application and Term Dates*).

Griffith University

Head Start at Griffith Uni

Still in high school? Griffith Uni's Head Start lets you study a real uni subject on campus or online while you finish school. Why it's awesome:

- It's free
- Try uni life early
- Push yourself academically
- Guaranteed entry to 70+ single and double degrees (if you pass and finish Year 12)
- No ATAR needed to apply
- Year 12 students only for Trimester 1

Click [here](#) for eligibility, entry requirements and how to apply. Trimester 1, 2026 applications close: 9 Feb 2026

What's on offer at Griffith

Griffith offers heaps of degrees — from Music, Design and Performing Arts to Science, Engineering and IT. You'll build real skills, make industry connections and study at a Uni that cares about sustainability and social justice. You'll also get plenty of support, plus flexible study options — online or on campus, part-time or full-time — so uni can fit around your life. Click [here](#) for info on:

- Why choose Griffith?
- Study areas
- Degree Pathways
- Comprehensive support
 - Uni life
 - Go global
 - Scholarships
 - Student support
 - Accommodation
 - Life at GU
- FAQs

James Cook University

Is JCU for you?

JCU is a world leader in tropical studies and has loads of course options. Campuses are in Cairns and Townsville, plus Brisbane, Mackay, Mount Isa, Thursday Island and Singapore. Courses focus on real issues facing northern Australia and the tropics. Check out the [JCU homepage](#) for courses and the Campuses page to see where you could study.

Queensland University of Technology

Accommodation help at QUT

QUT's [accommodation service](#) helps you find and secure a place to live. You'll get:

- A list of accommodation providers
- A handy rental guide to help you get started
- Access to QUT StudyStays, with heaps of Brisbane options

Visit QUT's Living in [Brisbane page](#) or email accommodation@qut.edu.au for more info.

Curious what studying science at QUT is really like?

Check out [QUT Science 360](#) to see students working in labs, clinical simulation spaces and out in the field. you'll get a good idea about what studying Science can be like. Best viewed on a computer for the full experience.

Engineering anyone?

The Power of Engineering program is all about inspiring female students in Years 7–12 to check out engineering and STEM careers and see what's really possible. You'll get involved in hands-on workshops, hear from real engineers and sometimes even head out on site visits to see how engineering works in the real world and helps solve big global problems.

What the program's all about:

- Breaking stereotypes
- Building awareness
- Meeting role models
- Boosting problem-solving skills
- Getting hands-on and seeing how engineering ideas can make a real difference

If you're curious, like solving problems or want a career that actually changes things, this program is definitely worth a look. Term 1 sessions are in early March. Click [here](#) to find out more and talk to your teacher or Guidance Officer/counsellor..

Guaranteed course offers might be of interest?

Waiting for offers is stressful but Guaranteed course offers makes it easier. With QUT's Offer Guarantee, you can know you'll get into your course before offers come out. If your ATAR or selection rank meets (or beats) the guarantee, your place is locked in. It applies to Semester 1 offers, whether you're in Year 12, took a gap

year, or finished school a while ago. Once you get your ATAR or rank, you can check your eligibility early and stress less. Check it out [here](#).

START QUT Webinar

In Year 11 (or a parent of one)? Learn how START QUT lets you study a real uni subject while still at school. Hear from past START QUT students about what it's really like and how the program works. This session on 31 March from 6pm - 7:30 is for domestic students thinking about undergraduate (bachelor) study. More info and registration [here](#).

Thinking about studying at QUT?

If you're in Year 12, now's a great time to start checking out options for 2027. The QUT [Current High School Students page](#) covers everything you need to know, including:

- Explore their study areas
- Double degrees
- Why QUT
- Your study options
- How to apply
- START QUT
- Study abroad and exchange
- Fees and costs
 - Your uni fees
 - Government loans
 - Scholarships
- Upcoming events
- Take a quiz
- Need more help

Year 12 Advice Night webinar

Year 12 students and parents can jump online to learn all about applying to and studying at QUT. The webinar is on 10 March from 6 - 7:30pm. It's a great way to make the move from school to uni feel easier. You'll get tips on:

- Choosing courses and careers
- Entry requirements and how to apply
- Costs, scholarships and money support
- Starting uni and student support
- Helpful resources for students and parents
- You'll also hear from real QUT students and get to ask them questions.

Click [here](#) to register.

Southern Cross University

Can't make it to campus?

Not a problem. In fact, you can start your campus tour right now. Click [here](#) and choose your campus, turn on your audio and let the tour begin!

Why look into Southern Cross Uni?

Choosing the right uni can make your Uni life workable, fun and successful. Whether it's how you'll learn or the amount of support available. Southern Cross University help's you find your feet and thrive. They have:

1. Six-week terms that fit better with your life. The result? Higher student satisfaction and grades.
2. Your own first year adviser. From day one you'll have a go-to person to help you navigate uni life, offer advice and cheer you on from the sidelines.
3. What about a job at the end? More than 90% of students land a job within four months of graduating, earning above the national average (Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023).

Click [here](#) to check out the University and what they offer. It could be a great fit for you!

The University of Queensland

Engineering, Design and Computing High School Ambassador Program

Keen on Engineering, Design or Computing? This program helps Year 11 students build skills, learn more and promote these subjects at school. What you get:

- Mentoring and special events
- A badge, certificate and UQ merch
- A pathway to become a UQ Student Ambassador later on

Year 11 students in 2026 must be nominated by a teacher and show strong interest in the area. Nominations open early 2026 (keep an eye out) and close March 2026. Click [here](#) to keep up to date.

