

Weekly Careers News for Victoria

August 25, 2025

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Events

This Week's Events

Kangan Essendon Open Night

Organisation: Kangan Institute

Location: Kangan Essendon Campus

Date: August 27, 2025

At our Open Night you will have the chance to speak one on one with teaching areas, discover the free support services available to assist you with your studies and tour our amazing facilities.

Some study areas will be running information sessions and guided tours to give you a closer look at the courses and our outstanding training facilities. You're welcome to attend multiple sessions based on your interests.

[Find out more and register](#)

Access Monash – VTAC and Beyond

Organisation: Monash University

Location: Online

Date: August 27, 2025

Completing your VTAC application and understanding your options is a tricky business! Hear from the Access Monash team and current students on all the details you need to know to ace your application, including information on SEAS, entry schemes, pathways and scholarships, and hear from current students about their experience applying to higher education.

[Access Monash](#) enhances opportunities for secondary students from low Socio-Economic Status (SES) backgrounds and regional or remote locations, helping them improve their educational outcomes and transform their lives.

[Find out more and register](#)

A Flying Start: Aviation Info Session

Organisation: Swinburne University of Technology

Location: Swinburne Hawthorn Campus

Date: August 27, 2025

Join us on campus to get all the need-to-know details on studying aviation at Swinburne. You'll get a breakdown of all our different aviation courses, hear insights on entry requirements, and get expert tips on career opportunities. We'll also cover financial info, including scholarships.

This info session will include:

- a 60-minute presentation on Swinburne's aviation program and courses
- networking with Swinburne staff and industry partners
- complimentary light refreshments.

[Find out more and register](#)

Study in the US – Virtual Information Session

Organisation: Internationally Educated

Location: Online

Date: August 27, 2025

Internationally Educated is excited to host a live, virtual information session providing students and families from years nine to eleven (9-11) the opportunity to learn more about Studying in the US. This general presentation draws on our experience having worked in US university admissions and will provide insight to the US university application process and the higher education system in the US. A brief Q&A session will follow the presentation.

[Find out more and register](#)

Post-UCAT Advice & Medical Interviews Information Session

Organisation: National Institute of Education

Location: Online

Date: August 27, 2025

This webinar is an excellent opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to find out about the post-UCAT steps medical school applicants are required to take.

The session is packed with invaluable information during which we will be covering the following topics:

- Your UCAT Scores and what they mean
- Applying to universities that do not require UCAT (JCU and Bond)
- Medical Interviews for undergraduate medicine and dentistry courses
- Interview structures and assessment criteria by universities
- Take a look at a few sample questions
- Medical interview preparation advice
- Q and A.

[Find out more and register](#)

ADHD & ATAR, Bonus Points, & Uni Entry Explained

Organisation: Claire Pech Careers

Location: Online

Date: August 28, 2025

Looking for ways to unlock bonus points and improve uni entry chances? Join our webinar designed for Yr 12 students with ADHD and parents, navigating university admissions.

We will cover: The ATAR explained, bonus points (adjustment factors) and who qualifies, what is EAS and how to apply with ADHD as the main contributor, dates, preferencing and decision making throughout this.

This talk is being run by [Claire Pech Careers](#) and [Amanda Krulis](#).

[Find out more and register](#)

Graphic Design Online Session

Organisation: Melbourne Polytechnic

Location: Online

Date: August 28, 2025

Choosing a brand-new career path, knowing where to upgrade your skills or how to start doesn't need to be a decision you make alone.

Hosted by teachers who can answer questions and offer advice on your chosen field, our information sessions help you make an informed decision around your study and career options.

Find out more about the following course(s):

- Diploma of Graphic Design

[Find out more and register](#)

Kangan Cremorne Open Night

Organisation: Kangan Institute

Location: Kangan Cremorne Campus

Date: August 28, 2025

At our Open Night you will have the chance to speak one on one with teaching areas, discover the free support services available to assist you with your studies and tour our amazing facilities.

Some study areas will be running information sessions and guided tours to give you a closer look at the courses and our outstanding training facilities. You're welcome to attend multiple sessions based on your interests.

[Find out more and register](#)

AIE Online Campus Day

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Online

Date: August 30, 2025

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day. AIE will be running this event for students interested in studying online. You will be able to meet our teachers, explore how classes will run, course options, career pathways and see our amazing student work.

We will be covering everything you need to know about the:

- careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- studios and industries that we work with;
- courses we offer - from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- the software, skills and knowledge we teach.

[Find out more and register](#)

Collarts Open Day 2025

Organisation: Australian College of the Arts

Location: All Collarts Campuses

Date: August 30, 2025

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, state-of-the-art facilities, expert faculty, and more.

[Find out more and register](#)

Next Week's Events

Wyndham Learning Festival 2025 – free events for all ages

Organisation: Wyndham Learning Festival

Location: Various locations around Werribee, Victoria

Date: September 1 to September 7, 2025

The Wyndham Learning Festival, held annually from 1-7 September, is a week-long celebration of learning, not just a single day. It features free events hosted by local community groups, businesses, and

individuals across Wyndham. These events include workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities that promote lifelong learning and personal growth.

Events include a series of free career-focused workshops perfect for jobseekers, students, and career changers seeking practical skills, new insights, and opportunity pathways.

Below is a brief rundown of upcoming events, including host organisations and booking links:

- [Your Learning, Your Way: Pathways Beyond School](#) – Tue 2 Sep
Presented by Victoria University (in collaboration with Youth Projects), at Central Park CC, Hoppers Crossing
- [Mastering How to Complete a Cover Letter & Resume](#) – Tue 2 Sep
Presented by Victoria University, at VU Werribee Campus
- [Mastering How to Prepare for a Job Interview](#) – Tue 2 Sep
Presented by Victoria University, at VU Werribee Campus
- [Digital Literacy for Jobseekers](#) – Thu 4 Sep
Presented by Navitas Skilled Futures, Online workshop
- [Choosing Technology Project Management as a Profession](#) – Thu 4 Sep
Presented by Arun Dayal Bhatia (Gemba Consulting Pty Ltd), Online workshop
- [Get Set for Work!](#) – Fri 5 Sep
Presented by The Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre, Wyndham CEC, Werribee
- [Career Play Lab: Where Curiosity, Creativity & Cardboard Collide!](#) – Fri 5 Sep
Presented by Career Play Lab facilitator(s) at Central Park CC, Hoppers Crossing
- [Connections & Conversations with University of Melbourne Students & Staff](#) – Sat 6 Sep
Hosted by University of Melbourne – Engagement & Partnerships, at Hoppers Crossing Library
- [Empowered Living – Health & Wealth](#) – Sun 7 Sep
Presented by Grit and Grace, at Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre

All events are free, though spaces are limited—so we encourage your network to book now!

Explore over 120 more free events during the Festival: www.wynlearnfestival.org.au/events

Feel free to book multiple events, but please only register for those you plan to attend. If your plans change, remember to cancel your booking so others on the waitlist have a chance to join. Event hosts rely on registrations to plan, so your thoughtfulness helps make the experience better for everyone.

[Find out more and register](#)

Education at La Trobe

Organisation: La Trobe University

Location: Online

Date: September 1, 2025

Find out everything you need to know about study at La Trobe with our range of live and on-demand course specific webinars.

[Find out more and register](#)

Sports and Exercise Science at La Trobe

Organisation: La Trobe University

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2025

Find out everything you need to know about study at La Trobe with our range of live and on-demand course specific webinars.

[Find out more and register](#)

Torrens Business and Hospitality Virtual Open Day

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2025

Join online as our Business and Hospitality 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.

[Find out more and register](#)

Torrens Health and Education Virtual Open Day

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2025

Join online as our Health and Education 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.

[Find out more and register](#)

Torrens Technology Virtual Open Day

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2025

Join online as our Technology 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.

[Find out more and register](#)

Understanding equity schemes and scholarships

Organisation: Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

Location: Online

Date: September 2, 2025

Have you been affected by educational disadvantage or want to find out more about financial support for your tertiary studies? Our webinar will guide you through the key opportunities available to support your journey.

