



FUTURES HUB *Newsletter*

EDITION 6/2026

21/04/2026 – 04/05/2026

RTO No: 41391

Careers Expo 2026



FRIDAY 1 MAY
IN THE SAN DAMIANO CENTRE

Years 11 & 12 – Period 2
Years 7 & 8 – First Break
Years 9 & 10 – Period 3

Please go to class and you will be brought over by your teachers.



Mount Alvernia College



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A School Based Apprenticeship may be just what you are looking for

A School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT) lets you start a trade or career while you're still at school. You'll usually do:

- 1 day at work
- 4 days at school
- Plus, a formal course through TAFE or a training provider (this fits in with your school and work timetable)

Why it's good:

- Get real job experience early
- Start your qualification before finishing school
- Provides a pathway straight into a full-time job after Year 12

Things to think about:

- Try work experience first to make sure it's right for you
- You'll need to balance school, work and training
- Traineeships can often be finished at school, but apprenticeships usually continue full-time after you graduate.

Interested to find out more? Talk to your parents and your school's VET or careers advisor.

Literacy and numeracy quizzes for Apprentices and Trainees

[The Australian Apprenticeships website](#) has free literacy and numeracy quizzes for different industries. These quizzes:

- Show the reading, writing and maths skills needed for certain jobs



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- Help you see if you're ready for an apprenticeship
- Point out areas you might need to improve at school

They're not a test you pass or fail — just a guide to help you prepare for your future career. [Find out more here](#) including:

- Agriculture, Animals and Conservation
- Automotive, Transport and Maritime
- Business and Financial Services
- Construction and Electrical
- Creative and Beauty
- Digital, Technology and Telecommunications
- Energy and Utilities
- Food and Wine Processing
- Health and Community Services
- Manufacturing and Production
- Resources, Mining and Processing
- Retail, Hospitality and Recreation

Thinking about your next step? Maybe it's an apprenticeship or traineeship!

An apprenticeship or traineeship is a great way to kick-start your career. Here are some of the benefits of becoming an apprentice or trainee. [Find more info here](#) including:

- You get paid to study
- It's flexible
- You'll get great training
- You've got the same rights as all workers
- You can enter competitions and win awards
- Links

What apprenticeships and traineeships are out there?

There are hundreds of jobs you can train for through an Australian Apprenticeship. The Australian Apprenticeship Pathways website helps you explore your options, with info on what each job involves, training requirements, pay and employment trends. [Click through the apprenticeship and traineeship links to find a pathway that suits you.](#)

WorkSkills CQ Regional: Electrical Control

The WorldSkills Australia Electrical Control Competition 2026 tests your skills in wiring, circuit design, VSD setup, fault finding, PLC programming and speed wiring. You'll also need to apply standards like AS/NZS 3000 and AS/NZS 3008. The competition will be held at CQUni Mackay Ooralea and Rockhampton City campuses. To be eligible you must:

- Be undertaking an apprenticeship or traineeship in an Australian RTO/TAFE/University
- Be undertaking studies towards a qualification at an Australian RTO/TAFE or University
- Undertaken/completed a relevant qualification at an Australian RTO/TAFE or University

[Click here for more info and registration details.](#)



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Australian Defence Force



Fitness requirements Reaching the necessary ADF fitness requirements is most often within people's capability. During the application process you'll be assessed. [Click here to find out more](#) about:

- How fit must I be to apply?
- About the Pre-entry Fitness Assessment (PFA)
- Fitness requirements for the Army, Navy and Air Force
- Answers to your most frequently asked fitness requirement questions

Upcoming information events

Stay informed about important upcoming [Queensland and National ADF events](#) and information sessions:

- 21/04/2026 [Cairns Defence Careers Information Session](#)
- 22/04/2026 [Brisbane Defence Careers Information Session](#)
[Gold Coast Navy Careers Information Session](#)
- 27/04/2026 [Mackay Indigenous Pathways Information Session](#)
[Brisbane ADFA Careers Information Session](#)
- 28/04/2026 [Gatton A Night in the Army Reserve](#)
[Brisbane A Night in the Army Reserve](#)
[Yandina A Night in the Army Reserve](#)
- 05/05/2026 [Cairns Defence Careers Information Session](#)
[Brisbane Defence Careers Information Session](#)
[Maroochydore Defence Careers Information Session](#)



Career Exploration



Career interests - options

[Head to the CareersEvent.com website](#) and explore the Welcome to Your Webinar Hub. Choose a category that matches your career interests and watch video sessions or download info from universities, colleges and training providers. It's a great way to boost your research. Categories include:

- Information and technology
- Creative Arts
- Science
- Defence
- Tourism and Travel
- Universities
- Health
- Skills-based
- Teaching
- Student Accommodation
- Application process
- Private Colleges

Explore myfuture

Now's a great time to check out the [myfuture website](#) if you haven't already. Explore job profiles, try the career quiz and discover pathways you might not have considered — from engineers and designers to nurses and ag scientists. It's all about matching your interests and strengths to real careers. Have a look around and save anything that grabs your attention. A good place to start is the "Term 1: self-awareness" section, with [six simple strategies](#) to kick off your career exploration.



Is Uni the best pathway for every Year 12?

Short answer: No — it's a good option but not the only one. Recent research reported by [ABC News](#) found that:

- Many students feel pressure to go to Uni, even if their career doesn't need it
- This pressure can lead to stress, burnout and anxiety
- Researchers say Uni is a “great option” — but not for everyone

What research is showing

- A study linked to the [Australian National University](#) found:
 - Students are facing major pressure around study, careers and money
 - More students are now considering TAFE and other pathways
- Other research shows young people often feel Uni is seen as the “best” or only option, even when it's not required

What this means for students

- Uni is great for some careers (like law, medicine, teaching, engineering)
- But for others, you can go through:
 - TAFE
 - Apprenticeships
 - Traineeships
 - Straight into work

The key message: Don't choose Uni just because you feel pressured — choose the pathway that actually fits your career goals and how you like to learn.

School subjects and how they relate to job options

A good way to start exploring careers is to list jobs you might be interested in. An easy starting point:

- Think about the school subjects you enjoy most
- Check out the [Bullseye Posters on myfuture](#):
 - They match subjects to real jobs
 - They show heaps of career ideas you might not know about
 - They group jobs into 4 qualification levels (so you can see different pathways)

It's a simple way to connect what you like at school to possible future careers.

