CAREERS NEWSLETTER 16 NOVEMBER, 2026



INVITATION TO JOIN JOB JUMP

We warmly encourage all **parents and students** to register for **Job Jump**, an excellent careers platform that supports young people as they explore future pathways.

Job Jump provides:
Up-to-date information on tertiary study options, ATARs, apprenticeships, and TAFE pathways.
Tools to create a resume, helping students present their strengths professionally.
Customised news alerts so families stay informed about important deadlines and opportunities.

Both parents and students can benefit from clear guidance and timely updates as they plan— whether that's choosing senior subjects, exploring university courses, or considering vocational training.

To register, simply visit:
https://www.jobjump.com.au/register and visit Careers 2026 on Canvas to access sign up details.

We hope you find Job Jump a valuable resource in supporting informed and confident career decision-making.

Disclaimer – all information is printed in good faith
It is the responsibility of the student to confirm all details with the appropriate institution.

To contact Ms. Hall please email chall@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au or call 9414 4733.

Events

This Week's Events

TAFE NSW Virtual Open Week 2026

Preparing for ATAR release: pathways to Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney
Location: Online
Date: November 18, 2026
Waiting for your ATAR? Whether you're feeling confident, unsure, or somewhere in between, join us to explore the many ways you can study at the University of Sydney.
Learn about admission pathways, entry schemes, adjustment factors, and the study options available after ATAR release so you can make informed decisions about your next steps with confidence.
Find out more

Local Land Services Demonstration Farm Open Day

Organisation: Local Land Services
Location: Greater Sydney Demonstration Farm
Date: November 20, 2026
Join Greater Sydney Local Land Services for a unique opportunity to explore our Demonstration Farm.
Whether you're a producer, landholder, industry professional, student, or simply interested in agriculture and the environment, this event offers a behind-the-scenes look at the work being done to support productive farms, healthy landscapes and resilient communities.
Enjoy a range of demonstrations, displays, presentations and guided tours covering:

- agricultural technology and innovation
- horticulture and sustainable production
- invasive species management
- emergency preparedness and resilience
- natural resource management
- First Nations land management practices
- erosion and sediment control demonstrations at our dedicated erosion control facility.

You'll also have the chance to meet a range of organisations and industry partners.
The day will feature interactive displays and hands-on activities, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions, share experiences and network with others involved in agriculture and land management.
Find out more

AIE November Open Day, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment
Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus
Date: November 21, 2026
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day.
AIE Open Day is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, staff and students. The day will cover everything you need to know about the:

- Careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- Studios and industries that we work with;
- Courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- The software, skills and knowledge we teach.

This event will also include presentations on entry requirements and how to apply. Find out how AIE can get you into a creative career.
Find out more

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

TAFE NSW Veterinary Nursing Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: November 23, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing

Find out more

Enter the World of Le Cordon Bleu Careers Residential, Sydney

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Sydney Campus
Date: November 24 to November 25, 2026
We're opening our doors to high school students in Years 11 & 12, to experience a day in the life at one of the world's leading culinary and hospitality institutions, providing a taste of what a future career in global hospitality will be like.
Come and meet our lecturers, hear from industry experts, discover what Le Cordon Bleu culinary arts and hospitality management programs involve and experience hands-on lessons with our chefs. Plus, learn how our Work Integrated Learning (WIL) industry placements create work-ready graduates with real workplace experiences in leading establishments.
Find out more

TAFE NSW Information Technology Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: November 24, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the

application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Bachelor of Information Technology (Cyber and Network Security)
- Bachelor of Information Technology (Data Engineering)

Find out more

TAFE NSW Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: November 24, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animal Care

Find out more

Discover nursing at the University of Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney
Location: Online
Date: November 25, 2026
Ready to make a real impact? Discover undergraduate nursing degrees at the University of Sydney and explore a career dedicated to improving lives.
Learn about hands-on clinical placements, study pathways, and opportunities to work across hospitals, community health, aged care and beyond. Join us to see how nursing at Sydney can help you build a rewarding future in healthcare.
Find out more

TAFE NSW Animal Care Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: November 25, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Certificate II in Animal Care
- Certificate III in Animal Care Services

Find out more

TAFE NSW Farriery Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students.

