

# Careers Newsletter



BLUE MOUNTAINS  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## Monday, 16 September 2024

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## What's On

### Upcoming Events

#### NIDA September Spring Holiday Courses 2024 – NSW

September 16 to October 13, 2024

NIDA's Holiday Program offers fun and engaging skills-based training for all ages and aspirations. From 3-week Residency programs to 1-day short courses for adults, children and young people, we have something to offer everyone.

[Find out more](#)

#### WSU | Finding Your Place at Western

September 17, 2024

Join us for 'Finding Your Place at Western', a webinar designed for future university students who may feel unsure or hesitant about pursuing higher education.

At Western Sydney University, we believe in embracing diversity and providing support for all students, regardless of background or circumstance. In this webinar, we will showcase our range of personal and academic support services, clubs and societies, LGBTQ+ Ally Network, and other resources available to ensure all students can thrive in their university journey.

Discover how you can navigate university life with confidence and success at Western. All are welcome to join us in breaking down barriers and building a more inclusive community at Western Sydney University.

[Find out more](#)

#### University of Sydney | Scholarships at Sydney

September 18, 2024

At the University of Sydney, we offer over \$135 million worth of scholarships every year. We're dedicated to supporting you throughout your time at university and offer a variety of scholarships for domestic undergraduate students.



To make the process easier and more accessible, we've created a centralised form where you can be considered for a scholarship through one simple application.

Additionally, some of our scholarships require no application at all! In this webinar you will learn about the scholarships we offer, find out about your eligibility, get tips on writing a strong scholarship application and have your questions answered by our team.

[Find out more](#)

## University of Sydney | Your Passport to an International Career: Bachelor of International Studies

September 18, 2024

Ever dreamt of making a global impact? In Sydney's Bachelor of International Studies you will dive into the world's most challenging issues and gear up for a career that knows no borders - be it in business, diplomacy, policy-making, or advocating in a global civil society. Join our webinar and discover how our degree can help you navigate the global arena. Don't just watch the world change - be the change!

[Find out more](#)

## University of Sydney | Online Open Night

September 19, 2024

Domestic students living in regional or interstate areas are invited to the University of Sydney's online Open Night.

Find out about the new Regional and Remote Entry Scheme, the single scholarship application process, and other University of Sydney highlights.

You'll then have the chance to join dedicated breakout rooms and chat with staff from our faculties, admissions, scholarships, and accommodation, and have all your questions answered about life in Sydney.

[Find out more](#)

## NAS Spring Weekend Workshops

September 21 to September 22, 2024

Learn from Australia's leading art educators at the NAS Spring Weekend Workshops on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September. Courses on offer include:

- Introduction to Classical Oil Painting
- Screenprinting Basics
- Composition, Colour and Abstraction
- Experimental Drawing
- Digital Photography: From Studio to Streetscape
- Figurative and Portrait Drawing for Beginners
- Drawing with Threads and Textiles
- Build Your Professional Arts Practice
- A Weekend on the Wheel
- Handbuilding in Clay

[Find out more](#)



## NAS | Bachelor of Fine Arts Information Session

September 24, 2024

Join our BFA webinar to find out what makes NAS different from all other Fine Art degrees. The BFA degree is designed to impart the skills, knowledge and creative independence required to sustain a career as an artist. Future Students Advisor Ashanti Fogden will talk you through undergraduate study options, the admissions process and then offer the chance for you to ask any questions you might have, so tune in.

[Find out more](#)

## Important Future Events

### ACPE | Open Day 2024

September 28, 2024

Exploring your study options for a career in the sport industry? Join us on campus. See where you will study, meet our students and lecturers, and participate in info sessions and practical sessions to take the next step with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

### WSU | Free Online HSC Study Sessions

September 30 to October 4, 2024

From Monday 30th September to Friday 4th October 2024, Western Sydney University will be offering a range of online study sessions to assist Year 12 students in their preparations for the HSC. Delivered by highly qualified senior teachers with 24 free sessions across 15 key HSC subject areas, the sessions will include content analysis, tips and strategies, and a detailed exploration of key syllabus and curriculum areas. Students also have the opportunity to sit a practice exam and deconstruction, with feedback and advice from experts.

[Find out more](#)

### Tocal College | Open Day

October 4, 2024

October 11, 2024

Our College Open Days are a wonderful opportunity to visit Tocal and experience first hand all that it can offer students who are eager for a rewarding career in agriculture, agribusiness or horse breeding and training.

Open Days provide prospective students, their families and carers an ideal forum to visit the College and get a feel for what life as a student is really like.

Each day's activities include:

- an overview of full-time courses,
- a description of career opportunities,
- information on fees and financial assistance,
- inspection of College campus facilities,
- tour of Tocal's commercial farms and training facilities,
- opportunities to chat with staff and also undertake an informal interview (if desired).