We will speak about our equity program, the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS), who is eligible and how to apply.

We will also speak about merit based and access based scholarships, explaining the differences and also how to research scholarships and apply.

Whether you're a student, a parent, or an educator, this webinar is designed to provide clarity and support you as you prepare your application for equity schemes and scholarships.

[Find out more and register](#)

Connect with Bond – Melbourne

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Space&Co - Level 1, Melbourne Central Tower

Date: September 3, 2025

We understand that navigating the journey to university can be daunting, so we're here to lend a helping hand. Bond is hosting a series of drop-in support sessions to help answer any questions you or your family have.

Whether you're curious about the application process, choosing the right degree, pathways, tuition fees, scholarships, accommodation, or student support services, we can provide personalised advice to help you feel confident and prepared for the next step.

[Find out more and register](#)

Chisholm Info Day – September

Organisation: Chisholm Institute

Location: Chisholm Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Campuses

Date: September 3, 2025

Whether you want to start a new career, upskill in your current one or are still exploring your options, Info Day is your chance to experience Chisholm in action.

Tour our campuses, join study area info sessions, chat with teachers, and find out how we can support your study journey – for the better.

[Find out more and register](#)

GOTAFE Open Day 2025, Seymour

Organisation: GOTAFE

Location: GOTAFE Wallis Street Campus

Date: September 3, 2025

Whether you're aiming for a career change, professional growth, or pursuing your passions, remember, with GOTAFE you've got this. Take the next step towards your ideal future by attending a GOTAFE Open Day.

- Explore subject areas
- Understand study pathways
- Join an information session
- Talk to career advisors
- Take part in demonstrations
- Enjoy some food and coffee

[Find out more and register](#)

Torrens Design and Creative Technology Virtual Open Day

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Online

Date: September 3, 2025

Join online as our Design and Creative Technology 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.

[Find out more and register](#)

Columbia, Brown, Penn, Princeton Undergraduate Admissions Virtual Information Session

Organisation: Columbia Undergraduate Admissions

Location: Online

Date: September 3, 2025

Admissions representatives will hold a joint virtual session for students and families about their respective universities and the highly selective college admissions process. Topics will include: academic programs, campus activities, student life, admissions policies and financial aid.

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 7:00 AM until 8:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time UTC -04:00 Note that the times listed above are in Eastern Time. Please visit [this website](#) to double check the time zone of your location.

[Find out more and register](#)

Kangan Broadmeadows Open Night

Organisation: Kangan Institute

Location: Kangan Broadmeadows Campus

Date: September 4, 2025

At our Open Night you will have the chance to speak one on one with teaching areas, discover the free support services available to assist you with your studies and tour our amazing facilities.

Some study areas will be running information sessions and guided tours to give you a closer look at the courses and our outstanding training facilities. You're welcome to attend multiple sessions based on your interests.

[Find out more and register](#)

Nursing at La Trobe

Organisation: La Trobe University

Location: Online

Date: September 4, 2025

Find out everything you need to know about study at La Trobe with our range of live and on-demand course specific webinars.

[Find out more and register](#)

Chisholm Campus Tours – September

Organisation: Chisholm Institute

Location: Chisholm Berwick, Dandenong & Frankston Campus

Date: September 4, 2025

Join us for a campus tour and see Chisholm up close. You'll be able to walk through our facilities, guided by a Chisholm representative who can answer your questions about campus life, career pathways and our range of courses.

Register for a campus tour so you can:

- See our facilities
- Learn about our range of courses and the career pathways available
- Find out if a course at Chisholm is right for you

[Find out more and register](#)

Geology And Geotechnology online webinar

Organisation: Snow Hydro Limited

Location: Online

Date: September 5, 2025

When digging a tunnel for the [Snowy 2.0 project](#), one of the last things you might expect to find is a coral reef!

This hands-on experience gets students involved in unearthing the mysteries within the Earth's crust. Geology and geotechnology are integral in the designing and building of infrastructure, and by decoding the layers of rock that we build on and in, students will unpack the mysteries of ancient worlds and how they affect us today. With sampling experiences and discussion on experimental design, this session will have your class decoding the universe to help build tomorrow.

This online webinar option allows you and your students to participate at a time and place that suits you, complete with in class practical activities to match.

[Find out more and register](#)

Future Events

SuniTAFE Open Day 2025 Swan Hill

Organisation: Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

Location: SuniTAFE Swan Hill Campus

Date: September 17, 2025

Join us for our 2025 Open Day and see for yourself how SuniTAFE can help you launch into your future. Whether you're finishing secondary school soon and planning what comes next, have your heart set on a new career, or are just looking to learn what's out there, our Open Day is for you.

Hear from our expert teachers and watch practical demonstrations that will give you a glimpse into what your career could look like.

[Find out more and register](#)

USYD Online Open Night

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 18, 2025

Open Night is your opportunity to experience the University of Sydney from wherever you are. Join us online for an interactive evening designed specifically for prospective domestic undergraduate students from interstate and regional areas in Australia, New Zealand, and offshore.

Whether you're exploring your study options, want to understand entry pathways and scholarships, or are curious about life on campus, this event is for you. You'll hear from current students, and connect with our faculty, admissions, student support and scholarship staff, as well as a range of accommodation providers, in live breakout rooms.

[Find out more and register](#)

Wodonga TAFE Logic Campus Open Day

Organisation: Wodonga TAFE

Location: Wodonga TAFE Logic Campus

Date: September 20, 2025

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at our Logic campus? Now's your chance to see the action up close and explore future career pathways.

Bring your friends and family for a fun, hands-on experience in a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

Learn about our training in:

- Heavy Vehicle Licensing

- Forklift Operation
- Civil Construction & Plant Operation
- Supply Chain & Warehousing
- Light Vehicle Automotive & Motorsport

[Find out more and register](#)

Outward Bound Expedition VIC

Organisation: Outward Bound

Location: Buchan, VIC

Date: September 22 to October 1, 2025

Join a crew of adventurers from across Australia for 10 days of challenge, connection and serious outdoor action. Expedition is designed for 15–24 year olds chasing something real—big hikes, big moments, and big personal growth.

You'll push your limits on epic activities like the Giant Ladder, high ropes, abseiling, hikes and an unforgettable overnight solo. Along the way, you'll build resilience, confidence, and a deeper connection to yourself, others, and the environment. Walk away with skills and stories that'll stick with you, wherever life takes you next.

To apply, create a quick 1–2 minute video answering: “Why do you want to join the Expedition program?”

[AOBDF Scholarships](#) are available to individual participants wanting to attend School Holiday Adventures, Duke of Ed or for Schools seeking funding assistance for individual students.

[Find out more and register](#)

Voice for Wildlife Program

Organisation: Melbourne Zoo

Location: Melbourne Zoo

Date: September 22 to September 25, 2025

Discover how your voice can help protect wildlife.

Over four action-packed days this program will explore animal welfare, community campaigns, and behaviour change—all through the lens of Zoos Victoria's Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife campaign. With behind-the-scenes experiences, expert mentoring, and visits to RSPCA and Parliament, this is a chance to make a difference in your community and be part of something bigger.

This program is recommended for young people aged 14-18 years.

[Find out more and register](#)

RMIT Student for a Day 2025

Organisation: RMIT University

Location: RMIT City Campus

Date: September 23, 2025

Want a taste of life after high school? Register your interest in being a Student for a Day at RMIT this September school holidays.

Aimed at high school students in Years 10, 11 and 12, this event will let you experience student life at RMIT and discover more about our courses.

[Find out more and register](#)

RMIT Student for a Day 2025

Organisation: The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Location: Storey Hall, 342–344 Swanston Street, RMIT City campus, Melbourne

Date: September 23, 2025

This is your chance to get some hands-on time with a study area you're interested in, explore something entirely new, and experience your future uni campus. Join us at 10am, Tuesday, 23 September – we'll be starting the day at the Storey Hall auditorium, but we'll be exploring many parts of the RMIT University City campus!

There's a little bit of everything at RMIT Student for a Day. Whether you're interested in the innovations of engineering, the strategy of business or the creativity of design, you're sure to be inspired.