Tertiary courses and providers are not all the same!

Not all courses or training providers are the same, so it's important to do your research before you choose. Key tips:

- Think about what job you want and how to get there
- Compare courses and providers before spending money
- Pick something that suits your learning style and goals



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- Use helpful resources like JobJumpstart

And remember finishing school is the first step to keeping your options open. [Find out more here.](#)

The 2026 Good Universities Guide

[Check out the 2026 Good University Guide.](#) Some of the information includes:

- Cracking the ATAR code: everything you need to know
- Undergraduate entry requirements
- Everything you need to know about undergrad study
- Degree costs and loans

Get moving and get informed - it makes for confident career decision making!

Year 10 - Start your career journey

In Year 10, you'll start thinking about careers, subjects and your future — and that's totally normal. A good place to start is the Queensland Department of Education [video on career education](#) — it's quick and gives you a solid overview. Key ideas:

- It's okay if you don't know what you want to do yet
- There are heaps of jobs and pathways you probably haven't even heard of
- Start exploring different careers early so you choose senior subjects that will get you on the right path

The earlier you start thinking and researching, the easier subject selection will be — and you'll usually do better in subjects you know will get you where you want to go career wise - and you actually enjoy. The quicker you start, the more confident you will become.

Competitions



2026 Focus on Ability Film Festival

Entries for the [2026 Focus on Ability Film Festival](#) are now open. Filmmakers are invited to submit short films that explore, celebrate or reflect stories with a disability theme. Entries close on 1 July 2026. If you have any questions or require assistance, email admin@focusonability.com.

HIGH SCHOOL MOOT COMPETITION

The QUT High School Moot is designed to introduce high school students to legal reasoning, written and oral advocacy. The moot will be held at the QUT Gardens Point Campus (Brisbane) from 31 July - 2 August 2026. The competition is open to Queensland and northern New South Wales high school students in Years 11 and 12. Students will compete in teams of two to three and will be required to develop written and oral submissions, based on a hypothetical legal problem. Prizes include scholarships, cash and a trophy for your school to take home. Two regional teams will receive a subsidy of \$1,500 towards their group travel expenses. Click here for more info and if you want to enter, talk to your Legal Studies teacher or Guidance Officer/School Counsellor. [Rego is now open and closes on 1 June.](#)



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Disabilities

Jigsaw Brisbane

Jigsaw (employment social enterprise Australia) helps people with disability get ready for real jobs by learning in an actual workplace. How it works:

- Learn work skills on the job (not just in a classroom)
- Do real tasks like admin, data and business work
- Build confidence and workplace skills
- Combines training + real work experience + job support
- Helps you transition into a mainstream job
- Supports you to get and keep a job

Jigsaw gives you real experience and skills so you're ready for paid work. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Queensland Government: Support for people with disabilities

[People with disability](#) in Queensland includes a section for young people. Click [here](#) - you will find information on support available when leaving school including:

- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Study
- Volunteering
- Finding the right job
- Employment support
- Your rights at work





ABS Labour Force Data - March 2026

The Australian Bureau of Statistics have released the [Labour Force Data for March 2026](#):

- unemployment rate remained at 4.3%.
- participation rate decreased to 66.8%.
- employment increased to 14,762,800.
- employment to population ratio remained at 64.0%.
- underemployment rate remained at 5.9%.
- monthly hours worked increased to 2,015 million.
- full-time employment increased by 52,500 to 10,174,400 people.
- part-time employment decreased by 34,600 to 4,593,300 people.

Four ways green skills are becoming the ultimate career advantage

“Green skills” might sound like a trend but they’re actually becoming really important in jobs today. With climate change getting more attention, people expect companies to be honest, responsible and think long-term. As businesses try to be more environmentally responsible, they need workers who understand sustainability. Because of this, having **green skills** (like understanding sustainability and environmental impact) is becoming a big advantage for future careers. [You'll find the full RMIT Australia article here.](#)

Get your first job, start building your future career

Your first job gives you many skills that you will use and build on throughout your working life. These are the skills all employers value and look for when recruiting. This includes skills like:

- communicating in the workplace and with customers
- working in a team environment
- meeting deadlines and
- working under pressure

[Find out more in JobJumpstart's article](#) including:

- So how do I gain skills in my first job?
- Need more reasons to get your first job?

These tools can help you:

- Profile your employability skills
- Finding suitable vacancies
- Contacting employers directly
- Succeeding at job interviews
- Planning and organising your job search

Jobs for teenagers

Having a job while you're still at school isn't just about money — it helps you build confidence, responsibility and real-life skills. Why it's worth it:

- Gain work experience employers love
- Learn to work with different people
- Build skills that help after school and at Uni

There are heaps of options, like:

- Outdoor jobs
- Customer service roles
- Creative or tech-based jobs
- Caring roles and volunteering

[Check out some ideas](#) from The University of Queensland to find something that suits you. Just remember, school comes first but a part-time job can give you a great head start.

Know your industries!

Choosing a career isn't just about the job — it's also about the industry you work in. On the [Jobs and Skills Atlas website](#), you can explore 17 different industries and find info like:

- How many people are employed
- Average pay (weekly earnings)
- Number of businesses
- Different areas within the industry
- Types of jobs (occupations)

It's important to see what an industry is really like before you choose your pathway.



Looking at Biomedicine but don't know where it can take you?

Queensland Government's State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has info on strategic industries for Queensland's future progress. They want Queensland to be a globally competitive Asia-Pacific biomedical industry hub. Find out about how Queenslanders are making a difference in the Biomedical world:

- [Queensland's biomedical industry bringing breakthroughs closer to home](#)
- [Queensland: Leading the charge in biomedical innovation](#)
- [Queensland innovation goes global](#)
- [Queensland's mission to accelerate vaccine development](#)
- [Biomedicine versus Biotechnology, what's what?](#)
- [Breakthrough test for coeliac disease puts Queensland's biomedical sector on world map](#)

The residential construction industry

The residential construction industry covers everything from building new homes to renovating existing ones — from houses to large apartment complexes. It's a major part of Australia's economy and provides lots of jobs. The industry needs more skilled workers like electricians, carpenters, plumbers and bricklayers. This means there are strong job opportunities but also a growing need to attract and train more people to fill these roles. [Click here for more info](#) on:

- Current labour force - Residential construction is a huge part of the economy, but it's short on workers. Demand is high, but not enough people are entering or finishing apprenticeships, and there's low participation from women, migrants and diverse groups.
- Labour and skill demand - Even though job vacancies have dropped a bit, construction still has major long-term worker shortages. To meet the National Housing Accord goals, the industry will need at least 83,000 more tradies by 2029.
- Looking forward - Australia's construction industry is stepping up to fix worker shortages by changing its culture, getting more women involved, and building stronger training pathways for future workers.