[Find out more](#)



## University of Sydney | 2024 School of Project Management Spring Camp

October 4, 2024

The School of Project Management at the University of Sydney is hosting a Spring Camp on Friday 4 October 2024, for students in Years 10-12.

This in-person event provides a deep dive into project management, career paths, and degree insights. Hear from industry experts, academics, students and alumni.

Past programs included tours to Google, Atlassian, and Western Sydney Airport.

[Find out more](#)

## CQC<sup>2</sup>T Open Day

October 7, 2024

Showcasing the state-of-the-art facilities at the UNSW Kensington Campus, the Centre for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology (CQC<sup>2</sup>T) is opening our doors this September school holidays. Visit our Centre to be introduced to quantum physics and for many your first taste of university life.

This is a science-led day filled with talks and tours of our labs including practical demonstrations and an opportunity to speak to those currently working in this exciting field. This is the perfect opportunity for students contemplating STEM careers, with a passion for physics, maths, engineering or coding.

[Find out more](#)

## NIE | Future Doctors Australia, Sydney

October 10 to October 13, 2024

Gaining medical work experience is essential for young people considering a career in medicine. It provides insight into the field, helps develop skills and attributes, and provides networking opportunities. However, obtaining medical work experience can be challenging due to various restrictions such as limited opportunities, safety concerns, and confidentiality issues.

That's why NIE has developed the "Future Doctors Australia" program. It is an engaging and high-impact 4-day program that provides young people with a unique opportunity to gain medical work experience in a safe and structured environment. Participants will have the opportunity to spend time with current junior and senior medical students. They will also have the rare opportunity to spend time with more senior clinicians and various medical specialists. You will get to learn about clinical specialist's relevant fields of work, ask them questions, and learn some hands-on skills from them.

- Over 15 hours of face-to-face interaction with leading specialists and clinicians
- Meet current medical students
- Develop advanced communication and team working skills
- Create new friendships with like-minded, highly driven young individuals
- Learn about the admission process into various medical universities in Australia
- Morning tea and lunch included

[Find out more](#)



## AABT Open Day, Sydney CBD Campus

October 12, 2024

To learn more about our courses, the Australian Academy of Beauty Dermal and Laser holds regular open events.

If you would like to attend the next College tour and open night, please register - note all prospective Diploma students *must* attend an Information evening prior to enrolment.

Bookings are essential.

[Find out more](#)

## Career Conversations @ Home – Helping parents have positive career convos!

October 16, 2024

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

In our webinar, you can expect to learn:

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

We can't wait for you to join us!

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

[Find out more](#)

## University of Sydney | Grand Challenge 2024: Towards Net Zero

November 6, 2024

In The Grand Challenge, students in Years 9 & 10 will spend a fast and fun day learning about a real-life global problem before ideating, developing and pitching their own solutions to their peers and STEM experts for a chance to win prizes. This event is powered by Future Anything and the Faculty of Science, University of Sydney.

[Find out more](#)

## Newcastle 2024 Campus Experience Days

November 25 to December 6, 2024

Our Campus Experience Days aim to support student's understanding of career options, increase aspirations to attend university and provide an opportunity to experience university life and study areas. Throughout the day your students will have the chance to hear from current university students and academics, participate in hands-on activities from a variety of study areas, and take a tour around campus.

Please note that given the popularity of these campus experience days priority will be given to students in Years 9-10 dependent on demand.



Places for each day are limited, therefore we will work off a first in, first served basis for bookings. We will do our best to accommodate all bookings, however in the event the days are oversubscribed we will develop a waitlist based on the order of response.

- Week 1, Monday 25 November to Friday 29 November – Central Coast campuses, 9am – 2pm
- Week 2, Monday 2 December to Friday 6 December – Newcastle campuses, 9am – 2pm

Reach out to your region representative to register your interest.

[Find out more](#)

## Discover AI Magic with IT at ACU North Sydney

November 26, 2024

Join us for the 2024 Discover ACU. A free event tailored to your study area of interest, these sessions will give you an insight into life as a uni student.

Participate in interactive AI activities, chat with current students and learn what it's like studying a degree in IT at ACU.

[Find out more](#)

## Discover Exercise and Sports Science at ACU Blacktown

November 27, 2024

Join us for the 2024 Discover ACU. A free event tailored to your study area of interest, these sessions will give you an insight into life as a uni student.

Experience the range of cutting-edge equipment for training and rehabilitation that you will have access to as part of a sport and exercise science degree with ACU.

[Find out more](#)

## Discover Law and Criminology at ACU North Sydney

November 28, 2024

Join us for the 2024 Discover ACU. A free event tailored to your study area of interest, these sessions will give you an insight into life as a uni student.

Aspiring lawyers will have the chance to develop their analytical and courtroom skills in our law and criminology workshops. These hands-on activities will provide you with an insight into the Australian legal system and its functions.