There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Certificate IV in Farriery

Find out more

CSU Online Law and Criminology Information Night

Organisation: Charles Sturt University
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Join us for our information night and hear from our course directors, current students and graduates about what its like to study law and criminology at Charles Sturt. You'll get details on how to apply, industry professionals sharing their experiences about working in the sector, and info about where a career in the justice system could take you.
Find out more

TAFE NSW Agriculture Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Certificate III in Agriculture

Find out more

Year 11 & Beyond with ADHD – Starting Strong in the Senior Years

Organisation: ADHD Webinars
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Focuses on setting senior students up for success as they enter their final school year and look ahead to future pathways. This webinar for parents, senior high school students and career practitioners covers strategies for managing workload stress, building independence, and planning post-school transitions.
Find out more

FUTURE EVENTS

SAE Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science

Organisation: SAE University College
Location: Online
Date: December 1, 2026
From software development and cyber security to cloud computing and AI, technology careers are evolving fast. At SAE's Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science, you'll explore our complete range of technology courses, including our new Information Technology qualifications launching in February 2027, alongside our established Computer Science and Cyber Security pathways.
Find out more

TAFE NSW Visual Arts (Ceramics) Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: December 2, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want.

Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.

Courses covered:

- Certificate III in Visual Arts
- Diploma of Visual Arts
- TAFE Statement in Ceramics - Handbuilding
- TAFE Statement in Ceramics - Wheelforming
- TAFE Statement in Open Studio Practice - Ceramics

Find out more

AIE Online Campus Day

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment
Location: Online
Date: December 5, 2026
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day. AIE will be running this event for students interested in studying online. You will be able to meet our teachers, explore how classes will run, course options, career pathways and see our amazing student work.
We will be covering everything you need to know about the:

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

Find out more

Camp America Sydney Job Fair

Organisation: American Institute for Foreign Study Australia
Location: TBC Sydney
Date: December 6, 2026
U.S. camps are coming to town and they're ready to meet, interview and hire. Come face-to-face with Camp Directors, explore the roles available and take a huge step towards locking in your Summer 2027 placement.
Meet the camps hiring you. Connect face-to-face with Camp Directors flying in from the USA specifically to meet and hire Australian applicants. Ask questions about camp life, available roles, what they're looking for and interview directly with the people making the hiring decisions.
Explore a range of camps and roles all in one place, from waterfront and sports to performing arts, creative roles and more. Chat with different Camp Directors, compare your options and find the camp that feels like the best fit for your skills, personality and summer goals.
This isn't just an info session. You'll have the chance to interview for roles on the day and could leave with your Summer 2027 placement sorted. Meet other Camp America applicants, get support from our team and take a huge step closer to camp.
Find out more

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College
Location: Bankstown Airport
Date: December 7, 2026
Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.
Find out more

TAFE NSW Individual Support Online Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW
Location: Online
Date: December 8, 2026
Join us online and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Our information sessions typically include presentations on courses, career pathways, and the application process. You will also learn about the various support services available to students. There are always opportunities for Q&A sessions where you can speak directly with our expert staff.
Courses covered:

- Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability)
- Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing)
- Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability)

Find out more

Seriously Ready Year 12 Career Workshop, Newcastle

Organisation: Unserious Careers
Location: University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus
Date: December 15, 2026
If you're unsure what to do after school, worried about making enough money or scared AI will ruin everything, this event is for you.
Over three hours, Alana Kilmartin, author and founder of Unserious Careers, will show you a career strategy for the first 12 months after school that's easy to apply and gets you ahead faster, without hating life.
Whether you're 100% locked in or have no idea what's next, this event has your back. Part workshop and part inspirational talk, Seriously Ready will offer you practical tips without being boring. Leave feeling less stressed and more excited about your future.
The content is suitable whether you're planning to go to uni or TAFE, enter the workforce, start a trade, take a gap year or follow another awesome path.
Find out more

