Career Matters

Open Days & Info Sessions

WSU | Discover Western: Subject Selection & Future Career in Teaching & Education, Intrepreting & Translation, Arts and International Studies

Tuesday 1 March 2022, 5:00 pm
Online
Want to know more about Teaching & Education, Intrepreting & Translation, Arts and International Studies careers and degrees? Not sure what subjects to pick in Year 10? Let us support you make informed decisions and discover more about why you should study Teaching & Education, Intrepreting & Translation, Arts or International Studies at Western.
Find out more: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/western-webinars

WSU | Discover Western: Subject Selection & Future Career in Business & Accounting, Law, Tourism & Urban Planning

Tuesday 1 March 2022, 6:00 pm
Online
Want to know more about Business & Accounting, Law, Tourism & Urban Planning careers and degrees? Not sure what subjects to pick in Year 10? Let us support you make informed decisions and discover your future aspirations.
Find out more: https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/western-webinars

University of Sydney | Life of a Psychologist

Wednesday 6 April 2022, 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Online
Have you wondered what the day-to-day life of a psychologist is like? And what does it mean to be a psychologist? Join this session and learn about what psychology is about, what an average day of work might be like for the different types of psychologists and how you can pursue studies towards becoming one yourself.
Find out more: https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4PFpfIj9QoKUY4VFWAFtNw

2022 Greater Western Sydney Careers Market

Wednesday 18 May 2022, 9:00 am - Thursday 19 May 2022, 2:00 pm
Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre
The Greater Western Sydney Careers Market offers students the chance to explore and speak with the professionals from Universities, Registered Training Organisations, Apprenticeship Centres, Group Training Organisations, Private Colleges, Professional Associations and Employers about further education and/or careers options available to them.

The event provides a fantastic opportunity for students to seek that all important career and further education advice from a wide variety of exhibitors and industry experts to enable them to make informed choices.
Find out more: https://gwscareersmarket.com.au/

University of Sydney | Shape Your Future – Year 10 Subject Selection

Tuesday 1 March 2022, 4:30 pm
Online
Through this presentation you will learn how to:

- Explore Career Paths – Tips and tricks on how to explore career pathways information.
- Connect Career Paths to Higher Education – Linking career pathways to different higher education options.
- University Essentials/FAQs – Learn about university prerequisites, why it is important and its impact on your Year 11 and 12 study and transition into university.
- Prepare for Subject Selection – Tips on what to consider when picking your subjects for Year 11 and 12.

Find out more: https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscuGtqT0tGtE8pM_lXMxN976L0g27ny9B

Sydney Design School | Info Session

Thursday 17 March 2022, 5:30 pm
Sydney Design School, St Leonards
Find out everything you need to know about our flexible courses and career support. Our Director, Amanda Grace will introduce you to our unique philosophy, passionate Educators and industry focused approach to learning.
Find out more: https://sydneydesignschool.com.au/information-sessions/

UTS | IT – an overview

Tuesday 26 April 2022, 5:30 pm
Online
Today's IT professionals are programming, networking, analysing and building. They are pioneering business and technical solutions for computer hardware, software, electronics, telecommunications, e-commerce and computer services.
Gain an insight into what IT is all about and find out if it's right for you.
Hear from key academics about what it's like to study IT at UTS and how best to prepare.
Find out more: https://utsmeet.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_60iw_eIHQ9ab28Sjt1GStg

UTS | Engineering – an overview

Wednesday 27 April 2022, 5:30 pm
Online

Learn about the various engineering courses offered at UTS, the subjects involved and engineering career opportunities after graduating. Engineering is all around us. From the infrastructure of our cities to robotics, personal electronics, renewable energy, Opal Card system and medical devices. Hear from key academics about what it's like to study engineering at UTS and how best to prepare. Find out more: https://utsmeet.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aZPyaprxTKWXEa_RYBrYuA

UTS | Faculty of Engineering and IT Early Entry Program – Edge

Thursday 28 April 2022, 5:30 pm
Online
Your final ATAR score may be one indicator of your ability to become a successful engineer or IT specialist, but we know you are not just a number.
That's why we're looking beyond the classroom to see what really makes you tick
Our new Early Entry Program – Edge is based on broader criteria than the ATAR alone. Tell us about your passion for engineering or IT and we'll make it count.
Register today and gain an understanding into what the UTS Engineering and IT Early Entry Program is all about and how it can work for you.
Find out more: https://utsmeet.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xkvM7FllTtOb-OH9AC93YQ