[Find out more](#)



## Free Money

### Scholarships

#### International House Scholarships

**Value:** Up to \$22,500 AUD per year

**Open date:** October 28, 2024

**Closing date:** January 5, 2025

The scholarships are made possible by the generosity of former members of International House and of the wider community who support the House's vision of bringing Australian and International students to live together, with an emphasis on scholarships for international and regional Victorian students.

[Find out more](#)

#### Monash Humanitarian Scholarship

**Value:** Full course fees plus up to \$30,000 allowance

**Open date:** August 1, 2024

**Closing date:** November 29, 2024

Are you an asylum seeker on a bridging visa? If you are a high-achieving student with the ambition to change your future, you may be eligible for the Monash Humanitarian Scholarship. You will receive 100% international student funding for the Monash undergraduate degree of your choice plus a yearly allowance of \$6000.

[Find out more](#)

### Competitions

#### Harvard Crimson Global Case Competition 2024

**Open date:** July 15, 2024

**Closing date:** October 11, 2024

Step into the shoes of a CEO or consultant and help a top global business tackle its challenges. Each team has a set amount of time to develop a strategy to address the key issues and present it to a team of judges who will then determine the winner.

HCC is 100% virtual, easy to join and accessible for all skill levels. Workshops for participants are available from top industry executives.

[Find out more](#)

#### World Food Day Poster Contest

**Open date:** June 21, 2024

**Closing date:** November 8, 2024

Calling all parents, teachers and anyone who knows a 5-19 year old! Join the World Food Day Poster Contest and show us your creativity. Design a poster that symbolizes your favourite dish or recipe, representing the importance of diverse, nutritious, safe and affordable foods. Show us what this means to you, your community or the world through art.

[Find out more](#)



## Study

### Study Tips

#### [The power of practice tests: Why they're helpful for exam success](#)

We've all been there – staring at our textbooks, highlighting passages, and re-reading notes, hoping the information will magically stick in our brains before a big exam... But what if there was a better way to prepare? This is where practice tests come in: the secret superpower you can use in exam preparation. Let's look at why (and how you can use them to boost your results).

#### **What are practice tests and why do they work?**

Before we get into the benefits, let's explain what we mean by 'practice tests'.

These are mock exams or quizzes that ask similar questions to the test you'll be taking. They can be official past papers, questions from your textbook, or even tests you create yourself based on your study materials.

You might be wondering, "Why should I spend time on practice tests when I could be studying more?" Well, here's four reasons why:

#### **Active recall**

When you take a practice test, you're actively pulling information from your memory. This process, known as [active recall](#), is much more effective for learning than passive review methods like re-reading notes.

#### **Identifying knowledge gaps**

Practice tests help to show what things you know well and what things you need to work on. It's like a skills checklist for your study sessions, showing you exactly where to focus your efforts.

#### **Reducing test anxiety**

The more comfortable you are with taking tests and the types of questions you'll be asked, the less anxious you'll feel on exam day. Imagine doing one each week rather than two per term – you'll be far less stressed about the real test. That's why practice tests can help build your confidence and reduce your anxiety.

#### **Improving long-term memory**

Research shows that the act of retrieving information through testing strengthens your memory of that information. It's like giving your brain a workout to make it better at recalling info and applying it to challenges. The good thing is that the practice test results don't matter – so practice away!

#### **How to use practice tests effectively**

Now that you know why practice tests are so helpful, let's talk about how to use them to maximise your exam success.





## **Start early**

Don't wait until the night before the exam to start taking practice tests. You need to go to sleep with a clear mind to give you the best rest you can get. So begin incorporating them into your study routine early on. This gives you time to identify and work on your weak areas.

## **Simulate exam conditions**

Try to recreate the actual exam environment as closely as possible. Use the same time limits, don't use your notes, and even find a quiet space similar to where you'll be taking the real test.

## **Review your mistakes**

Getting questions wrong on a practice test isn't a failure – it's just an opportunity to learn. Carefully review each mistake and make sure you understand why the correct answer is right. If you don't know why, then do some research online, check your textbooks, or simply bring the question and your answer to your teacher – they'll be happy to show you why.

## **Mix it up**

Don't just do only one type of practice test. Use a variety of sources and question types to ensure you're prepared for anything that might come up on the real exam.

## **Space it out**

Instead of cramming all your practice tests into one study session, spread them out over time. This technique, known as spaced repetition, helps reinforce your learning and improve your long-term retention.

## **Creating your own practice tests**

Can't find enough practice tests for your subject? No worries! You can create your own:

1. Review your notes and textbook, writing down potential questions as you go.
2. Transform chapter summaries into a question-and-answer format.
3. Use flashcards to quiz yourself on key terms and concepts.
4. Team up with classmates to create and exchange practice questions.

## **Balancing practice tests with other study methods**

While practice tests are incredibly effective, they shouldn't be your only study strategy. Here's how to balance them with other methods:

1. Use these tests to identify weak areas, then focus your studying on those topics.
2. Alternate between taking practice tests and reviewing your notes or textbook.
3. Use them to apply the information you've learned through other study methods.