Future Experiences in Agriculture, Science, and Technology (FEAST) at UQ Gatton

FEAST is a 4-day live-in program where you get hands-on experience in agriculture, animals, plants and food. You'll:

- Do real science in modern labs
- Learn from researchers shaping the future
- Meet students who love the same stuff as you

- Check out what uni life at UQ Gatton is really like

2026 dates: Sun 28 June – Wed 1 July. [Register your interest](#) now to be first notified when 2026 applications open!

High School Students page

Head to the High school students page to explore undergraduate courses, pathway options, entry requirements, scholarships, how to apply, Life at UQ and more. See what activities you can do while still in high school. Click [here](#) for more info.

UQ Science Ambassador Program

Motivated Year 11 student in Science, Maths or Geography? Nominate as a UQ Science Ambassador and help lift science at your school. Ambassadors run Science events (like National Science Week), share their Science journey and inspire other students. Each year, ambassadors submit a short written or video report, with prizes awarded for top students, schools and teachers. Nominations for the 2026 program are now open! Check it out [here](#).

Torrens University Australia

What's on offer at Torrens

[Check out](#) what courses Torrens University Australia has on offer including:

- Design
- Health
- Business
- Hospitality
- Technology
- Education

University of Southern Queensland

Start researching now!

It's never too early to start having a look around. UniSQ makes it super easy to check out undergraduate study options and see what's out there for 2027. Click [here](#) for information on:

- Arts and Communication
- Education and Teaching
- Information Technology

- Aviation
- Engineering and Surveying
- Law
- Business
- Health
- Sciences and Agriculture

Have a browse, see what sparks your interest and start getting ideas for what's next

Study at Uni while still at school!

In Year 10, 11 or 12 and wanting to get a head start on Uni? UniSQ's Head Start can give you the chance to get a real taste of what uni is actually like by studying one uni subject per trimester, while still working towards your QCE. Why it's worth checking out:

- Your first Head Start course is FREE 🎁
- Earn QCE points
- Get credit towards a related UniSQ degree
- Direct entry into a UniSQ degree (if you meet the requirements)
- Choose how you study — flexible options to suit you

Applications for Trimester 1, 2026 close on 9 February 2026 and click [here](#) for more details and how to apply.

University of the Sunshine Coast

Thinking about uni in 2027 - It's never too early to find out info

Jump into the UniSC Start uni in 2026 info session and get the lowdown on everything you need to know when your time comes from how to apply, what courses are available and the different pathway options to help you get started. You'll also hear from students and staff about what makes UniSC a great place to study, grow and smash your goals. Registrations are essential — lock in your spot today! What you can expect:

- Learn about UniSC's range of courses, pathways and flexible study options
- Get step-by-step guidance on how to apply, including late applications

The events will be held at:

- **Sunshine Coast:** Wednesday 28 January 2026
- **Moreton Bay:** Wednesday 28 January 2026
- **Fraser Coast:** Thursday 29 January 2026

Time: 3pm–5.30pm (Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay) and 4pm–5.30pm (Fraser Coast). Click [here](#) to register and find out more.

Upcoming Events



Date	Event
27/01/2026	ADF: Cairns Army Careers Information Session
27/01/2026	ADF: Gold Coast New Year New Career Information Session
27/01/2026	ADF: Townsville Army Careers Information Session
28/01/2026	ADF: Maroochydore New Year New Career Information Session
28/01/2026	UniSC Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay info session
29/01/2026	ADF: Brisbane New Year New Career Information Session
29/01/2026	ADF: Gold Coast Army Careers Information Session
29/01/2026	UniSC Fraser Coast Info session
31/01/2026	2026 St Kilda Film Festival applications close
02/02/2026	ADF: Mackay Defence Careers Information Session
04/02/2026	The International Mathematical Modeling Challenge (IM ² C) registrations open
09/02/2026	GU Head Start Tri 1 applications close
09/02/2026	UniSQ Head Start T1 applications close
10/02/2026	Safer Internet Day
11/02/2026	ADF: Air Force Careers Virtual Information Session
11/02/2026	ADF: Gold Coast ADFA Careers Information Session
12/02/2026	ADF: Maroochydore ADFA Careers Information Session
12/02/2026	ADF: Toowoomba Defence Careers Information Session
13/02/2026	UQ Sunflower Competition applications close
16/02/2026	ADF: Brisbane Gap Year Information Session
16/02/2026	ADF: Rockhampton Indigenous Pathways Information Session
16/02/2026	CQU SUN Tri 1 applications close
16/02/2026	QUT BlueShift competition closes
17/02/2026	ADF: Cairns A Night In The Army Reserve

17/02/2026	ADF: Gladstone Indigenous Pathways Information Session
17/02/2026	ADF: Gold Coast Army Careers Information Session
17/02/2026	ADF: Hervey Bay School Leavers, Parents and Teachers Information Session
17/02/2026	ADF: Toowoomba ADFA Careers Information Session
18/02/2026	ADF: Brisbane ADFA Careers Information Session
19/02/2026	ADF: Brisbane School Leavers, Parents and Teachers Information Session
19/02/2026	ADF: Townsville ADFA Careers Information Session
19/02/2026	ADF: Townsville ADFA Careers Information Session
22/02/2026	QLD Youth Parliament nominations close
23/02/2026	ADF: Maroochydore Gap Year Information Session
25/02/2026	ADF: Cairns ADFA Careers Information Session
25/02/2026	ADF: Ipswich Defence Careers Information Session
25/02/2026	Careers with STEM: Science
25/02/2026	Myfuture webinar about Cyber security careers
26/02/2026	ADF: Townsville Army Reserve Information Session
27/02/2026	The Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OZCLO) entries close