Workshops and Courses

Whitehouse Institute of Design | Foundation Sewing Studio – Online Summer Workshop

Saturday 26 February 2022, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Online
The 3-hour online sewing workshop provides foundations to sewing a garment and making minor pattern alterations. In this workshop you will be provided a printable PDF skirt pattern which you will need to print off and cut out at home. This workshop is designed to be undertaken at home anywhere in the world so you can experience the Whitehouse sewing workshop wherever you are.
Requirements of joining workshop:

- You must have access to your own sewing machine
- You don't need to know how to sew clothes but should have an understanding of how to thread a sewing machine and its basic functions such as sewing a straight line. If you don't I encourage you to dust off your sewing machine and get some practice in.
- Purchase required fabric and zip.

During this workshop you will learn:

- Body measurement taking and pattern size adjustment
- Pattern interpretation and modification using manual techniques
- Fabric selection, fabric properties and composition
- Fabric laying, pattern placement and cutting
- Garment construction techniques relevant to the design
- Garment finishing and pressing

Find out more: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/foundation-sewing-studio-online-summer-workshop-tickets-250074007087?aff=ebdsoporgprofile

Scholarships

Walkley Young Indigenous Scholarship

Value: Work placement + $10,000 stipend
Open/Closing Dates: March 7, 2022 – April 26, 2022
This is an exciting opportunity for an aspiring Indigenous journalist aged 30 years or under to develop their newsroom experience with two leading news providers. This twelve-week scholarship will be broken down into six weeks with Junkee Media and six weeks with 10 News First in Sydney. You'll develop a broad understanding of newsroom and production processes and requirements, and as a member of the team, you will be encouraged to share your ideas, skills and knowledge.
Find out more

Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship

Value: Full tuition and boarding
Open/Closing Dates: January 3, 2022 – April 29, 2022
The Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship is available to any Indigenous child from regional, rural and remote communities and towns throughout Australia who will be entering Year 7 in 2023. Scholarships are limited to two children per family.
Find out more

Atatürk Scholarship

Value: $6,000 AUD
Open/Closing Dates: January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022
The Atatürk Scholarship was founded in 2020 by members of the Australian Turkish community to provide financial assistance to Australian students of Turkish ancestry who strive to excel in studies, enhancing peace and friendship between all people and all nations.
The Scholarship provides financial assistance to students commencing their first year of tertiary study at a University or TAFE at Degree, Diploma or Advanced Diploma level, in the year of application, and a special Şarık Arıyak Memorial Bursary for the second year.
Find out more

AWARD School Indigenous Scholarship Program

Value: $2,200 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: February 10, 2022 – February 24, 2022

AWARD School is a 12-week creative-thinking course that will help you to break into Australia's creative industries.

If you're an aspiring storyteller or a creative thinker and are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, we're offering six scholarships for our 2022 program valued at up to $2,200 to cover the entire AWARD School course.

Find out more

Competitions

RACI Chemistry and Art Competition

Chemistry is the fundamental science behind all life and matter. What are children's perceptions of chemists, the chemical sciences and industry which uses chemistry? Here is an opportunity for children to express their own ideas creatively, limited only by their own imagination!

Students are asked to create a 2D image no greater than A4 size which depicts their thoughts about chemistry, chemists or the chemical industry.

The subject of the artwork may be:

- Crystals, solutions, powders, chemical mixtures or compounds
- Laboratories or other workplaces where chemical experiments are performed
- Apparatus and equipment used in chemistry laboratories
- Factories or processing equipment used in industry associated with chemistry and chemicals such as paints, detergents and disinfectants, foodstuffs like chocolate and cheese, beverages, glass bottles and plastic containers, pharmaceutical products, fertilizers used in gardens and agriculture, etc.
- Anything else related to chemistry

What can be used to create the artwork?

- Drawing with pen, Texta, charcoal, crayon, or chalk on paper, board or similar
- Painting with watercolours, oil or acrylic paints on paper, canvas or board
- Photography – digital, Polaroid or traditional
- Collage, linotype or suitable medium or mixed media

Entries are open to all students from P-12, **and close 1 May 2022.**

Find out more: https://www.raci.org.au/RACI/Schools/Chemistry-and-Art/Web/Schools/Chemistry_and_Art.aspx

Australian History Competition 2022

Join Australia's largest history competition to lift the profile of history and recognise your students.