Financial Assistance & Scholarships



General Scholarships and financial assistance

Uni can get expensive (fees, books, rent, tech), so it's important to know your money options. You've got two main ways to get help:

- Scholarships (free money you don't pay back)
- Financial support (like government payments or loans)

[Good Universities Guide breaks it down and shows you:](#)

- 5 simple steps to apply for scholarships
- Different scholarship options in Australia
- What you need to be eligible and apply

Don't stress — there are lots of ways to help pay for Uni if you plan ahead.

Griffith Uni scholarships

A scholarship can seriously help with Uni — not just with money but with extra opportunities too. What you get:

- Financial support while you study
- Access to networking events and mentors
- Chance to build job-ready skills

Check out [what's available at Griffith University](#), including:

- How to apply
- Who's eligible
- Key dates and deadlines

Scholarships can make Uni cheaper *and* help you stand out.



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Prac component of your Uni course - how to survive!

You might be able to get extra money from the government while you're studying — not just HELP loans. Options include:

- [Prac Payment](#) (CPP)
From July 2025, helps you financially while doing unpaid placements for your course -) bachelor's in teaching, Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work or Diploma in Nursing
- [Tertiary Access Payment](#) (TAP) (scroll down)
Up to \$5,000 if you move from regional/remote areas for Uni
- [Other support through Services Australia](#) (scroll down) includes:
 - Youth Allowance
 - Austudy / ABSTUDY
 - Rent Assistance

There's more support out there than most people realise, so it's worth checking what you're eligible for.

What is HECS

Understanding HECS is important if you're starting Uni in Australia. HECS-HELP is a loan from the Australian Government that helps you pay your tuition fees upfront, so you can study now and repay later. It supports hundreds of thousands of students each year—but it's important to understand how it works before you enrol. [Click here for UQ's break down](#) of the key facts and answers to common questions so you know exactly what to expect. They talk about:

- What is HECS
- Who is eligible for a HECS loan?
- How to apply for HECS
- How does HECS work?
- When do you start paying HECS?
- How does HECS repayment work?



First Nations Peoples



Deadly Start Health School Based Traineeships

Start your career in health. Queensland Government's Health Careers offer School Based Traineeships and paid work to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students starting Year 11. You might work in areas such as:

- Administration
- Allied health assistance
- Nursing assistance
- Patient support
- Cooking
- Food services
- Pharmacy
- Health work

[Find out more info and how to apply here.](#)

Indigenous Employment Australia

[Indigenous Employment Australia](#) is a job site for First Nations people. What you can do:

- Search for jobs in your area
- Upload your resume
- Access job tips and resources
- Find employers actively looking to hire First Nations candidates

It's a great place to start if you're looking for work and want targeted opportunities and support.



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NIDA Opens First Nations subsidy

The National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) Open First Nations Subsidy helps First Nations people access creative training. What it offers:

- 50% off tuition fees
- Support for those facing financial or other challenges

Who can apply:

- First Nations school students
- Young people aged 18–25
- No experience needed

It's all about helping you build creative skills and reach your potential. [Check the NIDA website](#) for full details on eligibility, applications and what's included.



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Gap Year Program News



Projects Abroad

Projects Abroad offers international volunteering, internships and travel experiences. What they offer:

- Travel to different countries
- Work on projects linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Gain real-world experience and new skills

Why consider it:

- Great option for a gap year
- Helps you grow confidence and independence

Just make sure you do your research and talk it through with your parents/guardians. It's a way to travel with purpose while building skills for your future.

The GAP Network – Placements in UK Boarding Schools

The Gap Network connects adventurous students with gap year opportunities in the United Kingdom, designed to build confidence, independence and real-world skills. Their tailored programs combine cultural experiences, personal growth and professional development, helping set you up for future success. Why choose a gap year in the UK?

- Grow your independence – live in a new country, build confidence and learn to adapt to different environments
- Gain real experience – work in schools and develop practical skills that boost your resume
- Immerse yourself in a new culture – explore the UK's history, traditions and communities while broadening your perspective

It's an exciting way to step outside your comfort zone and discover what you're capable of. [More info including application process here.](#)



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Interstate & International



Melbourne Uni's ATAR Guarantee

Plan your course preferences with confidence using 2026 ATAR guarantees, lowest selection ranks and adjusted Access Melbourne ATARs from University of Melbourne. These tools help you understand what ATAR you might need and give you a clearer idea of your chances when choosing courses. [Find out more here.](#)

QUT Scholarships for international students at QUT

QUT have expanded scholarship offerings for international students. Click [here](#) to find out more about some of their scholarship offerings including:

- International Merit Scholarship
- International Talent scholarship
- College Merit Scholarship
- College English Language Concession

Study Medicine in Samoa

[Oceania University of Medicine](#) (OUM) in Samoa offers a flexible pathway to becoming a doctor.

How it works:

- Online study for the early years
- Then clinical placements in hospitals (Australia, NZ, US, etc.)
- Takes about 4.5–5 years to complete

What's different:

- Designed for students who need flexibility (work, family, distance)
- Combines online learning + real hospital experience

Key points:

- Based on Australian & American medical models
- You'll still need to meet licensing requirements after graduating

This is a non-traditional pathway into medicine but make sure you research accreditation and career pathways carefully before committing.

Thinking about Australian National University for 2027?

ANU's Early Offer scheme closes 8 May — so don't miss it!

What's good about it:

- One application = Uni entry + scholarships + accommodation
- Uses your Year 11 results (no ATAR needed yet)
- You may get an early offer before Year 12 finishes

You can find info on:

- Eligibility + how to apply
- Guaranteed accommodation
- Adjustment factors (bonus points)
- Scholarships
- Key dates and timelines

It's a great head start if ANU is on your list — but you need to apply early.