Register now to save a space and choose the two workshops that you'd like to join on the day. We can't wait for you to experience student life these school holidays.

[Register here](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

[Find out more and register](#)

Enter the World of Le Cordon Bleu Careers Residential, Melbourne

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu

Location: Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Campus

Date: September 24 to September 26, 2025

We're opening our doors to high school students in Years 11 & 12, to experience a day in the life at one of the world's leading culinary and hospitality institutions. The residential will provide a taste of what a future career in hospitality looks like.

Meet lecturers and Le Cordon Bleu professionals, hear from industry experts, discover what Le Cordon Bleu hospitality management degree programmes involve and experience hands-on culinary classes with our chefs.

Open to high school students in Years 11 & 12 interested in culinary arts, hotel or business management.

[Find out more and register](#)

A Day in the Life of a Swinburne Student | STEM

Organisation: Swinburne University of Technology

Location: Swinburne Hawthorn Campus

Date: September 30, 2025

Do you dream of getting paid to code, revolutionising the world of robotics, or solving problems in outer space? Maybe you already think like an engineer and want to know your course options – and what it takes to get there. Whether you're passionate about algorithms or anatomy, this is your chance to see exactly what life at Swinburne is all about.

This immersive event is for you if you're interested in any of the following study areas:

- Biomedical Science
- Computer Science
- Chemistry
- Cyber Security
- Product Design Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Robotics
- Space Technology

[Find out more and register](#)

A Day in the Life of a Swinburne Student | Creative & Social Impact

Organisation: Swinburne University of Technology

Location: Swinburne Hawthorn Campus

Date: October 1, 2025

At Swinburne, we have plenty of courses that let you channel your imagination into your studies – and maybe one day, a career with impact. This is your chance to become a creative change-maker for a day as you explore our most innovative courses, from law to social media.

This immersive event is for you if you're interested in any of the following study areas:

- Architecture
- Arts
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Design
- Fashion Design
- Film and Television
- Law and Criminology
- Media and Communication

[Find out more and register](#)

A Day in the Life of a Swinburne Student | Health, Sport & Education

Organisation: Swinburne University of Technology

Location: Swinburne Hawthorn Campus

Date: October 2, 2025

Do you nerd out over the brain? Fascinated by physiology? Hoping to one day have a career in healthcare or education? From psychology to sports management, there are endless ways to make your mark in these groundbreaking industries – with the right Swinburne course.

This immersive event is for you if you're interested in any of the following study areas:

- Allied Health
- Biomedical Science
- Education
- Exercise and Sport Science
- Nutrition
- Psychology
- Sports Management

[Find out more and register](#)

It Takes a Spark STEM Conference, Melbourne

Organisation: Intuyu Consulting Pty Ltd

Location: The Knox School, Wantirna

Date: October 23, 2025

Most conferences currently being offered on STEM, STEAM and Entrepreneurship tend to be targeted towards teachers and involve a series of speakers and the occasional mini-workshops. This conference is designed to be different. This conference is designed by students and teachers for students and teachers.

The intent of the It Takes a Spark STEM Conference is to bring together Students (Year 4 to 10) and Teachers to connect with inspiring industry role models, share their current school based activities and projects using an authentic sharing and experiential model, create networks of teachers and student teams, and solve social justice design challenges.

The participation of the students is as important as teachers as our intent is to ignite, empower and nurture both to be leaders of STEM and Entrepreneurship within their schools. This is a conference designed and led by students and teachers for students and teachers.

Teachers will have both formal and informal opportunities to speak to other teachers who have enacted programs and activities in their schools and get their questions answered.

The Digi-Design workshops and Problem Solver design challenges are all hands-on so students and teachers will experience first-hand what it is like to be part of great STEM and entrepreneurial learning. This will spark new ideas about curriculum and pedagogy.

[Find out more and register](#)

VU TAFE Open Night

Organisation: Victoria University

Location: VU Sunshine Campus

Date: October 23, 2025

Thinking about doing a trade or health TAFE course? Come see what's on offer at Sunshine Campus on Thursday 23 October from 5pm-7pm.

You'll get:

- A tour of our state-of-the-art trades and health facilities
- All your questions answered about TAFE courses
- Information sessions and presentations
- The chance to apply on-the-spot with our team on the night.

Get personalised advice, help and support from the very start so you feel confident you're on the right path.

[Find out more and register](#)

A day in the life of a medical imaging student

Organisation: Deakin University

Location: Deakin Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus

Date: October 28, 2025

'A day in the life of a medical imaging student' is an opportunity for Year 11 students who live in the South West and Grampians/Wimmera regions and have an interest in medical imaging to experience what it is like to study at Deakin.

The day will include hands-on practical activities as well as the chance to learn more about pathways, entry requirements and career options.

Academics and current students will be available to answer all your questions.

Expressions of interest due 19 September.

[Find out more and register](#)

Getting your results – what happens next?

Organisation: Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

Location: Online

Date: December 9, 2025

You're about to receive your secondary school results, but what do you need to do to prepare for the next stage of your education journey?

Join us to hear more about how the ATAR is calculated, advice on changing your preferences and how to order them, accepting an offer and other ways you can get support in this important time.

[Find out more and register](#)

Preferences, pathways and offers

Organisation: Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

Location: Online

Date: December 11, 2025

You've just received your results, congratulations! This time can be exciting but also a bit stressful, so we are here to help guide you towards your dream course.

Join our webinar to hear more about how the preferencing system works and hear advice on ordering your preferences. We will also speak about pathways and how you can look at alternative courses to help you get to your dream course. Finally, we will cover what to expect when receiving an offer and how to accept your offer.

[Find out more and register](#)

Scholarships

University of Sydney First Nations Scholarship for the Bachelor of Laws

Organisation: The University of Sydney

Location: Australia

Value: \$30,000 AUD per year (up to 5 years)

Open Date: July 1, 2025

Close Date: September 30, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust Financial Study Support for Uni or TAFE

Organisation: Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust

Location: Australia

Value: Up to \$6,000 AUD per year

Open Date: August 18, 2025

Close Date: October 31, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Tori Cowburn Scholarship for Female Mining Students in the Hunter Valley

Organisation: Thiess

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$8,000

Close Date: September 4, 2025

[Find out more](#)

UNSW General Merit Undergraduate Scholarships for Commencing Students

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: Australia

Value: Up to \$12,000 AUD per year

Open Date: July 2, 2025

Close Date: September 30, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

Wild At Art – Primary School Animal Art Competition

Organisation: Australian Conservation Foundation

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Open Date: September 7, 2025

Close Date: October 24, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition 2026

Organisation: Blue Ocean Competition

Location: All

Value: Up to \$1,000 USD

Close Date: February 22, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Moonhack 2025 High School Coding Competition

Organisation: Code Club Australia

Location: All

Value: Up to \$1,150

Open Date: September 1, 2025

Close Date: November 22, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Weekly Posts

Skills for Work

10 questions to ask in an Informational Interview

You've done it! You've reached out to a professional, arranged a time to chat, and now you're sitting across from someone who actually works in the field you're considering. But what should you ask them? The questions you choose can make the difference between a polite but surface-level conversation and a genuinely illuminating discussion that helps shape your future decisions.

The best informational interview questions are open-ended, encourage storytelling, and help you understand not just what someone does, but what it's really like to do it. They should give you insights you simply can't find in job descriptions or university course catalogues. Most importantly, they should help you figure out whether this career path aligns with your interests, values, and goals.

Here are ten proven questions that will help you make the most of your informational interview, along with why each one is so valuable and what kind of insights you can expect to gain.

"Can you walk me through what a typical day or week looks like in your role?"

This question is absolutely essential because it cuts through all the formal job descriptions and gives you the real picture of what this person actually does with their time. You'll discover whether they spend

most of their day in meetings or working independently, whether their schedule is predictable or constantly changing, and what kinds of tasks actually fill their working hours.

When someone describes their typical day, they'll often reveal aspects of the job that aren't immediately obvious. A marketing professional might mention that they spend a surprising amount of time analysing data rather than creating campaigns, or a teacher might explain how much of their evening is spent planning lessons and marking assignments. These details help you understand whether the reality of the job matches your expectations and interests.