## Overcoming common challenges

If you haven't incorporated practice tests into your study routine before, then you might have some challenges. Here's how to overcome them:

### I always run out of time!

Start with untimed tests to build your confidence, then gradually introduce time limits as you improve.

### I get discouraged when I get a lot wrong

Remember, the point of practice tests is to learn, not to get a perfect score. Every mistake is an opportunity to improve.

### I can't find enough practice tests for my subject

Get creative! Use end-of-chapter questions in your textbook, create your own based on your notes, or ask your teacher for additional resources.

### Last of all...

Practice tests are a powerful tool in your exam preparation arsenal. They help you actively engage with the material, identify your strengths and weaknesses, and build your confidence for the real thing. So next time you're preparing for a big exam, don't just read and re-read your notes – put yourself to the test.

Remember, it's not about just working hard, but working smart. By taking practice tests on a regular basis, you'll set yourself up for exam success and develop valuable learning skills that will serve you well beyond your school years.

Want more study tips and tricks? Take a look on our website [here](#) to see our other articles.

## Short Courses & Microcredentials

### [How to showcase microcredentials effectively on your resume](#)

Microcredentials are becoming an increasingly popular way to gain new skills and knowledge quickly. But once you've earned these badges or certificates, how do you make sure potential employers or universities notice them? Let's explore how to effectively showcase your microcredentials on your resume.

### What are microcredentials?

Before we dive in, let's quickly recap what microcredentials are. These are short, focused courses that teach specific skills or knowledge, often completed online. They're a great way to show that you're proactive about learning and keeping your skills up-to-date.

### Why include microcredentials on your resume?

Including microcredentials on your resume can:

- Demonstrate your initiative and willingness to learn
- Highlight specific skills relevant to the job or course you're applying for
- Show that you're keeping up with industry trends and technologies



## Tips for showcasing microcredentials on your resume

Now that we know what microcredentials are and why they're beneficial, let's look at how you can showcase them on your resume.

### Create a dedicated section

Consider adding a "Professional Development" or "Additional Certifications" section to your resume. This allows you to group your microcredentials together, making them easy to spot.

### Be selective

While it's tempting to list every microcredential you've earned, focus on those most relevant to the position you're applying for. Quality trumps quantity here.

### Include key information

For each microcredential, include:

- The name of the credential
- The issuing organisation
- The date you earned it
- A brief description of the skills you gained (if not obvious from the title)

### Link to digital badges

If you've earned digital badges for your microcredentials, consider including links to these in the digital version of your resume. This allows potential employers to verify your credentials easily.

### Don't forget to highlight skills in your cover letter

Use your cover letter to draw attention to how the skills you've gained through microcredentials make you a great fit for the position.

### Example of how to list microcredentials

Here's a quick example of how you might list microcredentials on your resume:

Professional Development

- Introduction to Python Programming (Coursera, May 2024)
- Digital Marketing Fundamentals (Google Digital Garage, August 2024)
- Effective Communication in the Workplace (LinkedIn Learning, October 2024)

### Keep learning and growing

Remember, earning microcredentials is just the first step. The real value comes from applying what you've learned and continuing to grow your skills. Keep seeking out new learning opportunities and updating your resume as you go.

Want to learn more about microcredentials or find opportunities to earn them? Check out our other blogs on short courses and microcredentials [here](#).



## Work

### Job Spotlight

#### [How to become a Butcher](#)

Are you interested in food preparation and enjoy hands-on work? You might like to become a Butcher. A butcher's main job is to cut and prepare meat and smallgoods for sale. Butchers are skilled in preparing cuts of meat, ensuring quality, and offering expert advice to customers. They need to have excellent knowledge of an animal's anatomy to ensure there is minimal wastage and be able to operate cutting and processing machines.

If you have a passion for food, are prepared to work on your feet, and enjoy making customers happy, this could be a rewarding career for you.

#### **What skills do I need as a butcher?**

- Physically resilient & fit
- Strong stomach
- Great communication skills
- Good with your hands
- Careful & precise
- Good knife skills & safety
- Impeccable hygiene
- Can work in teams & independently
- Basic math skills for weighing & pricing

#### **What does the job involve?**

- Cutting meat from bones and trimming fat
- Cutting and mincing meat to shape
- Preparing crumbed, marinated, smoked, and seasoned meat
- Making seasonings, sauces, and pickles
- Operating machinery such as grinders and sausage fillers
- Advising customers on preparation and cooking techniques
- Maintaining excellent hygiene standards
- Ordering and managing inventory
- Creating displays and merchandising products

#### **What industries do butchers typically work in?**

- Retail Trade
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade



## What Career Cluster do butchers belong to?

This role is ideal for [Makers](#) who enjoy hands-on, practical work. It also requires some skills from the [Linker](#) Cluster, such as helping people find the products they need.