Open Days, Expos & Career Markets



JMC Academy Open Day

Check out what studying at JMC could lead to as a sustainable career and explore what life at JMC is like! Immerse yourself in JMC's interactive on-campus Creative Open Day! Experience the difference on Saturday, 09 May 2026! On the day you can:

- Discover more about our courses
- Explore our state-of-the-art facilities
- Chat with current students about their experiences
- Connect with industry-leading lecturers
- Enjoy live student performances
- Watch creativity in action through course demonstrations
- Get insights into the enrolment process with Student Admissions

[Find out more and register here.](#)

Mackay Sector Showcase 2026

CQUni is hosting the Mackay Sector Showcase where you can find out about the wide range of [TAFE](#) and [Uni qualifications](#) offered at CQUniversity and discover why CQU could be right for you. When?

- Day 1: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 from 11:00am to 4:00pm: Mining, Manufacturing, Warehousing, Transport, Logistics and Trades Day
- Day 2: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 from 11:00am to 4:00pm: Construction, Health Care and Social Assistance, Hospitality, Tourism and Retail Day

[Click here for more info and rego details.](#)



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May Open Days and Career Expos

- 01/05/2026 [University of New England Open Day](#)
- 12/05/2026 [Gladstone Careers Expo](#)
- 13/05/2026 [Bundaberg Careers Expo](#)
- 14/05/2026 [Capricorn Mega Careers Expo Rockhampton Careers Expo](#)
- 15/05/2026 [Emerald Careers Expo](#)
- 17/05/2026 [Griffith University Creative Arts Open Day](#)
- 23/05/2026 [Australian Performing Arts Conservatory](#)
- 28 - 30/05/2026 [Brisbane Careers & Employment Expo](#)





Qantas Group Pilot Academy

In partnership with Flight Training Adelaide (FTA), Qantas Group Pilot Academy helps meet the increasing need for skilled aviators in one of the fastest growing global industries. The Academy is based in Toowoomba, Queensland, at Wellcamp Airport providing training in:

- Commercial Pilots License (CPL)
- Airline Transport Pilots Licence (ATPL) theory
- Multi-Engine Command Instrument Rating (ME IR)
- Multi-Crew Cooperation (MCC)

Click [here](#) for more information and to download their student handbook.

SAE University College may be for you

[SAE University College](#) delivers creative and technology courses nationwide. Their unique approach to tech and creative media sees you develop the practical skills, real-world experience and industry connections you need to make your mark in your chosen industry. SAE University College provides:

- Cross-discipline collaboration
- Study now, pay later
- Graduate career ready
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Enhanced reputation
- Fast-track your course

They offer courses from Diploma to bachelor's degrees in the following areas and entry is via interview and completion of Year 12 (no ATAR required):

- [Animation](#)
- [Audio Engineering & Sound Production](#)
- [Computer Science](#)



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- [Creative Industries](#)
- [Visual Communication & Graphic Design](#)
- [Cinematography & Film Making](#)
- [Games Development & Games Design](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [VFX & Virtual Production](#)



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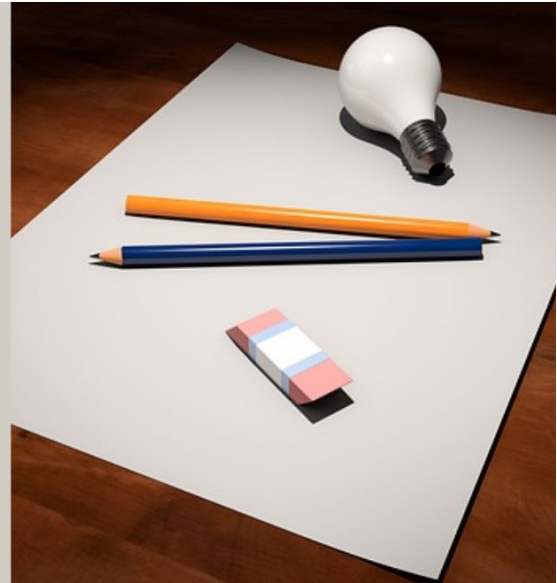


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Project, Leadership & Entrepreneur Opportunities



National Volunteer Week (NVW)

National Volunteer Week (18–24 May 2026) is all about recognising how volunteers make a real difference and encouraging more people to get involved. This year's theme is "Sustainable Development." Volunteering isn't just about helping others — it's great for you too. You can:

- follow your passions and interests
- make new friends and connections
- build skills and get experience for your future
- try new things and have fun
- grow your confidence
- boost your mental and physical health
- give back to your community

Want to get involved or stay updated? [Subscribe to VA News](#) and check out [volunteering opportunities near you](#).



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Educational Access Scheme (EAS)

EAS can help if you have experienced circumstances that negatively affected your studies and results during your Senior years. You can apply for EAS when you are applying to QTAC. EAS categories include:

- Financial hardship
- Home environment and responsibilities
- English language difficulty
- Personal illness and disability
- School Environment

If eligible for EAS, you may receive adjustment factors which may improve your chance of receiving an offer. [Click here](#) to find out more including if you're eligibility to apply.

The QTAC Stakeholder Perspective Surveys - they want your opinion!

The QTAC Stakeholder Perspective Surveys are a feedback survey run by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). It's to collect opinions from people who interact with QTAC, such as:

- schools (guidance officers, teachers)
- students and parents
- universities and training providers

What it's for:

- to see how well QTAC's application system is working
- to understand people's experiences (+ and -)
- to identify areas, they can improve (e.g. communication, website, processes etc)

Why it matters:

The feedback helps QTAC make changes so applying for Uni or TAFE is easier, clearer and fairer for future students. If you're filling one out, be honest about your experience — it actually helps shape



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how the system can work well. Surveys close on Friday 24 April (the end of this week) so don't miss having your say.

Click on the link below that best represents you!

- [Survey of Stakeholder Perspectives on ATAR - Parent – Fill in form](#)
- [Survey of Stakeholder Perspectives on ATAR - Student – Fill in form](#)
- [Survey of Stakeholder Perspectives on ATAR - Teacher – Fill in form](#)



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Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority



QCE academic integrity tick - no QCE!