Not only is the Australian History Competition an opportunity to showcase that history is as important as maths, English and science, our delivery in hardcopy gets students away from screens in a fun and engaging way and helps them develop crucial skills in seeing different points of view. With a focus on testing interpretation and analysis rather than prior knowledge, the competition is accessible to year 7-10 students of all levels, giving every student the chance to excel.

Registration is open now and closes 31 March 2022.

Find out more: https://australianhistorycompetition.org.au/

Climate Action Youth Design Challenge

Climate change impacts every country in the world – and it's not just affecting the environment, it's impacting people's lives and destroying communities. The whole world is in a race against climate change and we want to empower you to help!
Our challenge for you as young people is: Less talk, more action. How might we create innovative solutions to tackle climate change?
The Climate Action Youth Design Challenge is a free online design thinking challenge that empowers you to consider how you can take climate action. It empowers you to identify problems, reframe them as opportunities, develop a solution and create a prototype.
Within this challenge, there are three key themes we encourage you to explore:

1. **Renewable and responsible energy use:** Globally, energy use is increasing at an unsustainable rate. Only 1/5th of the world's final energy consumption in 2013 was from renewable sources.
2. **Preserving our water supply:** Only 3% of the world's water is fresh (drinkable), and humans are using it faster than nature can replenish it.
3. **Sustainable cities:** Currently, cities contribute more than 70 per cent of global carbon emissions and over 60 per cent of resource use.

Anyone aged 10-21 years old can enter and take part in this challenge. There are some great prizes up for grabs for the winners.
Entries close Friday 17 June 2022.
Find out more and enter here: https://youngchangeagents.com/challenges/climate-action-youth-design-challenge

Work Experience

Work Experience with Services Australia

If you're in year 10, 11 or 12 or equivalent you can register for a work experience placement.
Placements are unpaid and run for 5 days on a full time or part time basis. Full time placements run for 5 consecutive business days. Part time placements run for 5 days spread over a maximum of 5 weeks.
On your work experience placement you'll get:

- real workplace experience
- the chance to develop a range of skills while working on a variety of tasks
- to see the work we do to deliver vital services to Australians
- to work in one of our many offices, service centres or Smart Centres across Australia
- a greater understanding of our agency, including the wide range of roles we have, and the public service.

Learn more

Engineering Virtual Work Experiences

Engineers Australia has partnered with GradAustralia to develop a series of virtual work experience modules, exclusively for our student members and to help bridge the gap between university theory and working practice for engineering students.
Each virtual work experience is targeted at the university level, delivered 100% online, and takes between 2 to 5 hours to complete.
8 virtual work experiences have been developed, that cover the following 7 engineering disciplines:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Telecommunications Engineering

Learn more

Competitions

iPhone Photography Awards

iPhone Photography Awards (IPPAWARDS) is the first and the longest running iPhone photography competition since 2007. IPPAWARDS has been celebrating the creativity of the iPhone users since the first iPhone has inspired, excited and engaged the users worldwide.
Entries are open worldwide to photographers using an iPhone or iPad.
Entries close 31 March.
Find out more and enter here: https://www.ippawards.com/

Resources

What's working for you?

We've said it before, but before you can start thinking too much about your future, you need to do some reflection on your life in the present. One of the things to think about is what's working for you now.

The good stuff
We all have things we're proud of, no matter how small they might seem. Think about what's working for you in your life now. Here are some things to get you started:

- Think about your studies. Are you happy with your grades? Do you have a good study plan?
- Consider your finances. Do you have a budget, and are you sticking to it? Do you have a job?
- Think about your health and wellbeing. Do you eat well? Are you exercising enough? Do you get enough sleep?
- Look at your downtime. Do you feel well-rested? Do you have a routine for your downtime?

If you've got lots of things working for you right now, great! If not, consider if you'd like to improve certain things in the future.

Why it works
Once you've identified the things that are working for you, next you need to think about *why* they work. Knowing why your current habits and routines are successful can help you implement strategies to make sure your future goals are also a success.

- Have these habits become routine?
- Did you need to change other things in your life to make them work?
- Does anything ever get in the way? If so, what, and how do you minimise distractions?