## What kind of lifestyle can I expect?

As a butcher, your work hours will vary depending on where you're employed. In retail settings, early morning starts are common as you prepare meat for the day. If you work in food services, your hours might align with the restaurant or catering business hours, including weekends and holidays.

The job is physically demanding, requiring you to stand for long periods and handle heavy items. However, it can be highly rewarding for those who enjoy a structured, routine-oriented environment and the satisfaction of producing high-quality meat products.

Butchers more often work full-time, but there are some part-time opportunities available, particularly in smaller shops. Many butchers also have the opportunity to start their own businesses, offering flexibility and the potential for greater income.

## How to become a butcher

Becoming a butcher typically involves a combination of formal training and hands-on experience. While formal education isn't always required, completing high school is highly recommended as it can provide a strong foundation, particularly in subjects like Food Technology, Biology, or Agriculture.

The most common pathway into the butchery trade is through an apprenticeship, which usually lasts around three years and combines on-the-job training with classroom-based learning. During this time, you'll be working under the guidance of experienced butchers while learning the essential skills of the trade, such as meat preparation, cutting techniques, hygiene standards, and customer service.

Depending on where you live, you might also need to acquire specific licenses or certifications to legally work as a butcher, particularly if you plan to start your own business. There are also special roles you might like to consider, such as becoming a [halal](#) or [kosher](#) butcher.

## What can I do right now if I'm interested in this career?

If you're currently in high school and considering a career as a butcher, here are some steps to help you explore the profession:

- **Seek casual or part-time work** in a butcher shop, supermarket, or meat processing plant to gain hands-on experience.
- **Consider a pre-apprenticeship**, which can give you industry exposure to help you decide if this is the job for you. Work experience is another excellent option to get a feel for the job.
- **Learn about food safety and hygiene standards**, knowledge that's very important in this profession.



## Where can I find out more?

- [Australian Meat Industry Council](#)
- [International Butchers Federation](#)
- [National Craft Butchers](#) (UK)
- [American Association of Meat Processors](#)
- [Retail Meat New Zealand](#)
- [Associated Craft Butchers of Ireland](#)

## Similar careers to butcher

- [Chef](#)
- [Food Technologist](#)
- [Shearer](#)
- [Agronomist](#)
- [Baker](#)
- [Brewer](#)
- [Farmer](#)
- [Bartender](#)

Find out more about alternative [careers](#).

## Jobs & Careers

### [Jobs that give you the best chance of earning six figures \(or more\)](#)

Are you dreaming of a future where you're earning a six-figure salary? While money isn't everything, it's natural to aspire to financial stability and the opportunities that come with a higher income. But here's the thing: the path to those impressive earnings isn't always straightforward. Let's dive into the world of salaries and explore some jobs that could put you on the fast track to earn that coveted six-figure income.

### **The reality check: What the data tells us**

Before we jump into specific careers, let's take a moment to understand what the salary landscape really looks like. We'll use data from Australia as an example, but keep in mind that these patterns are similar in many countries around the world.

### **What's the average?**

Believe it or not, most of us earn within a pretty narrow range. In Australia:

- The median income for women is \$45,813
- The median income for men is \$61,988
- The minimum wage works out to around \$47,000 per year

Surprised? You're not alone. We often hear about high-flying executives and their jaw-dropping salaries, but the reality for most people is quite different.



## The average vs. the median: A tale of two numbers

Here's where it gets interesting. You might hear about average salaries that sound pretty impressive. For instance, the average taxable income for surgeons in Australia is a whopping \$460,000. Sounds amazing, right? But hold on a second.

The *median* salary for surgeons is actually \$192,000. That's still a great salary, but it's less than half of that flashy average. So what's going on?

The average can be misleading because a small number of super-high earners pull it up. The median, on the other hand, tells us what the 'middle' surgeon earns – a much more realistic figure for most people in that profession. You can read more about the difference between average and median salaries in [this blog](#).

## There's still a gender gap...

Unfortunately, the data also shows us that gender pay gaps are still a reality. Let's stick with our surgeon example:

- Overall average for surgeons: \$460,000
- Average for women surgeons: \$285,000
- Median for all surgeons: \$192,000

This pattern repeats across many professions. It's a sobering reminder that we still have work to do in achieving pay equity.

## What this means for you

As a young person planning your future, what can you take away from this data?

1. **Expectations vs reality:** While it's great to aim high, it's also important to have realistic expectations. The path to very high salaries is often longer and more challenging than it might seem.
2. **Risk vs reward:** Jobs with higher earning potential often come with trade-offs. They might involve more stress, longer hours, or less job security. It's about finding the right balance for you.
3. **The power of choice:** Some career paths do offer better odds of reaching that six-figure salary. By choosing strategically, you can increase your chances of higher earnings.
4. **Beyond the paycheck:** Remember, salary isn't everything. Job satisfaction, work-life balance, and personal fulfilment are equally important factors to consider.