From this year, students need to meet a new **academic integrity requirement** to get their QCE. This means doing your own work honestly and following the rules. You can find more info on the [Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority \(QCAA\) website](#). Check it out and make sure that, when your school is running the course, you are there and taking it seriously - No tick in the academic integrity course box - no QCE!



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Study Skills & Wellbeing



5 ways to get motivated after school holidays

Getting back into school after holidays can feel rough. You've been sleeping in, staying up late and doing whatever you want, so switching back to school mode isn't easy. But you can get back on track with a few simple moves:

1. Fix your sleep - Start going to bed earlier and waking up at a normal time (even if it's painful at first).
2. Get organised - Pack your bag, sort your stuff, and feel a bit more in control.
3. Build a routine - Get back into a daily rhythm — it makes everything feel easier.
4. Just start - Don't overthink it. Even doing a little bit of work helps you get going.
5. Motivation isn't everything - You won't always feel like it — discipline > motivation. Just show up and do it.

[More info from year12 here.](#)

How to improve your concentration

Concentration = staying focused and in control of your attention. Some people are naturally good at it but everyone can get better with practice easy ways to improve your focus:

- Sleep matters – it's way harder to focus when you're tired. Eat well and move your body too
- Set clear goals – make them specific (e.g. improve one grade in your next English test)
- Stick to a routine – same time, same place helps your brain switch into study mode
- Cut distractions – tidy desk, no TV, less phone = better focus
- Have a plan – know what you want to finish and tick it off as you go
- Write distractions down – deal with them later instead of stopping your work
- Start straight away – don't wait to "feel motivated"
- One thing at a time – multitasking = less focus
- Take breaks when needed – a quick walk can reset your brain



TAFE Queensland Updates



Endless Opportunities

Looking for a pathway that leads straight to real jobs? With over 500 courses available through TAFE Queensland, you can build skills that employers want. [Explore study areas like:](#)

- Business & IT
- Education & Community
- Health & Science
- Service Industries
- Creative Industries
- Environment & Animal Services
- Infrastructure & Transport
- Trades

Whether you're into hands-on work or more academic pathways, there's something to match your interests and get you job ready.

Skills Tech - Want to try a trade without fully committing?

TAFE Queensland offers Trade Taster Programs that let you test out a course or career before jumping into a full qualification or apprenticeship.

How it works:

- Designed for Year 10 students
- Attend 1 day a week for 9 weeks
- Try practical units in a specific trade area/s
- Get a real feel for what the course/career is like

Why it's worth it:

- Helps you figure out if a pathway suits you



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- Builds skills and confidence
- Supports smarter subject and pathway choices later
- Doesn't use your VETiS funding

What to do next:

- Chat with your school's VET coordinator
- Ask about applications and support
- Check timing — there may be limited dates early in the year, so reach out to TAFE Queensland for updates

It's a low-pressure way to explore your options and make better decisions for your future. [Check out your options here.](#)

Why study at TAFE Queensland

Choosing what to do after school is a big decision — and it's yours to make. The key is to explore your options and find what works best for you. Every pathway has its own benefits. TAFE Queensland has shared their top 10 reasons to study at TAFE. [Click here to find out more](#) about:

- Flexibility
- Industry-standard facilities
- Experienced teachers
- Support services
- Recognition of prior learning
- University pathways
- Student satisfaction
- Student outcomes
- Award winning
- Make great happen



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Universities



UCAT ANZ applications closing date reminder

If you're planning to sit the UCAT ANZ in 2026 for Uni entry into some medical courses in 2027, make sure you don't miss these key dates:

- 15 May 2026 – Standard booking closes
- 29 May 2026 – Late booking closes (\$85 fee)
- 5 June 2026 – Final booking deadline (\$185 fee)

All deadlines are 11:59pm AEST.

UCAT preparation support and tools

Are you going to sit UCAT for entry into Medicine or Dentistry this year? Well, the following info may be of some help.

- [UCAT ANZ](#) under their Prepare tab, have Preparation resources, test tools, question tutorials, practice tests and candidate advice (**free**)
- Big prep companies like [MedEntry](#) and [MedEssentials](#) offer full courses with heaps of practice questions, mock exams and strategy coaching
- Coaching-style programs (e.g. [MissionMed](#), [MedStart](#)) focus on exam techniques, small classes and high-scoring tutors
- Tutoring companies like [Apex Tuition Australia](#) or platforms like [Learnmate](#) connect you with 1-on-1 tutors for personalised help
- Workshops + short courses (e.g. [Contour Education](#)) give quick crash courses and strategy sessions

What they all focus on:

- Practice questions + mock exams (lots of them)
- Time management + exam strategy (not just content)

- Boosting confidence for a super competitive test

The vibe overall:

- Very results-driven (aiming for high UCAT scores)
- Often taught by med students or doctors
- Can be expensive but super targeted

In short: QLD has heaps of UCAT prep options—from DIY online courses to intense tutoring—so students can pick what fits their budget and how much support they want.

Please note: Options Career Information does not necessarily endorse any of the above companies. Do your homework to be sure that you are getting the right support at the right cost.

Want to add a language to your degree?

Through the [Brisbane Universities Language Alliance](#), you can study languages across unis — for example, students can take language courses at Griffith University or The University of Queensland while completing their degree. How it can fit into your degree:

- Minor – usually 4 units
- Second major – usually 6 units
- Electives – flexible option units

Why do it? Learning a language can boost your career options, open up travel opportunities and make your degree stand out. Check your course structure to see how a language could fit into your study plan.

Year 12 parents and guardians' resources

Moving from high school to Uni can feel like a big step — for both students and parents. Many universities offer helpful resources so parents can better support their child through the transition. These resources help parents understand things like Uni expectations, support services and how to encourage independence while still being supportive.

- Australian Catholic University – [How parents can help](#)
- James Cook University - [Parents and partners](#)
- Griffith University – [Parents and Guardians](#)
- Queensland University of Technology - [Parents and Carer Engagement](#)
- The University of Queensland – [Parents and guardians guide to university](#)
- University of the Sunshine Coast - [Parent Lounge](#).
- TAFE Queensland – [Parents and Advisors](#)
- University of Southern Queensland - [Parents and Guardians](#)
- University of New England - [Parent, Partner and Friends Information Guide](#)
- Southern Cross University - [Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#)



Australian Catholic University

ACU Guarantee - Early offer program

[The Australian Catholic University Guarantee program](#) lets Year 12 students secure a place based on their Year 11 results — not just your ATAR.