This question also gives you insight into the work environment and culture. You'll learn whether people in this field tend to work standard hours or if there are busy periods that require longer days. You might discover that collaboration is a huge part of the role, or conversely, that much of the work is done independently. All of this information helps you assess whether this career would suit your working style and lifestyle preferences.

"What do you enjoy most about your work? What do you find most challenging?"

This two-part question is incredibly revealing because it helps you understand both the highlights and the realities of any career. When someone talks about what they love about their job, you'll get a sense of what motivates them and what aspects of the work are genuinely fulfilling. This can help you assess whether those same elements would appeal to you.

The second part about challenges is equally important because every job has difficult aspects, and it's better to know about them upfront. Someone might mention that client deadlines create stress, that the work can be emotionally demanding, or that staying current with rapidly changing technology requires constant learning. Understanding these challenges helps you make a more informed decision about whether you're prepared for the realities of this career.

Listen carefully to how they talk about both the positives and negatives. If someone struggles to think of things they enjoy but immediately lists multiple frustrations, that might tell you something about either the career itself or that particular workplace. Conversely, if they light up when discussing certain aspects of their work, pay attention to what specifically energises them.

"How did you end up in this career, and was it always your plan?"

Career paths are rarely as straightforward as they might appear from the outside, and this question often reveals fascinating stories about how people actually end up in their professions. You might discover that someone stumbled into their field by accident, changed careers multiple times, or took an unconventional route to get where they are.

These stories are valuable because they show you that there isn't just one "right" way to enter most fields. Someone might have started with a completely different degree, worked in various industries before finding their passion, or discovered their calling through a part-time job or volunteer experience. This can be incredibly reassuring if you're worried about making the "perfect" choice or following a linear path.

This question also often reveals turning points or key experiences that shaped someone's career direction. They might mention a particular project that sparked their interest, a mentor who guided them, or a challenge that helped them realise what they really wanted to do. These insights can help you think about your own experiences and what might guide your decision-making process.

"What skills or qualities are most important for success in this field?"

While you can find lists of required skills in job descriptions, hearing about them from someone who actually does the work gives you a much richer understanding. They'll often mention soft skills that don't appear in formal requirements but are crucial for success, such as resilience, curiosity, or the ability to build relationships quickly.

This question helps you assess your own strengths and identify areas where you might need to develop. If someone emphasises that strong communication skills are essential, you can reflect on your own abilities in this area and consider how you might strengthen them. If they mention that attention to detail is crucial, you can think about whether this aligns with your natural working style.

Pay attention to both the technical skills they mention and the personal qualities. Someone might explain that while technical knowledge can be learned, success in their field really depends on being able to work well under pressure or being comfortable with ambiguity. These insights help you understand not just what you need to know, but what kind of person tends to thrive in this environment.

"What are the biggest misconceptions people have about your profession?"

This question is brilliant for uncovering the gap between perception and reality. Many careers have stereotypes or assumptions attached to them that don't reflect the actual work involved. A lawyer might explain that their job involves far more research and writing than dramatic courtroom speeches, or a scientist might reveal that much of their time is spent on admin and grant applications rather than exciting discoveries.

Understanding these misconceptions helps you examine your own assumptions about the field. You might realise that some of your concerns about a particular career are based on outdated or inaccurate information. Alternatively, you might discover that aspects of the job you found appealing don't actually represent the day-to-day reality.

This question often leads to really honest conversations about what the work is actually like. People enjoy setting the record straight about their professions, and you'll often get valuable insights into the less glamorous but important aspects of their work. This helps you develop a more realistic and complete picture of what you'd be signing up for.

"How has the industry changed since you started working in it?"

Every industry evolves, and understanding these changes gives you insight into where the field might be heading in the future. Someone who's been working for several years can provide perspective on how technology has impacted their work, how client expectations have changed, or how new regulations have affected their industry.

This question is particularly valuable because it helps you understand whether this is a growing field with expanding opportunities, or whether certain aspects of the work might become automated or obsolete. You might learn about emerging specialisations within the field that could be interesting to pursue, or discover that some traditional career paths are becoming less common.

The answer to this question can also reveal how adaptable professionals in this field need to be. If someone describes constant changes and the need to continuously learn new skills, you'll know that this career requires flexibility and a commitment to ongoing professional development. This information helps you assess whether this kind of dynamic environment appeals to you or feels overwhelming.

"What advice would you give to someone just starting to consider this field?"

This question invites the person to step into a mentoring role and share their wisdom about entering the profession. The advice they give often reflects what they wish they had known when they were starting out, making it particularly valuable for someone in your position.

You might receive practical advice about which courses to take, what kind of work experience to seek, or how to build relevant skills while you're still studying. They might suggest professional organisations to join, books to read, or specific areas within the field that are particularly promising for new entrants. Sometimes the advice is more strategic, such as suggestions about how to network effectively, what to look for in your first job, or how to position yourself for career growth. This kind of insider knowledge is

incredibly valuable and can help you avoid common pitfalls or make more strategic decisions about your education and early career steps.

"Are there related careers I should also be exploring?"

This question often leads to discoveries about career paths you hadn't previously considered. Most professionals work alongside people in related fields and have insights into adjacent careers that might appeal to someone with similar interests. They might mention specialisations within their own field that you weren't aware of, or suggest completely different careers that require similar skills or interests. These suggestions can significantly expand your exploration and help you avoid tunnel vision. You might learn about careers that offer different work environments, better work-life balance, or more growth opportunities while still utilising your core interests and strengths. Sometimes these related fields are less competitive to enter or offer more diverse career paths.

This question also helps you understand how different roles connect within an industry. You might discover that there are various ways to be involved in an area you're passionate about, from hands-on technical roles to management, research, policy work, or consulting positions. This broader perspective can be incredibly valuable for your decision-making process.

"What's the work-life balance like in this field?"

Work-life balance means different things to different people, but understanding the typical expectations and pressures in a field helps you assess whether it aligns with your personal values and lifestyle goals. Some careers involve predictable hours and clear boundaries between work and personal time, while others require flexibility, travel, or intensive periods of work.

When someone answers this question, pay attention to both the formal policies and the informal culture. They might mention that while their company offers flexible working arrangements, there's an unspoken expectation that people check emails in the evening. Or they might explain that while the hours can be long during certain projects, there are also quieter periods that allow for better balance. This question often reveals information about career progression and whether advancing in the field requires sacrificing personal time. Some professions have a culture of long hours, particularly in the early stages of careers, while others prioritise sustainable working practices. Understanding these expectations helps you make decisions that align with your personal priorities and life goals.

"If you were starting over today, what would you do differently?"

This question often produces the most candid and valuable advice because it encourages reflection and honesty. People might share mistakes they made, opportunities they missed, or knowledge they wish they had gained earlier in their careers. This hindsight perspective can be incredibly valuable for someone just starting their exploration.

The answers often reveal important insights about career development and decision-making. Someone might mention that they wish they had been more strategic about building certain skills, taken more risks early in their career, or focused more on building professional relationships. They might suggest taking advantage of opportunities that weren't available when they were starting out.

Sometimes this question reveals regrets about work-life balance, such as wishing they had set better boundaries or prioritised personal relationships more highly. These insights can help you think about what success means to you and how to structure your career in a way that aligns with your broader life goals.

Making the most of these questions

Remember that these questions are starting points for deeper conversations. The most valuable insights often come from follow-up questions based on their responses. If someone mentions a particular

challenge they face, ask how they deal with it. If they describe an aspect of their work that sounds interesting, explore it further.

Also consider which questions are most relevant to your stage of exploration. If you're just starting to learn about a field, focus on questions that help you understand the basics. If you're further along in your research, you might want to dig deeper into specific aspects that matter most to you.

Most importantly, listen actively and let the conversation flow naturally. While it's good to have these questions prepared, don't feel like you need to ask all of them or stick rigidly to your list. The best informational interviews often take unexpected but valuable directions based on what resonates most with both you and the person you're speaking with.