## Jobs with the best shot to earn six figures

Now, let's explore some jobs that offer a good chance of earning over six figures. We'll use Australian data as an example, but these trends are often similar in other countries. Remember, these are *general* trends – individual experiences may vary.

## For everyone

First, let's take a look at the top 10 careers with high earning potential that are available to everyone.



## **Defence force officer**

Serving your country can be both rewarding and lucrative. As an officer in the defence force, you'll lead teams, manage resources, and potentially work with cutting-edge technology. The structured career progression often leads to higher pay grades, and the skills you develop are highly transferable to civilian roles.

## **Police officer**

Law enforcement offers a path to six-figure salaries, especially as you move up the ranks. As a police officer, you'll protect and serve your community, solve crimes, and maintain public order. The job can be challenging and sometimes dangerous, but it offers job security and the satisfaction of making a real difference.

## **Solicitor (Lawyer)**

If you have a knack for analysis and argumentation, a career in law could be your ticket to a high salary. Solicitors advise clients, prepare legal documents, and represent clients in court. While the path involves years of study and often long hours, the financial rewards can be significant, especially if you specialise or become a partner in a firm.

## **Chemical or mining engineer**

For those who excel in science and problem-solving, engineering offers excellent salary prospects. Chemical engineers design and optimise processes in industries like pharmaceuticals or oil and gas, while mining engineers plan and oversee the extraction of valuable minerals. Both roles involve a mix of technical skills, project management, and environmental considerations.

## **IT business analyst**

In our increasingly digital world, IT business analysts are in high demand. You'll bridge the gap between technical teams and business stakeholders, analysing processes and recommending technology solutions. This role combines technical knowledge with business know-how, offering good salary prospects and the chance to work across various industries.

## **General practitioner (GP)**

Becoming a doctor is a long road, but it can lead to a stable, six-figure income. As a GP, you'll be the first point of contact for many patients, diagnosing and treating a wide range of conditions. The job demands long hours and continuous learning, but offers the reward of directly improving people's lives.

## **Human resources (HR) manager**

If you're a people person with strong organisational skills, HR management could be your path to a high salary. HR managers oversee recruitment, training, and employee relations within an organisation. As you progress to senior roles, you'll be involved in shaping company culture and strategy, with commensurate financial rewards.





## **Geologist**

For those fascinated by the Earth's processes, geology offers paths to high earnings, particularly in the resources sector. Geologists study the Earth's structure and composition, often working to locate and extract valuable resources. The job can involve fieldwork in remote locations, but also offers the excitement of discovery and the potential for high salaries in industries like mining or oil and gas.

## **Policy and planning manager (government)**

If you're interested in shaping public policy, a career in government could lead to a six-figure salary. Policy and planning managers research, develop, and implement policies that affect entire communities or nations. While the path to high earnings in the public sector can be slower than in private industry, it offers great job security and the chance to make a broad impact.

## **School principal**

For those passionate about education, becoming a school principal can lead to a six-figure salary. As a principal, you'll lead a school community, manage staff, set educational goals, and ensure student success. The role demands strong leadership skills and often requires years of teaching experience, but offers the reward of shaping future generations.

## **And men can also choose these options**

While these roles should be equally accessible to everyone, current data shows they're more commonly pathway to six-figure salaries for men. This highlights the ongoing need for greater diversity and equality in these fields.

## **Surveyor**

Surveyors play a crucial role in land development, measuring and mapping the environment. This career combines outdoor fieldwork with technical analysis, offering variety and the potential for high earnings, especially in booming construction markets.

## **Safety inspector**

In an increasingly safety-conscious world, this role is both important and potentially lucrative. Safety inspectors ensure workplaces and public spaces meet safety standards, potentially saving lives while earning a solid income.

## **Intelligence analyst**

For those with sharp analytical skills and an interest in national security, this career offers both intrigue and good salary prospects. Intelligence analysts gather and interpret information crucial to government decision-making.

## **Construction manager**

If you enjoy seeing tangible results from your work, construction management offers a path to high earnings. You'll oversee building projects from planning to completion, managing teams and budgets along the way.



## **Urban planner**

Shaping the cities of the future can be both fulfilling and financially rewarding. Urban planners design community layouts, considering factors like sustainability, transportation, and quality of life.

## **Engineer (various types)**

Engineering continues to be a reliable path to high earnings. Whether it's civil, mechanical, electrical, or another specialisation, engineers solve complex problems and drive innovation across industries.

## **IT professional (various roles)**

The tech industry offers numerous paths to six-figure salaries. Whether you're into software development, cybersecurity, or data science, the digital revolution continues to create high-paying opportunities.

## **Paramedic**

While not traditionally associated with high salaries, experienced paramedics in some regions can earn six figures. This demanding job involves providing emergency medical care in high-pressure situations, but also offers the chance to literally save lives.