Key info:

- Open to Australian citizens & permanent residents
- Applications: 20 July – 14 September
- Looks at your whole story, not just marks

Boost your chances with a personal statement. Choose ONE of these options:

1. Impact through empathy
2. Impact through adversity
3. Impact through family

Your statement can improve your entry score, so it's worth putting effort into it. Start planning now — think about real experiences you can write about and how they've shaped you. [Find out more about writing a personal statement under the FAQ's here.](#)

Business Diploma

The Diploma in Business is a great way to kick-start your career and study goals. Graduate with a recognised qualification. You can also gain credit for your first year of a business degree and move straight into second year at ACU. [More info here](#) including:

- Overview
- Course details
- Entry requirements
- Pathways
- Fees
- How to apply

Talk with Industry Series

Australian Catholic University is running webinars with alumni, where you can hear real stories from grads about life after uni. It's a great way to get honest insights and figure out if a course is right for you. What you'll get:

- Hear from graduates about their careers
- Learn how their degree helped them get there
- Ask questions in a live Q&A
- Get a better idea of your own future options

Upcoming webinars in early May are:



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- 06/05/2026 Talk with Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists: Helping People Move and Thrive
- 07/05/2026 Talk with Teachers and Educators: Explore Your Teaching Career and Scholarship Options
- 13/05/2026 Talk with Nurses, Midwives and Paramedics: Explore Careers that Make a Difference
- 14/05/2026 Talk with Law, Criminology and Business Professionals: Discover Your Future Career
- [More info and rego here.](#)

Bond University

Experience Days in May

Step into the life of a Bondy for a day and see what Uni is really like. You might take part in a workshop, try a mock class or get hands-on with a guided activity. You'll also chat with current students and learn from expert academics. Food and drinks are included. Below are the Experience days in May including rego details. If you are interested, go talk to your teacher or Guidance Officer/Counsellor.

- 07/05/2026 [Criminology Experience Day](#)
- 08/05/2026 [Construction, property and Project Management Experience Day](#)
- 28/05/2026 [Communication Experience Day](#)

Medicine at Bond

Bond University is one of the few unis in Australia offering medicine straight from undergraduate level. The program includes two degrees—the Bachelor of Medical Studies and the Doctor of Medicine—which you complete over five years to become a registered doctor. Both are awarded at the end of the course. Applications for the [Bachelor of Medical Studies](#) go through QTAC. They usually open mid-January and close early February for a May start. [Check the QTAC website](#) for 2027 dates and updates.

World Surf League: Gold Coast Pro Backstage Tour

Get exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the Bonsoy Gold Coast Pro with Bond University on the Gold Coast. Year 11 and 12 students can explore athlete areas, judging and media zones and see how a major surfing event runs — before watching the action from top seats. It's a great chance to check out careers in sport, media, business and more, with a Bond rep there to answer your questions. The following are session dates and times. [More rego info and details here.](#)

- 02/05/2026 World Surf League: Gold Coast Pro Backstage Tour 10am OR 12pm
- 03/05/2026 World Surf League: Gold Coast Pro Backstage Tour 10am OR 12pm



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09/05/2026 World Surf League: Gold Coast Pro Backstage Tour 10am OR 12pm

10/05/2026 World Surf League: Gold Coast Pro Backstage Tour 10am OR 12pm

Central Queensland University

STEPS Term 2 Information Session 1

Looking into Uni? If you're not sure about entry requirements or need to finish prereqs, the Skills for Tertiary Education Preparatory Studies (STEPS) course can help build your confidence. STEPS is a FREE, Centrelink-approved course that gives you the skills you need to get into uni. CQUni is hosting an online info session on 6 May, 12–1 pm (AEST). You'll find out how it works, how long it takes, how to apply and be able to ask questions. [Register here to get the details](#) or contact the Future Students team if you want to know more.

Thinking about a career in medicine?

The Bachelor of Medical Science (Pathway to Medicine) at CQUniversity could be a smart option. Advantages:

- Builds strong foundations in science, biomedical science and health
- Offers a provisional pathway into the Doctor of Medicine at The University of Queensland (regional program)
- Prepares you for further study and a future medical career

Why consider it? It's a great alternative pathway if you're aiming for medicine. [Find more info here.](#)

Griffith University

Chemistry, Physics and English courses through Head Start at School

Head Start at School is a great opportunity for Years 11 and 12 students to experience Griffith University. You can study up to two Uni subjects, with options in science and other areas that link closely to what you're learning at school. You may even gain credit towards a future Griffith degree. [Click here for more info](#) on courses, key dates, eligibility and how to apply.

Griffith University's Creative Arts Open Day

Explore your creative side at Griffith University's Creative Arts Open Day. Try hands-on workshops, check out exhibitions and performances and see behind the scenes of music, film, design and more. You'll meet students and teachers, explore the facilities and get a feel for creative careers. It's at South Bank campus on Sunday 17 May from 9am - 2pm. You can also check out a pop-up preview of future business, IT and law programs in the CBD. [More here including rego info.](#)



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Looking for a backup plan or more manageable pathway into Uni?

Griffith University Undergraduate Diplomas are a great stepping stone into a bachelor degree — or a qualification that can get you job-ready.

How it works (through Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre):

- Put your chosen Griffith bachelor's degree as your 1st preference
- Add the matching Undergraduate Diploma as your next preference

What happens next:

- Study the Diploma and build your skills
- Near completion of Diploma, Griffith will contact you re 2nd Year Bachelor
- Get help transitioning into 2nd year of the bachelor's degree

Why it's a good option:

- More flexible entry pathway
- Boosts your chances of getting into your course
- Can lead straight to work or further study
- 25 Diploma options across different study areas
- Successful completion = much improved tertiary rank

A smart way to keep your options open and stay on track. [More info and list of Diplomas here.](#)

Queensland College of Art and Design (QCAD) portfolio admission

For entry into 2027 QCAD courses you can apply via portfolio and/or ATAR Rank. You may be considered via submission of a portfolio and attending an interview OR via your ATAR/rank. The relevant courses are:

- [Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art](#)
- [Diploma of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art](#)
- [Bachelor of Design](#)
- [Bachelor of Design/Bachelor of Business](#) *(Double degree admission requirements vary to single degrees)*
- [Bachelor of Visual Arts](#)
- [Bachelor of Visual Arts/Bachelor of Business](#) *Double degree admission requirements vary to single degrees*

Applicants who are not successful with their portfolio/interview will automatically be considered based on ATAR/Rank. For more [info and the on-demand portfolio admissions webinar click here](#) (scroll down).