Your next conversation awaits

Armed with these questions, you're ready to have meaningful, insightful conversations with professionals in any field that interests you. Remember, each conversation is an opportunity to learn something valuable about both the career you're considering and about professional life more generally. The key is to approach each conversation with genuine curiosity and openness to learning. You might discover that a career you thought you wanted isn't quite right for you, or you might uncover exciting possibilities you hadn't previously considered. Either way, you'll be making more informed decisions about your future.

[Explore more resources to learn about your potential future career on our website here.](#)

How to land your Christmas casual job

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is just around the corner. While you're focusing on a new school year, upcoming exams, and the holidays, other students are already getting ready to apply for a casual job. It's not just a chance to earn extra pocket money; you could gain valuable work experience, build professional networks, and develop skills that'll serve you throughout your career.

The downside is that hundreds of other students want the same opportunities and will be applying too. But the difference between landing your dream role and missing out entirely often comes down to preparation and timing. So if you start searching and preparing now, you could have a significant advantage over students who wait until later in the year.

Let's look at some of the steps you can take to land a Christmas casual job.

Start your preparation now

Major retailers and hospitality venues begin recruiting as early as September, with many positions already filled by November. Think of Christmas job hunting like studying for exams – the earlier you start, the better your results.

Begin by honestly assessing your availability. How many hours can you legally work at your age? Do you want to work as many shifts as possible during the Christmas period? Can you work weekends? Are you available during the week between Christmas and New Year? Different employers have varying needs, and being clear about your availability from the outset prevents disappointment later.

Start by creating a simple calendar: mark important school or personal events, exams, family commitments, and holidays you've already booked.

Next, update your resume. Even if you think it's current, chances are you've gained new skills, completed coursework, or had experiences worth mentioning since you last reviewed it. And speaking of your resume...

Showcase your best self on paper

Your resume and cover letter need to sell you to your potential employer before you even walk through the door. In the Christmas casual market, employers often receive hundreds of applications for each position, so your application really needs to shine.

Give your resume a glow up by [focusing on the basics](#) first, like ensuring your contact details are current and professional. Once you have a good base, you can tailor it for each job from there.

Your cover letter should be concise but impactful. Research each employer and mention something specific about their company. If you're applying to a bookstore, mention your love of reading. For a sports retailer, reference your athletic interests or knowledge of their products.

Don't stress if you don't have formal work experience or training - there are plenty of transferrable skills you could have learned from school, volunteering, or even helping with family businesses.

Experiences to include

- **School roles** – peer mentoring, prefect, class representative, organising school events
- **Volunteering** – helping at community events, sports clubs, church groups, fundraisers, op-shops
- **Work experience placements** – even if unrelated, highlight teamwork, punctuality, or communication
- **Extracurricular activities** – team sports, drama productions, debate teams (shows teamwork, discipline, confidence)
- **Babysitting, dog walking, mowing lawns, tutoring younger students** – demonstrates responsibility and reliability
- **Technology skills** – using EFTPOS in a school canteen, handling spreadsheets, or being the "tech helper"
- **Personal qualities** – friendly, approachable, willing to learn, reliable with time commitments

Make it personal

Instead of just listing activities, phrase them in a way that connects to the position you're applying for. For example, you might mention how you helped organise and serve at a school fundraiser, which involved handling money and assisting customers - two key skills in retail positions.

Employers will want to know that you're going to be an asset who's great at teamwork, can think on their feet, and can work in busy environments. You should also feature any retail, hospitality, or customer service experience prominently - you'll need to tailor this depending on the job you're applying for.

Strategic job-hunting locations

The Christmas casual job market extends far beyond traditional retail. So, explore multiple avenues to maximise your opportunities and take advantage of what's local to you.

Major retail chains

These are an obvious starting point. Department stores, fashion outlets, electronics retailers, and supermarkets all dramatically increase their staff during the festive season. Apply directly through their websites, as many use automated systems to screen applications.

Local businesses

Many small and local businesses often provide more personalised experiences, and even potential ongoing opportunities if you want to keep working after the Christmas period. Visit stores in person if possible - sometimes a friendly conversation with a manager beats an online application.

Hospitality venues

Restaurants, cafés, pubs, hotels, and event venues experience massive demand during the Christmas season and need extra staff. These roles often offer learning experiences and networking opportunities (and you might even get tips too).

Seasonal attractions

Aside from retail and hospitality, there are some unique seasonal opportunities out there too. Christmas markets, ice rinks, Santa photography sessions, and gift-wrapping services all need temporary staff. These roles could be lots of fun and less stressful than traditional retail positions.

Online

Check large sites like Indeed, Seek, and local employment websites regularly. Set up job alerts with relevant keywords to receive notifications immediately when suitable positions appear. You can also check the careers pages for big and local businesses who you'd be keen to work for.

[Social media](#) is another great place to keep an eye out for work. From dedicated groups and pages where employers can advertise openings, to community pages listing opportunities coming up you can be a bit creative and keep your finger on the pulse. If you don't have social media, ask a parent, carer, or older sibling for some help or to forward you opportunities when you see them.

Be an entrepreneur

Lots of people go away over Christmas and need their pets looking after, gardens tending, or rubbish bins putting out - is that a service you'd happily offer? Are you fantastic at wrapping gifts or decorating, can you make delicious baked goods or craft beautiful hand-made cards or gifts?

If you have a skill or a passion that you think other people might pay for, you could use it to make some extra cash over the holidays.

Essential workplace preparation

Before you can earn your first paycheck, you'll need to do some basic admin. This preparation often determines whether you can start immediately when offered a position – a crucial advantage in casual employment.

Here in Australia for example, you'll need to obtain your [Tax File Number](#) (TFN) if you don't already have one. This process can take several weeks, so don't delay. Without a TFN, employers could deduct maximum tax rates from your pay, significantly reducing your earnings.

[Open a dedicated bank account](#) for your wages if you haven't already. Most employers pay electronically and having account details readily available speeds up the hiring process. Also consider opening a savings account to put a bit of money in and start saving for your future goals and plans (think cars, uni, gap years, and other fun stuff).

Think about superannuation too - some employers make automatic super contributions as part of your earnings, and you don't want to miss out or have them use a generic super fund provider that you can't track down later on.

Understanding your workplace rights and responsibilities protects you and shows maturity to employers. Research basic employment law, including minimum wage rates, break entitlements, and workplace safety requirements. The [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) provides excellent resources covering almost everything you need to know.

Standing out from the crowd

In a competitive market, going above and beyond could be the difference between successful candidates from disappointed ones. That doesn't mean being pushy, but being strategic and professional.

Follow up

You could follow up every application appropriately. A brief, polite email one week after applying (or after the cut-off date) shows initiative without being annoying. But if you've been explicitly asked to not to contact them, you might have to hold off.

Be prepared for interviews

Prepare thoroughly for interviews. Research the company, practice common interview questions, and prepare a couple thoughtful questions to ask (just make sure they relate to the role you're applying for). Dress appropriately on the day - when in doubt, dress slightly more formally than the role requires. Always thank interviewers for their time, regardless of the outcome. These small gestures demonstrate professionalism and could lead to referrals for other opportunities if you're not successful the first time.

Build your skills early

Consider gaining relevant skills or qualifications whilst job hunting. A basic food safety certificate, barista qualifications, first aid training, or customer service short courses demonstrate commitment and could put you ahead of other candidates.

There are lots of [short courses, workshops, and microcredentials](#) to explore; sometimes you can do them online, and there are often free or low-cost options to consider too.

Curate your online presence

Build your online presence professionally. [Clean up any social media profiles](#) and consider creating a simple LinkedIn profile. Many employers now check candidates' online presence during hiring, so make sure yours reflects positively on you.

Leveraging connections and networks

Don't underestimate the power of personal connections in finding Christmas casual (or other) work. Many positions are filled through word-of-mouth recommendations before they're even advertised publicly.

Let your family, friends, teachers, and acquaintances know that you're seeking Christmas work. You never know who might have connections or hear about opportunities through their networks.