Looking back
Even if something isn't quite working for you now, maybe it used to in the past. Look back at any habits you used to have, and think about why they were so effective at the time. Then, consider what's changed since then. Is it possible for you to revive some of your old habits? Or has your lifestyle changed in a way that means they won't work anymore?

What next?
Hopefully by the end of this exercise, you've worked out a few things:

- What works for you now
- What habits used to work for you
- What you want to work for you in the future

From this last point, we can narrow down our future goals. Maybe your study habits used to be great, but have slipped a bit recently. No worries – there's a goal you can set right there.

Considering a gap year?

A gap year is anything but 'just a year off'.
In fact, gap programs can be formative experiences for high schoolers. They encourage personal growth, independence, resilience, and also can help students to determine what the best next step is for them.
Research has shown that deferring college to travel, work, and volunteer overseas can be among the most important choices a high school student makes. And best of all, it's supported by top colleges and universities.
Rustic Pathways are just one of the companies offering experiences from immersing yourself in Latin American culture or learning marine conservation in the South Pacific.
If you're keen to experience something new, the good news is Rustic Pathways also offer multiple ways to travel:

- Students and teachers can travel together as a school group at any time of year.
- Individual students can enrol in a Rustic Trip and travel with like-minded peers during the holidays, independently of their family and school.
- Beyond Year 12, they offer alternative schoolies programs and three-month semesters for students during their gap year.

Find out more at https://rusticpathways.com.au/.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022

You may have heard of Marie Curie and Jane Goodall, but there are many, many, more women in STEM who have made pioneering discoveries and advanced fields of science that you may not be aware of yet.

Since 2015, 11 February has marked International Day of Women and Girls in Science. With the aim of celebrating all the females who have contributed in the past, are contributing right now, or those who will make a difference in STEM fields in the future.

Why celebrate Women and Girls in Science?
"The world needs science, and science needs women and girls" – UN Women
As well as recognising the achievements of women in STEM, past and present; this day is a great opportunity to inspire girls to choose STEM-related subjects at school and motivate women to pursue careers in STEM related fields.
It's about promoting full and equal access to education, opportunities and participation in science for women and girls everywhere.

Diversity is important
Research that shows STEM teams (both in education and in the workforce) can benefit hugely from the inclusion of diverse viewpoints. And diversity only happens when there is a variety of skills, strengths, genders, socio-economic status, and cultures for example within the group.
"Innovation will be limited and exclude half of the population. We need more women in STEM to further innovation and better represent the needs of society." – Gabrielle Chan The HEAD Foundation
At the moment the STEM Gender Gap is real. Meaning that female students and employees are under-represented in STEM fields.
In fact only 29% of the (university qualified) STEM workforce are women, and of those only 22% are STEM university-qualified managers and 13% are female executives. And women made up less than one quarter of students studying STEM at tertiary level in 2019 (22% of enrolments and 24% of completions of total STEM VET and university enrolments).
The statistics may sound a bit sad, but the good news is that the tide is turning and the trend for more women studying and working in STEM fields is on the rise.

The theme for 2022
This year the theme for recognising International Day of Women and Girls in Science "not only as beneficiaries, but also as agents of change" is **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us**. Women from across the globe will be participating in events and think tanks to make progress towards the **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)** agenda to ensure that everyone across the world will be able to access clean drinking water and sanitation by 2030.
Just imagine how amazing it would be, to be one of the scientists involved in projects like these and make a positive impact on the lives of millions of people across the globe.

What you can do at school or home
Get involved. You could read up about some of the truly amazing contributions to science that have been made by women going back centuries. Or you could organise your own celebration, event, competition, or challenge.
Encourage the girls and women around you to explore STEM. Help them to gain the confidence they might need to give their interests and passion a chance to shine
Start conversations about STEM subjects, careers and opportunities, at school, at home, or at the park with your mates.