## **Train driver**

Perhaps surprisingly, train drivers in some areas can earn six-figure salaries. The job involves a high level of responsibility for passenger safety and adherence to strict schedules.

## **Advertising manager**

For the creatives with a business mindset, advertising management can lead to impressive earnings. You'll oversee campaigns that shape public perception and drive business success.

## **Pilot**

Although entry-level salaries may be modest, experienced pilots (especially in commercial aviation) can earn well into six figures. The job offers the thrill of flying and opportunities to see the world.

## **Power plant operator**

Keeping the lights on is a well-compensated responsibility. Power plant operators control the systems that generate and distribute electricity, requiring technical knowledge and a cool head under pressure.

## **Conclusion: Charting your course to six figures**

As you can see, there are many paths that can lead to a six-figure salary. Some require years of specialised study, others demand you work your way up through the ranks, and many involve a degree of risk or pressure. The key is to find a path that aligns with your interests, skills, and values.



Remember, while a high salary can provide financial security and opportunities, it's not the only measure of career success. Job satisfaction, work-life balance, and the ability to make a positive impact are equally important factors to consider as you plan your future. Also, keep in mind that salaries can vary significantly based on factors like location, experience, and individual performance. The figures and trends we've discussed are general guides, not guarantees.

Lastly, don't be discouraged by the gender disparities we've noted. Be aware of them, certainly, but don't let them limit your aspirations. Many organisations are actively working to close these gaps, and your generation has the power to continue driving positive change. Whatever path you choose, remember that your career is a journey. It's OK if you don't reach six figures right away, or if your priorities change over time. The most successful careers are often those that bring personal fulfilment alongside financial rewards.

Want to dig deeper into salary data for your country? Check out these resources:

- Australia: [Australian Taxation Office](#)
- NZ: [Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa](#)
- UK: [Office for National Statistics](#)
- US: [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- Canada: [Statistics Canada | Statistique Canada](#)

Remember, these are just starting points. Your individual skills, experience, location, and negotiation abilities all play crucial roles in determining your actual salary. Good luck in your career journey!

## Learn more

Keen to explore more potential future jobs? We have heaps of other blogs on our website to check out [here](#).

## Grow

### Gap Years

#### [The pros and cons of a gap year](#)

Thinking about taking a break between high school and university? You're not alone. Many students consider taking a gap year to explore new experiences, gain skills, or simply take a breather before diving into higher education. But is it the right choice for you? Let's weigh up the pros and cons of taking a gap year so you can make an informed decision.

#### What is a gap year?

First things first, if you're unfamiliar with the term, we're here to explain. A gap year is typically a period of time taken by students after finishing high school and before starting university. During this time, you might travel, work, volunteer, or pursue personal interests.

While it's commonly referred to as a gap "year", the length of your break is entirely up to you. You might take just a few months, or choose to postpone your studies for a couple of years. Now, let's dive into the pros and cons of gap years.



## **The pros of taking a gap year**

Taking a gap year has lots of benefits that could enhance your personal growth and future prospects. Here are some of the main advantages:

### **Gain real-world experience**

A gap year can provide valuable life experiences outside the classroom. Whether you're working, volunteering, or travelling, you'll likely face new challenges and develop important life skills.

### **Discover your passions**

Taking time away from formal education can give you space to explore different interests and potentially discover what you're truly passionate about. This could help you make a more informed decision about your university course or future career path.

### **Recharge and refocus**

After years of schooling, a gap year can provide a much-needed break to recharge your batteries. This can help you start university feeling refreshed and motivated.

### **Develop independence**

Whether you're travelling solo or living away from home for the first time, a gap year can help you become more independent and self-reliant.

## **The cons of taking a gap year**

While there are many potential benefits to taking a gap year, it's important to consider the possible drawbacks as well. Here are some of the main disadvantages to keep in mind:

### **Potential loss of academic momentum**

After a year away from formal study, you might find it challenging to get back into the rhythm of academic life. It's important to stay mentally active during your gap year to ease the transition back to study.

### **Financial considerations**

Gap years can be expensive, especially if you plan to travel. You'll need to carefully budget and possibly work to fund your gap year activities.

### **Falling behind peers**

While your friends move on to university, you might feel left behind or out of sync with your peer group. However, remember that everyone's journey is different.

### **Delaying career progression**

Taking a year out means you'll be entering the workforce a year later than your peers. On the other hand, the experiences gained during a gap year could potentially accelerate your career progression once you do start working.



## Making your decision

Deciding whether to take a gap year is a personal choice that depends on your individual circumstances, goals, and personality. After weighing up the pros and cons of a gap year, here are some other questions to consider:

- What do you hope to achieve during a gap year?
- How will you fund your gap year activities?
- Will taking a gap year affect any scholarships or university offers?
- Do you have a plan to transition back into study after your gap year?