Connect with students who worked Christmas casual jobs previously. They can provide insider knowledge about specific employers, application processes, and what to expect in different roles.

Approaching local businesses directly, even if they haven't advertised positions, can be worth the work too. Some employers prefer to hire proactively rather than dealing with large volumes of applications.

The long-term perspective

Christmas casual work can often lead to ongoing opportunities. Lots of people with successful careers in retail, hospitality, and customer service began with seasonal positions. So treat every role as a potential stepping stone rather than just a temporary income source.

Demonstrate reliability, enthusiasm, and professionalism throughout your employment. Managers remember excellent casual staff and offer ongoing work, promotions, call backs or references for future applications.

Remember to keep detailed records of your achievements, responsibilities, and skills learned in each role and keep your resume updated.

Ready to start your search?

The Christmas casual job market rewards prepared, proactive candidates, so update your resume, research potential employers, and submit your first applications as soon as possible. For more guidance on developing your career and work skills, [explore the resources on our site here](#). Need a hand putting your resume together? You can use the [Super Simple Resume Builder](#) to get started.

Understanding workplace health and safety

Workplace health and safety (also known as WHS) is a set of national and state laws designed to protect workers from harm on the job. These rules cover everything from physical risks, like trip hazards, chemicals, and machinery, to psychological risks such as bullying, stress, and violence.

Since 2012, most states and territories in Australia have adopted a national WHS framework, but the exact regulations can vary depending on where you live or work. That's why it's important to be familiar with your rights and responsibilities in your specific location.

What do WHS laws mean for you?

When you start at work or change jobs, these laws mean employers must provide:

- safe premises
- safe machinery and materials
- safe systems of work
- information, instruction, training and supervision
- a suitable working environment and facilities.

Your responsibilities are likely to include:

- following safe work procedures
- using any personal protective equipment (PPE) required
- not interfering with or misusing anything provided for work health and safety at the workplace
- not placing others at risk
- taking every precaution with your own health and safety
- seeking help if your health and safety or of that of a colleague is at risk
- reporting injury or illness immediately
- reporting unsafe acts or conditions
- undertaking all training required as part of the WHS

What you can expect when starting a new job

Whether it's your first job or just a change of role, your first few days will usually involve an employee induction or orientation. This process is your introduction to how the workplace operates and how to stay safe while you're there.

A thorough induction will usually cover:

- How to identify risks and hazards in your specific work environment
- What to do in case of an emergency (including evacuation plans and emergency contacts)
- Where to find the first aid kit and how to report injuries or unsafe conditions
- The protective equipment you might need and how to use it properly
- Your rights — including the right to say no to unsafe work

If you're starting in a higher-risk industry like construction, agriculture, or logistics, you can expect a more detailed safety briefing. This might include hands-on training with tools or equipment, supervision requirements, and sometimes even a short assessment to make sure you've understood what's expected.

You'll also be encouraged to ask questions, especially if you're unsure how to complete a task safely. Most workplaces will assign a supervisor or mentor to help you settle in and support you through the learning curve.

Test your knowledge

[Introduction to Safety](#) is designed for young workers starting out in their first job. It aims to give a new workers an understanding of the basic health and safety issues they may face at work. [safe@work Self assessment tests](#) are designed to test your knowledge of the safe@work modules. You can also earn an Award of Attainment.

Still want to read more?

For more information, including a complete list of all WHS topics, [Safe Work Australia's website](#) provides all the information you might need.
[Or you can learn more about the world of work on our website here.](#)

How to ask for a letter of recommendation

Getting ready to apply for university, a scholarship, or your first job? Not sure how to ask someone for a letter of recommendation, or what one even is? Don't worry about feeling nervous. With a few straightforward steps, you'll be able to ask confidently and professionally, setting yourself up for success whilst building stronger relationships with your mentors.

What is a letter of recommendation?

A letter of recommendation is your secret weapon in applications. It's an external voice vouching for your abilities, character, and potential – someone reputable telling your story from their perspective. You can't just ask your parents to write one (though they'd probably love to). You need someone who's observed you in action: a teacher, mentor, or employer who can speak to your strengths. Even if an application doesn't specifically require one, including a strong recommendation could give your application that personal touch that makes you memorable.

No matter if you're applying for university, a scholarship, or a job, knowing how to ask for a recommendation letter properly demonstrates your professionalism and respect for the writer's time. Plus, if you do it right, it might even give an extra incentive for the writer to talk you up to your prospective institution.

Choose the right person

Think of someone who's witnessed your growth, seen you tackle challenges, or worked with you on projects. Ideally, they should have expertise in the field you're applying to. If you're pursuing engineering, that physics teacher who's seen you troubleshoot complex problems is perfect. If it's creative writing, the English teacher who's guided your storytelling development knows your potential.

Example: "Dear [Teacher/Mentor's Name],

I hope you're doing well. I'm applying for [university/scholarship/job], and I was wondering if you would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for me."

Master the art of timing

Teachers juggle multiple classes, marking, and administrative tasks. Employers are equally busy, so you'll need to give your recommender at least two weeks' notice - although a month is better, excluding school holidays (teachers aren't available during holidays, remember). This isn't just politeness; it's

strategy. Rushing them with a last-minute request is like asking a chef to prepare a gourmet meal in five minutes. They might manage it, but the result won't showcase their best work – or yours.

Example: “I understand you have a busy schedule, so I wanted to ask well in advance if you would be able to write the letter by [specific deadline].”

Craft your request professionally

When you approach your teacher, explain what you're applying for and why it matters to you. Share information about the position or program you are applying for, and why you're interested in it so the writer can better tailor the letter to suit. You'll also need to provide details of the deadline clearly and any specific forms or submission requirements.

Example: “I am applying for the [name of program/scholarship/job] because [brief explanation]. Your recommendation would greatly support my application as it highlights [specific skill or quality].”

What to include with your request

In addition to the application details (deadline information and any forms needing completion), you could write a brief summary as a prompt for whoever is doing your recommendation. Mention significant experiences that have shaped you, roles you've taken on, and specific examples from their class or your job. Instead of just noting you're good at teamwork, write something like: “During our history project, I coordinated our team of five, ensured everyone contributed to our research approach, and helped resolve disagreements about our presentation format.” Or offer to provide your CV, a list of achievements, or specific points you'd like them to mention. This isn't about doing their job for them but helping by giving them the raw materials to craft something brilliant.

Example: “Please find attached my latest resume, a list of my accomplishments, and other information that you may find helpful.”

If the application requires contact details for school staff, always ask your teacher first, then use their school email and the school's main phone number.

Handle their response gracefully

Be prepared for any answer. If they can't write your letter due to time constraints or other commitments, be understanding and thank them graciously. Respect their decision completely – you might need their support for something else in the future.

If they agree, send a polite thank-you email summarising the key details. This shows professionalism and gives them a handy reference.

Example: “Thank you so much for considering my request, I completely understand if you're unable to write the letter at this time.”

Follow up like a pro

A week before the deadline, send a gentle reminder. Teachers are human too, so occasionally deadlines can slip through the cracks if they're busy or under pressure. Keep it courteous and acknowledge their busy schedule.

Example: “I just wanted to follow up on my previous request regarding the letter of recommendation. I appreciate your time and effort in helping me with my application.”

7. Show gratitude

After your application process concludes, send them a thank-you note to express your appreciation. A handwritten note can be a nice touch, but an email works too.

Let them know the outcome regardless of the result. They've invested time in supporting your goals and genuinely want to know how things turned out. This follow-up is not only polite but strengthens your relationship for future opportunities and shows you value their contribution.

Example: “Thank you so much for taking the time to write the recommendation letter for me. Your support means a lot, and I’m very grateful.”

Tips for guaranteed success

Proofread your request meticulously – typos undermine the professionalism you're trying to demonstrate. Be timely with all communications, from your initial request to your final thank-you. For a truly great letter of recommendation you'll need to engage meaningfully with potential recommenders throughout the school year. Ask thoughtful questions, contribute to discussions, and show genuine interest in their subjects. If you're at work, be a great employee, on time, get the job done, and always be respectful. Because the best recommendation requests don't come out of the blue, they're the natural result of positive relationships you've been building.