And if you're a girl or a woman who's interested in pursuing a career in STEM just have a go, you can always ask for help to ensure that you achieve your goals / dreams.
"To be truly transformative, gender equality policies and programmes need to eliminate gender stereotypes through education, change social norms, promote positive role models of women scientists and build awareness at the highest levels of decision-making.
We need to ensure that women and girls are not only participating in STEM fields, but are empowered to lead and innovate, and that they are supported by workplace policies and organizational cultures that ensure their safety, consider their needs as parents, and incentivize them to advance and thrive in these careers."
Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

Job Spotlight

How to become an AI Engineer

Create ground-breaking new technologies

What do AI Engineers do?
Artificial intelligence (AI) Engineers are responsible for developing and programming new applications and systems for use in smart software and machines. AI uses algorithms, such as logic and probability, as well as other processes such as speech- and face-recognition, to operate and problem-solve without the assistance of people.
If you love technology and science, have a great knack for problem-solving, and want a career in one of the fastest-growing markets in the world, becoming an AI Engineer could be perfect for you.

About you:

- Excellent problem solver
- Great analytical skills
- Fantastic with technology
- Proficient in coding
- Good attention to detail
- Can work independently and in teams
- Great communicator
- Critical thinker

The job:

- Managing the AI development process
- Building and coding AI models
- Testing models and reporting on results
- Implementing AI models within a business or organisation
- Gathering and interpreting data
- Using data to guide business decisions
- Explaining why businesses should use AI
- Working with other team members

Lifestyle Impact: Low

- Part Time opportunities: Very low – only around 11% of AI Engineers work part-time (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- Average hours for full-time workers: 43 hours a week, which is average (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- AI Engineers' salary (average) $110,000* per year (source: joboutlook.com.au). *Salaries vary depending on your skills and experience.
- Future career growth: Strong (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- You will most likely be doing most of your work indoors, though depending on the specific industry you may also get to do some work on-site.

AI Engineers are most in demand in these locations:
As this is a fairly new job, there isn't much information out there on numbers. However, roles in AI are becoming increasingly popular world-wide, especially with large tech companies such as Microsoft, IBM and Google. Within Australia, you will most likely have better luck finding roles in capital cities, or within government.
AI Engineers are also in demand across many industries, as there are thousands of ways AI can be used to improve our lives. Some examples include:

- Aviation & Transport – developing self-driving cars and drones.
- Agriculture – using AI to predict weather patterns and crop growth.
- Manufacturing – AI-driven robots can increase efficiency and production.
- Health – AI machines can automatically scan medical images, provide correct medication dosages, and perhaps one day even perform surgery.
- Marketing – AI is commonly used to predict user behaviour and provide tailored suggestions and advertisements.
- Sports – AI machines can use predictive technology to forecast the outcome of games.

How to become an AI Engineer in Australia
You will need to complete a minimum undergraduate level qualification in order to work as an AI Engineer in Australia.

Step 1 – Complete Year 12 with a focus on English, Maths, STEM, and IT.

Step 2 – Find a relevant undergraduate degree you would like to study. You can choose from a variety of degrees, including computer science, engineering, IT, mathematics, or even finance.

Step 3 – Consider undertaking a postgraduate qualification in data science, mathematics, or AI to boost your knowledge and employability. You can even look for online courses and certificates.

Step 4 – Make sure you have proficient knowledge in other essential areas, such as programming and coding, Big Data, cloud services, and machine learning.

Step 5 – Find roles in AI or software development, and start working as an AI Engineer.

Find out more here –
https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/ai-engineer

Similar Careers to AI Engineer

Software Developer
App Developer
Engineer
Big Data Analyst
Cyber Security Specialist
Business Development Manager

Find out more about alternative careers.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What do AI Engineers do?
AI Engineers are responsible for developing applications and systems that use smart learning to provide solutions for all kinds of businesses.

Which industries employ AI Engineers?
AI Engineers are needed in almost every industry imaginable.

What options are there for career progression?
Once you have lots of experience, you might like to consider moving into roles in management, or even research and development.

Do I need to go to university to become an AI Engineer?
Yes, you will most likely need a formal qualification in order to work as an AI Engineer in Australia.

Where do AI Engineers work?
This is a quickly growing role with lots of demand overseas, particularly in the US and Asia.

What are 3 things I can do right now to help me become an AI Engineer?
If you're in high school and you'd like to find out if a career as an AI Engineer is right for you, here's a few things you could do right now:

1. Take classes to start learning how to code, ideally in a few different coding languages. You could also take online short courses in AI, data science, or other relevant fields.
2. See if you can find work experience in an IT or STEM-related setting, to get a feel for what a day in the life might be like.

3. Consider undertaking an internship or cadetship while or after you finish your studies. This can help you get a foot in the door with many big employers, as well as boosting your skills and employability.