James Cook University



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Not sure what to study?

You may be able to turn what you're good at into a career with a degree. [James Cook University's guide](#) helps you match your strengths and interests to study options and careers that may suit you. Not sure what to study yet? No stress—this is a place to start exploring your options. Find out what your options are if you're good at words, pictures and stories or science, numbers and technology. And remember, support is there to help you every step of the way, at school and Uni!

Talk through your study options at JCU

Feeling unsure about Uni options? James Cook University (JCU) offers free 1-on-1 calls with friendly staff who can help answer your questions and talk through your options. They can help with:

- Entry requirements
- Pathways to study
- Fees
- Credit for previous study/work experience
- Modes of study or online course delivery
- Course timetables
- Career opportunities, and more.

Why book a call? It's relaxed, easy to understand and tailored to you — no pressure, just helpful advice. If you're unsure about anything, it's a great place to start and get clarity. Find more information and [book a call here](#).

Queensland University of Technology

Bachelor of Creative Arts entry - Year 12 Subject Scheme changes

Students may now be eligible for an ATAR or selection rank adjustment of up to 2.00 per subject for Applied or General creative arts subjects (maximum of 8.00) when applying for the Bachelor of Creative Arts. [Learn more](#).

Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo

Come and chat with friendly QUT staff and students at the Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo on 28 - 30 May. Entry is free. [Learn more](#).

Course updates within the Faculty of Health

Changes within the Faculty of Health have led to three courses being discontinued for 2027 entry:

- 425391 Bachelor of Health Information Management
- 425282 Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Public Health



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- 425372 Bachelor of Public Health

Please note that the 2027 Study Guide was correct at the time of printing but does not reflect these recent changes to course offerings.

New Bachelor of Arts

The world today is shaped by forces like AI, digital technology and global challenges. Young people need skills that help them navigate and influence this environment. The new [Bachelor of Arts](#) at QUT is designed for students who want to understand how technology, society and culture are changing the world around them. With a guaranteed work placement and a choice of ten exciting majors, students will graduate ready for the real world. The new Bachelor of Arts, as well as a double degree with law, will be available for entry from Semester 1, 2027.

New major coming for the Bachelor of Design

- Launching in Semester 1, 2027, strategic design is a new major within QUT's [Bachelor of Design](#), focused on solving complex real-world challenges through systems thinking and human-centred design. This major is suited to students who enjoy big-picture thinking and want to use design to address issues such as sustainability, equity, health and social change.
- [Interaction design](#), another major option in our Bachelor of Design, will be renamed experience design from Semester 1, 2027. While the content for this major remains the same, the name change better reflects the content being taught.

QUT Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology)

Psychology students study the human brain: how it develops, how it reacts and how it shapes our understanding of the world around us. Part of understanding the brain is exploring how different people interpret the world and how they think about big ideas. At QUT, psychology students regularly get together outside of class to talk about these ideas and challenge their assumptions in the [Conversations That Matter](#) group. [Find out more about studying psychology at QUT.](#)

QUT University Preparation Program

Mightn't get the right ATAR for entry into a QUT Diploma? QUT's free University Preparation Program gives you the opportunity to achieve a selection rank to enter a range of undergraduate Diplomas and Bachelor Degrees. [Learn more.](#)

Regional and remote students

Whether students are planning to move to Brisbane to study on campus or stay closer to home and study online, QUT will provide the skills, knowledge and connections needed for career success. Hear from other students in videos about their experience as a regional or remote student and moving to Brisbane. [Watch and learn more.](#)



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Year 12 Early Offer Scheme changes

Students can now use results from recognised General or Applied creative arts subjects to receive an early offer for the Bachelor of Creative Arts, provided they are on an ATAR-eligible pathway. [Learn more.](#)

Southern Cross University

2027 Early Offers now open

Year 12 is a big year — formals, exams, ATARs and lots of pressure about what comes next. It can feel like everything's happening at once. That's where an Early Offer Program can really help. What it does:

- Lets you apply before exams and results
- Takes some pressure off early
- Gives you more certainty about your next step

Why it's helpful:

- You can focus on your final exams without as much stress
- You've got a plan sorted sooner
- It makes the whole transition to Uni feel more manageable

It's all about giving you a head start so you can enjoy your final year a bit more. [More info and application details here.](#)

Going to Uni Guide 2026

Going to Uni can be life changing. You can build skills for a career, meet new people and experience new ideas. Graduates also tend to earn more on average, and Uni can be a really fun and exciting experience. Check out SCU's *Going to University Guide 2026* and find info on:

- Our campuses
- Lifestyle locations
- On-campus Health Clinic
- Innovation labs
- Fitness centres
- State-of-the-art facilities
- On-campus accommodation
- Your options
- Which degree is right for me?

[Click here](#) and find out this and more.



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The University of Queensland

Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours)

If you are considering applying for entry to the Bachelor of Dental Science (Honours) program for Semester 1/2027 you should read the information on the [UQ website](#) and be aware that:

- Subject prerequisites of Queensland Year 12 (or equivalent) General English subject (Units 3 & 4, C); Chemistry (Units 3 & 4, C) and recommended Biology
- Sit the UCAT ANZ Aptitude test. The aggregate score from all 4 sections of the [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#) will be the first selection. Applicants with the same aggregate score are ranked by their UCAT ANZ section 4 score. If this score is also the same, the UCAT ANZ section 1 score is used
- Applicants without adjustments to their ATAR/tertiary rank will be considered before applicants with adjustments.
- The aggregate score from all four sections of the UCAT ANZ/UK will be applied as the primary differentiator to rank applications with ATAR 99.00 (or equivalent) or higher.

Did you know your VET studies can help you get into UQ?