Ready to take action?

Asking for a letter of recommendation is a valuable skill that'll benefit you throughout your academic and professional journey. By following these steps, you'll not only secure strong recommendations but also learn to build lasting relationships with mentors who believe in your potential.

Want more tips on career readiness and professional skills? We have loads more insightful blogs and resources to help you succeed right [here](#).

Short Courses & Microcredentials

3 great places to look for short courses

Whether you're a high school student testing the waters of different career paths, a professional looking to upskill, or someone seeking a complete career change, short courses offer the flexibility to learn without the lengthy commitment of traditional education. With so many options out there, the challenge might not be finding courses; it's knowing where to look for quality options that match your goals. So let's take a look at some ideas on what to look for and where.

Online learning platforms

The digital realm has revolutionised how we learn, with online platforms becoming the go-to destination for developing all kinds of skills from coding to language learning.

These platforms are brilliant for testing whether you enjoy a field before committing to longer study - some of them offer free courses from time to time as well. Here are just a few examples:

General platforms

Many online learning platforms host a huge variety of courses, allowing you to learn about nearly anything you could dream of from the comfort of your own home, such as [Coursera](#), [edX](#), [FutureLearn](#), and [Udemy](#). Some even offer online courses connected to the school curriculum, like [Khan Academy](#). The courses on these platforms are often developed and run by universities and major industry organisations, so you know you're learning from the best.

Specialised platforms

Already know what you want to learn? There are heaps of platforms that focus on one area or industry, allowing you to gain even more specialised knowledge. You could learn how to code with [Codecademy](#), hone your illustration skills with [Skillshare](#), or learn a new language with [Duolingo](#). One of the benefits of these platforms is they also often provide you with access to current industry professionals and other learners who can share their insights and advice.

Universities

These days, many universities and colleges offer online [microcredentials](#), giving you a taste of their degrees without the full commitment. Whether you want to see if a university is right for you before applying, gain the knowledge to move into a new career, or upskill and advance in your current job, there's bound to be a course for you.

Local providers

Sometimes the best learning happens when you can touch, build, and practice with real equipment. Local providers like vocational institutions and community centres are great places for practical, hands-on courses that online learning simply can't replicate.

Another benefit of local institutions is being able to meet other people with similar interests face-to-face. Your classmates and instructors might even become part of your professional network and help you start working in a new field.

Vocational institutions

[Vocational institutions](#) (also known as TAFEs) offer everything from weekend workshops to intensive 6 month courses in a variety of fields. You'll be working with industry-standard equipment and learning from instructors who've worked in the field.

Community centres

Community centres often run surprisingly comprehensive courses, particularly in creative arts, basic trades, career readiness, and life skills. They tend to be more affordable (or free) and have smaller class sizes, creating a supportive environment that's perfect for beginners.

Private training organisations

Private providers tend to offer specialised courses or focus on a single industry and often have the latest equipment and strongest industry connections. If you're interested in emerging fields like renewable energy or advanced manufacturing, these organisations often offer the most current training available.

Industry associations and professional bodies

Industry associations and professional bodies offer courses that are focused on what employers actually need, because they're designed by the people doing the hiring.

These courses can be particularly valuable because they're constantly updated to reflect what's happening in the industry right now.

Professional associations

Associations in fields like accounting, engineering, marketing, and healthcare regularly offer short courses for both members and non-members. They're often taught by current practitioners and focus on emerging trends and technologies in the field.

Trade organisations

Trade organisations provide specialised training that's immediately applicable to specific industries. For example, the [Master Builders Association](#) offers construction-related courses, while hospitality associations might provide training in food safety, customer service, and management.

Corporate training providers

If you're already employed and looking to upskill at work, there are plenty of corporate training providers who might meet your requirements. Their courses tend to be highly practical and focus on skills that translate directly to job performance.

Choosing the right path for you

It's absolutely fine to take a bunch of short courses across a wide variety of areas. But you might find you get the best results when they're part of a broader learning strategy rather than isolated experiences.

Once you've decided what you want to study, matching the best platform to your learning style and goals is key. If you have limited access to technology or prefer a more hands-on approach, finding an in-person provider might be best. If you need the flexibility to work around other commitments or don't have access to anything locally, online providers could be the way to go.

Start exploring your options

Short courses offer the perfect way to expand your horizons without massive time or financial commitments. The possibilities are endless, and investing in your future self is always worthwhile.

[You can explore more study pathways and options on our website here.](#)

Subject Selection

Where physics can take you

Have you ever wondered [how your smartphone knows which way is up](#), how doctors can see inside your body without surgery, or [how GPS guides you](#) to your destination? The answers lie in physics - science that explains how our universe works. If you're considering studying physics at high school, you'll be opening doors to an incredible range of career possibilities that go far beyond what you might imagine. Physics isn't just about equations and lab experiments (though those are important too). It's about developing problem-solving skills, analytical thinking, and a deep understanding of how things work on the most basic levels. These skills are incredibly valuable across numerous industries, making physics graduates versatile professionals in the job market.

Physics-focused careers for passionate problem solvers

If you absolutely love physics and want to make it central to your career, there are some fantastic opportunities waiting for you.

Astrophysicist

This might be the dream job if you're fascinated by space and the cosmos. [Astrophysicists](#) study everything from black holes to the Big Bang, using sophisticated instruments and mathematical models to unlock the mysteries of the universe.

You could find yourself working at observatories, space agencies like NASA, or universities, contributing to our understanding of phenomena millions of light-years away.

Medical physicist

This could be great if you'd like to combine your love of physics with helping people. [Medical physicists](#) use physics principles to develop and operate medical equipment like MRI machines, radiation therapy devices, and imaging systems.

You'd work closely with doctors and healthcare teams to diagnose patients, advise on treatment plans, spend time on research improving and developing medical procedures, ensuring patients receive the safest and most effective treatments possible.

Other careers where physics shines

Some careers rely heavily on physics principles, even when it's not obvious. So if you enjoy physics but have strong interests in other areas too, that's OK - the perfect job could be waiting for you.

Sound engineer

This might seem like a purely creative job, but [understanding acoustics, wave behaviour, and frequency response](#) is crucial for recording artists, mixing live concerts, or designing concert halls.

Your physics knowledge can help you manipulate sound waves to create the perfect audio experience.

Financial analyst

You might not think physics has anything to do with money. But [many financial models are based on physics concepts](#), particularly statistical mechanics and mathematical modelling.

Physics graduates often excel in this field because they're comfortable with complex mathematical relationships and can analyse patterns in large datasets - skills that are incredibly valuable when predicting market behaviour.

The transferrable skills you'll gain

What makes physics so powerful as a foundation for your career is the incredible range of transferrable skills you'll develop, including:

- Breaking complex problems into manageable parts
- Thinking logically about cause and effect
- Communicating complex ideas clearly

These abilities are valuable whether you're designing sustainable energy systems as an [environmental engineer](#), developing new materials as a [research scientist](#), or even starting your own technology company.

More jobs that need physics

Enjoying physics but not inspired by any of the jobs mentioned so far in this blog? That's OK - here are some more to explore:

- **Physics teacher** - share your passion for physics and inspire the next generation of curious minds.
- **Meteorologist** - predict weather patterns and help people prepare for what's coming.
- **Systems engineer** - solve big, complex problems by making all the parts of a project work smoothly together.
- **Civil engineer** - apply physics to design and build structures and systems communities rely on.
- **Aeronautics engineer or designer** - help aircraft and spacecraft fly longer distances faster more efficiently.
- **Process engineer** - improve how things are made using principles of physics, chemistry, and maths.
- **Web developer** - use your logic and problem-solving to build the tech behind websites.
- **Geophysicist** - investigate the Earth's secrets through natural forces like gravity and magnetism.