## Final thoughts

Whether you choose to take a gap year or head straight to university, remember that there's no one-size-fits-all approach. The most important thing is to make a decision that aligns with your personal goals and circumstances.

If you do decide to take a gap year, make sure you have a plan. Set goals for what you want to achieve, whether that's learning a new language, gaining work experience, or exploring different cultures. A well-planned gap year can be an [incredibly rewarding experience](#) that sets you up for success in your future studies and career.

Need some gap year inspo? Find experiences and more blogs on our website [here](#).

## Personal Skills

### [Why focusing on the big picture matters in your career journey](#)

Have you ever stressed over a bad mark, missed an assignment due date, or made a decision you later regretted? If you're a high school student (or even if you're not), chances are you've experienced moments like these. It's natural to feel worried or upset when things don't go as planned, especially when it comes to your future career. But here's a secret that successful people know: tough times don't last, but tough people do. Here's why it's important to stay focused on the big picture, both in your career and personal life.

### **That's where the idea of 'zooming out' can help**

Imagine you're looking at a map on your phone. When you're zoomed in, every turn and obstacle is big right? But when you zoom out, you start to see the bigger picture – the entire route, the destination, and all the different ways you could get there. The same thing applies in your career journey.

When you're in the middle of what seems like a crisis, like you've just failed an exam or something, it can feel like the whole world is crashing down. But if you take a step back and think about it in the perspective of a long life that's ahead of you, you'll realise that while this might not feel great right now, this moment is actually just a tiny blip.



## **Why the small stuff doesn't matter as much as you think**

Your career is a marathon, not a sprint.

Think about the most successful people you know or admire.

Did they get to where they are without any setbacks? (Probably not). Careers are long, winding roads with plenty of ups and downs. Every adult has made mistakes, and even some of the most successful people on the planet *still* make mistakes. Lots of them. What matters most is knowing where you're headed and what you want, not the individual failures or stumbles along the way – that's the big picture.

## **Mistakes are simply learning opportunities**

Every 'stuff-up' is just another chance to learn and grow.

In fact, many innovations and breakthroughs come from (lots of) mistakes or unexpected turns. Remember that old guy who invented the electric lightbulb, Thomas Edison? He's reported to have said "*I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.*" I don't know about you, but I would have long given up before 10,000 attempts! But he didn't let failure stop him, because he had a burning desire (literally) to achieve something.

What has failure taught you? And how can you apply that to your future?

## **Flexibility is a superpower**

The ability to adapt and pivot when things don't go as planned is super valuable in today's world of work. By not getting too hung up on small setbacks, you develop resilience and flexibility – skills that will serve you well throughout your entire career.

## **4 things to help you keep the big picture in mind**

All of this stuff is easy to say, but harder to put into practice – so here are some tips that might come in handy.

### **What will this matter in 100 years' time?**

When something goes wrong, even *really wrong*, ask yourself: "What will this matter in a hundred years' time?". More often than not the answer is not a whole lot! This simple question is so fantastic because it can help you to quickly regain perspective, sometime in even the worst of situations. Sure, the thing/failure/upset/mistake might feel awful now, but even in 5 years' time, it's likely you won't even remember it.

### **Focus on your core values and long-term goals**

Instead of obsessing over something, keep focused on what truly matters to you. What are your core values? What do you want to achieve? Let these answers help to guide your decisions and reactions.

### **Embrace the power of "yet"**

When you face a setback, add the word "yet" to your thoughts.

"I haven't mastered this skill...*yet.*"

"I haven't achieved my goal...*yet.*"

It's such a simple trick, but it can shift your mindset from negative to positive in seconds.



## Seek perspective from others

Talk to parents, teachers, or mentors about their career journeys. You'll likely find that their paths weren't always smooth, and hearing about how they navigated challenges can be incredibly reassuring and inspiring.

## Real-life examples of 'small stuff' that didn't matter

Everyone knows the author of the multi-billion-dollar Harry Potter book and movie series. But did you know [J.K. Rowling](#) was rejected by 12 different publishers before Harry Potter was accepted? Imagine if she had given up after the first few rejections.

[Steve Jobs](#) was famously fired from Apple Computer by the company's board members (the company he literally co-founded). He later returned when things were going bad and then led Apple to become one of the most valuable companies in the world.

[Oprah Winfrey](#) was fired from her first TV job as an anchor because they said she was "unfit for television". Ridiculous, right? She went on to become one of the most influential media personalities in the world – and still is today, more than 10 years after ending her globally famous talk show.

## Don't be afraid to make mistakes

Imagine a world where these amazing people had given up after their setbacks. So whatever you do or whatever happens, just keep your eye on the big picture – remember where you're headed instead of being bogged down in what's happening right now.

Give yourself the freedom to explore, learn, and grow. And more importantly, allow yourself to take risks and make mistakes – you'll ultimately find your own way to success.

Want more future career and life inspo? Check out our website [here](#).

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