At The University of Queensland, completed VET qualifications can be used to get a selection rank for entry. Here's what you could get:

- Certificate III (AQF) → Rank 68
- Certificate IV (AQF) → Rank 74
- Diploma (AQF) → Rank 82
- Sub-bachelor study → Rank depends on level, length & GPA

If you're in Year 12:

- You can use your VET qualification to apply for Semester 2 (the year after you graduate)
- You still need to pass any prerequisite subjects

Extra option: If you've finished VET and are over 18 (not in Year 12), you can boost your rank by combining it with the Special Tertiary Admissions Test. It's a great pathway if ATAR isn't your only plan so [click here for more info](#).

UQ's June school holidays engineering, design and computing school holiday program

This 4-day holiday program is perfect for Year 9 & 10 students wanting to try it out. What you'll do:

- Hands-on workshops – work on real projects, solve problems, test your ideas
- Meet the experts – chat with UQ students and lecturers
- Explore campus – check out labs and creative spaces

What you'll learn: You'll start thinking like an engineer, architect, designer, urban planner or coder – and see what these careers are really like. It's a fun way to try different pathways, build skills and figure out what you might want to do in the future. [Applications open soon so keep an eye out here](#).



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Year 11 Queensland Chemistry Winter School

UQ's Year 11 Queensland Chemistry Winter School will provide you with a deep dive into the concept of equilibrium across topics such as oxidation-reduction and acids and bases. The program will run on 29 and 30 June or 6 and 7 July from 8:30am - 5:00pm. Interested? Click [here](#) for more information including:

- What's involved
- Learning snapshot
- Cost
- Eligibility
- How to apply

Applications close on 1 May 2026.

University of Southern Queensland

2027 course guide is out now!

If you're considering university in 2027, UniSQ's course guide is the place to start. It brings together everything you need to know to explore your study options and understand how different degrees can take you where you want to go. Inside the guide you'll find:

- A snapshot of all undergraduate degrees at UniSQ, including pre-requisite details.
- Scholarship information that could support your study.
- An overview of pathway options into university, including alternative entry routes and bridging programs.

[Check it out here.](#)

University of the Sunshine Coast

HeadStart Info Evening

If you're in Year 10, 11 or 12, UniSC's Headstart program gives you the chance to get ahead – study real Uni subjects while you're still at school and earn credit towards your future UniSC degree. Keen to find out more? Join their [Headstart Information Evening](#) this May. You'll hear how the program works, what you can study and how it can set you up for success after school. Even better – your first course is free! And additional courses are just \$400 – meaning you could save thousands on your degree. Bring your parents, ask questions and see if Headstart is right for you. Find out [more info and registration details here](#) for the following sessions:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** – Wednesday 20 May 2026, 4.30–6pm
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** – Wednesday 20 May 2026, 4.30–6pm
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** – Thursday 21 May 2026, 4.30–6pm
- **Online** – Wednesday 27 May 2026, 5.30–6:30pm



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Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
21/04/2026	ADF: Cairns Defence Careers Information Session
22/04/2026	ADF: Brisbane Defence Careers Information Session
22/04/2026	ADF: Gold Coast Navy Careers Information Session
24/04/2026	QTAC's Stakeholder Perspective Surveys close
27/04/2026	ADF: Brisbane ADFA Careers Information Session
27/04/2026	ADF: Mackay Indigenous Pathways Information Session
28/04/2026	ADF: Brisbane A Night in the Army Reserve
28/04/2026	ADF: Gatton A Night in the Army Reserve
28/04/2026	ADF: Yandina A Night in the Army Reserve
28/04/2026	GU Countdown to Uni
28/04/2026	UQ Ready - Gold Coast info session
28/04/2026	UQ Ready Gold Coast
28/04/2026	UQ Ready Gold Coast
29/04/2026	UQ Ready Cairns info session
29/04/2026	UQ Ready info session
30/04/2026	QUT's Senior subject selection & post-school pathways webinar
30/04/2026	Senior External Examination registrations close
01/05/2026	Future Leaders Awards entries close
01/05/2026	QUT Accounting Challenge case study submissions close
01/05/2026	UNE Open Day



01/05/2026	Year 11 Queensland Chemistry Winter School applications close
05/05/2026	QUT Australian Schools Cyber Challenge closes
06/05/2026	ACU webinar - Talk with Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists
06/05/2026	CQU STEPS Term 2 Information Session 1
07/05/2026	ACU webinar Talk with Teachers and Educators
07/05/2026	Bond Criminology experience day
07/05/2026	Griffith University Creative Arts Open Day
07/05/2026	QUT Gals in ICT Day
08/05/2026	ANU Early Offers applications close
08/05/2026	Bond Construction, Property & Project Management Experience Day
09/05/2026	JMC Brisbane Open Day
10/05/2026	Sunshine Coast Art Prize competition closes
10/05/2026	UniSC's Best Field Trip Ever -Science and Technology entries close
12/05/2026	Gladstone Careers Expo
13/05/2026	ACU webinar Talk with Nurses, Midwives and Paramedics
13/05/2026	Bundaberg Careers Expo
13/05/2026	UniSC's Best Field Trip Ever -Explore K'gari entries close
14/05/2026	ACU webinar
14/05/2026	Capricorn Mega Careers Expo - Rockhampton
15/05/2026	Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition entries close
15/05/2026	Emerald Careers Expo
15/05/2026	UCAT ANZ final booking closing date
15/05/2026	What Matters? Writing Competition
17/05/2026	GU's Creative Arts Open Day
17/05/2026	UQ InspireU Extend camp applications close.
18/05/2026 to 24/05/2026	National Volunteer Week (NVW)
20/05/2026	QUT STEM + X: Data Science Careers Webinar
20/05/2026	QUT: STEM + X: Data Science Careers Webinar
20/05/2026	UniSC HeadStart Info seminar - Sunshine Coast
20/05/2026	UniSC HeadStart Info Session Fraser Coast
21/05/2026	UniSC Headstart Info session - Moreton Bay campus



23/05/2026	Australian Performing Arts Conservatory
24/05/2026	Queensland Biology Winter School, Year 11
27/05/2026	UniSC Headstart online Info session
28/05/2026	Bond Communication Experience Day
28/05/2026	UCAT ANZ Late booking closes



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