- **Laser engineer** - design high-powered laser systems for use in everything from medicine to space exploration.
- **Software engineer** - use structured thinking and logic to create apps, games, or computer systems.
- **Forensic scientist** - use motion, energy, and materials to analyse crime scene evidence and understand what really happened.
- **Nanotechnologist** - manipulate matter at the tiniest scale to design materials and tech with amazing new properties.
- **Quantum mechanic** - dive into the world of atoms and particles to understand how the universe really works.
- **Nuclear engineer** - harness the power of atoms for clean energy, medicine, or scientific discovery.

Your journey starts now

Studying physics at high school doesn't mean you need to be the next Einstein, but it does give you a powerful toolkit for understanding and shaping the world around you.

Whether you end up designing the next generation of renewable energy systems, developing life-saving medical technologies, or creating algorithms that power our digital world, your physics knowledge could serve as a solid foundation for whatever path you choose.

[You can find more career inspiration and guidance on our website here.](#)

Personal Skills

How to be safe, smart, and mindful online

The internet is a powerful tool. It's how we keep in touch, learn new things, find inspiration, and build communities. As a teenager, it's likely that your online life is closely connected to your real-life experiences — your friendships, your hobbies, even how you present yourself to the world. That's why being mindful about what you do online is more important than ever.

Why it matters

Every post, photo, comment, or like contributes to your digital footprint - a record of your activity that can last much longer than you might expect. While you might see your online presence as something casual or temporary, others (including potential employers, schools, and even strangers) may use it to form an opinion about who you are.

Sometimes the consequences are small, like an awkward moment with a friend or having to explain a joke that didn't land. But in other cases, a single post can lead to real damage: lost opportunities, broken friendships, or even legal trouble. Online behaviour can also affect your mental health. Being involved in arguments, comparing yourself constantly to others, or being targeted by trolls or bullies can lead to stress, anxiety, and low self-esteem.

But there's good news too.

When used well, your digital presence can open doors. A thoughtful online profile can show off your interests, passions, creativity, and character. Whether you're posting art, starting a side project, promoting a cause you care about, or just supporting others online, you have the opportunity to build a reputation that reflects who you want to become, not just who you are right now.

Tips for being a responsible digital citizen

So how do you strike the balance between being real and being responsible? That's where digital citizenship comes in.

Think before you post

Before sharing anything - a photo, a comment, or even a like - ask yourself:

- Would I be okay if this was seen by my family, teachers, or future employer?
- Could this be misunderstood, even if I meant it as a joke?
- Is it true, kind, and necessary?

If you're unsure, trust your instincts and hold off. You can always choose to post later, but you can't always take it back once it's out there.

Protect your personal information

Not everything needs to be public. Avoid posting your full name, home address, school details, phone number, or financial info online, even in private chats. Scammers and identity thieves often look for this kind of data to target people.

Make sure your privacy settings are up to date, and be cautious about accepting friend or follow requests from people you don't know in real life.

Be kind - always

Online platforms can make it easier to say things we wouldn't say face-to-face. But words still hurt.

[Cyberbullying](#) can leave long-term emotional scars; for the target and the person doing the bullying.

If you wouldn't say it to someone in person, don't say it online. If you see bullying happening, don't join in, and if it's safe to do so, support the person being targeted or report the behaviour to the platform or a trusted adult.

Respect other people's boundaries

Not everyone wants their photo shared, even if they're your best friend or the moment was fun. Always ask for permission before posting pictures or videos of someone else, especially if it shows them in a private setting or doing something personal.

And if someone asks you to remove something you've posted about them, respect that.

Curate your online presence

It's okay to clean up your profile from time to time. You're growing and changing, and what felt funny or harmless a year ago might not reflect who you are now.

Review your old posts and remove anything that doesn't feel right anymore. You're allowed to grow out of old ideas, jokes, or trends, and curating your online presence doesn't make you fake, it makes you intentional.

Be aware of how online time affects your wellbeing

Notice how you feel after being online. Are you energised? Inspired? Or do you feel drained, anxious, or like you're missing out?

If social media is having a negative effect on your mood, it's okay to take a break. Mute or unfollow accounts that make you feel bad about yourself, and focus on ones that build you up or bring you joy. You're in control of what you consume online; don't let it control you.

Know how to get help if things go wrong

We all make mistakes, and sometimes things happen online that are out of your control. If you're being harassed, feel unsafe, or regret something you've posted:

- Talk to a trusted adult — this could be a parent, teacher, school counsellor, or family friend.
- Visit eSafety for advice and support tailored to young people.
- Contact services like **Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800)** or **Lifeline (13 11 14)** if you're struggling with something that's happened online and need someone to talk to.

Act quickly, but don't panic. There's help available, and you're not alone.

Do you have work to do?

Being online isn't just a part of life anymore; for most of us, it's where a big chunk of life happens.

Whether you're scrolling, posting, messaging, or gaming, your choices add up.

Being mindful of what you share, how you treat others, and how you take care of yourself online can protect you from harm, open up future opportunities, and help you build a digital reputation you're proud of.

[You can find more skill building and wellbeing resources on our website here.](#)

Job Spotlights

How to become a Pet Groomer

Pet groomers care for animals of all ages, shapes and sizes. Commonly working with dogs and cats, they're responsible for washing, clipping, grooming and styling their fur, as well as trimming their claws and cleaning other problem areas, helping them live comfortably and look fabulous.

If you're great with both human and animal customers and have a steady hand and lots of patience, this career could be ideal for you.

What skills do I need as a pet groomer?

- Excellent customer service skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Love of animals
- Reasonable level of fitness
- Patience and resilience
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Confidence and reliability
- Hygiene and safety-minded

What does the job involve?

- Bathing, shampooing, and drying pets
- Brushing, clipping, and styling fur
- Trimming nails and cleaning ears
- Checking for signs of health problems
- Discussing grooming options with pet owners
- Providing product recommendations and advice
- Maintaining a clean and safe workspace
- Keeping records of each pet's grooming history

What Career Cluster do pet groomers belong to?

Pet groomers are typically members of the [Guardian Cluster](#), dedicated to keeping our furry friends healthy, happy, and looking fabulous. The hands-on nature of the job might also appeal to [Makers](#).

What kind of lifestyle can I expect?

Most pet groomers work standard business hours, but you might start early or stay late to accommodate owners who need to bring their pets in before or after work. It's also common for pet groomers to work on weekends.

Pet groomers typically earn an average salary throughout their careers.

You can work in a variety of environments, including in veterinary clinics, specialist pet salons, from your own home, or through a mobile grooming service. There are also plenty of opportunities for part-time work for those who require more flexibility.

How to become a pet groomer

Becoming a pet groomer requires training for both success and animal safety.

Most aspiring pet groomers start with a grooming or animal care course at a vocational training provider - you may even have the opportunity to complete your course as part of an apprenticeship. You'll learn animal handling, breed-specific cuts, tool usage, and business basics.

You'll also need to develop your skills gradually, often starting with basic services like baths and nail trims before progressing to full grooming services. Building confidence with different breeds and temperaments takes time and practice.

Career progression can lead to owning your own salon, specialising in show grooming, expanding into pet daycare or photography, or even specialising in more unique animals.

What can I do right now to work towards this career?

If you're in high school and considering a career in pet grooming, here are some practical steps you can take today:

- Volunteer at local animal shelters or rescue organisations to gain experience handling different animals and observing their behaviour.
- Consider finding a part-time job or work experience at a grooming salon, veterinary clinic, pet store, or even dog walking or pet sitting to start building relationships with owners.
- Talk to professional groomers about their experiences - most are happy to share insights about the industry and what the job really involves day-to-day.

Where can I find more information?

- [Pet Industry Association Australia](#)
- [National Groomers Association of New Zealand](#)
- [Pet Industry Federation](#) (UK)
- [Irish Professional Dog Groomers Association](#)
- [American Professional Pet Groomers Association](#)
- [National Groomer Association of Canada](#)

Similar careers to pet groomer

- [Dog Trainer](#)
- Conservationist
- [Shearer](#)
- Animal Shelter Worker
- [Veterinary Nurse](#)
- [Wildlife Biologist](#)
- Retail Worker
- [Zookeeper](#)

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

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Web: studyworkgrow.com

Email: schools@studyworkgrow.com

Phone: +61 7 4039 3862

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