I've Got My Results, What Now? Webinar for Year 12 Students & Parents

Organisation: myfuture
Location: Online
Date: December 15, 2026
As Year 12 results are released, many students and their carers are asking the same question: What's next? Join Tracy Ryan, Career Education Manager at myfuture, for a practical and reassuring webinar designed to help families navigate the next steps with confidence.
You'll gain insights into the range of opportunities available after Year 12, learn how to make informed decisions, and discover resources that can support a successful transition from school to further study, training, or work.
Find out more

Collarts Sydney Portfolio Workshop

Organisation: Australian College of the Arts
Location: Collarts, Sydney Campus
Date: December 16, 2026

Your UAC preferences are in, but your portfolio isn't quite there yet. Sound familiar?
Join us at Collarts on Wednesday 16 December in Sydney for a day built to help you get your creative submission finished and to experience a taste of Collarts.
You'll work directly with the people who teach your course who will be able to show you how to shape and complete your creative submission. Our Admissions team will be present to assist with any questions or queries you may have about the enrolment process and next steps.
Find out more

Notre Dame Information Day for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Notre Dame Australia
Location: University of Notre Dame, Sydney Campus
Date: December 17, 2026
Come to Info Day to find out everything you need to know to start uni next year, receive personalised advice and explore your study options.
You'll also be able to tour our unique campus, check out our new student hub, attend information sessions and workshops to find out more about the degrees we have on offer, enjoy live entertainment, tasty treats and much, much more!
Find out more

UTAS Enrolment Support Session for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Tasmania
Location: University of Tasmania, Rozelle Campus
Date: December 18, 2026
After you have been offered a place to study with us, Enrolment Support Session is here to support your next step.
Get help choosing your course, finalising your enrolment, and understanding what uni life is all about. Our friendly staff will be available to answer questions and guide you through the process so you can start your journey with confidence.
Find out more

SciX@UNSW Summer School for High School Students

Organisation: University of New South Wales
Location: University of New South Wales, Kensington Campus
Date: January 18 to January 22, 2027
Don't just learn science. Do science. Access world-leading researchers and facilities at UNSW.
The SciX@UNSW program is designed to support passionate high school students who are eager to delve into scientific research. This January join one of our research groups designed for HSC Extension Science, IB independent projects, or for those interested in a taste of a future career in research. The projects are overseen by our academic research staff and are delivered primarily by our graduate research students. Students will be introduced to cutting-edge research tools and methodologies and guided to extend their scientific skills.
The highlight and key component of the SciX@UNSW Program is a one-week intensive Summer School, held at the end of January at UNSW Sydney. You'll be supported to develop individual hypotheses, conduct data collection, and build your own analysis. All this before the summer holidays are over.
A limited number of fee waivers (either full or partial) is generally available depending on funding. Applications received from eligible students before 11:59 pm on Saturday 7th November will be assessed based on level of need, with preference given to students enrolled in Extension Science.
Registration closes at the end of term four. Project allocation is on a "first-come, first served" basis, and we confirm most project allocations in mid-November.

Find out more

Seriously Ready Year 12 Career Workshop, Sydney

Organisation: Unserious Careers
Location: Torrens University Australia, Sydney City Campus
Date: January 18, 2027
If you're unsure what to do after school, worried about making enough money or scared AI will ruin everything, this event is for you.
Over three hours, Alana Kilmartin, author and founder of Unserious Careers, will show you a career strategy for the first 12 months after school that's easy to apply and gets you ahead faster, without hating life.
Whether you're 100% locked in or have no idea what's next, this event has your back. Part workshop and part inspirational talk, Seriously Ready will offer you practical tips without being boring. Leave feeling less stressed and more excited about your future.
The content is suitable whether you're planning to go to uni or TAFE, enter the workforce, start a trade, take a gap year or follow another awesome path.
Find out more

UOW Year 12 Discovery Day 2027

Organisation: University of Wollongong
Location: University of Wollongong
Date: February 15 to February 19, 2027
Discovery Days is your opportunity to spend a day at UOW experiencing life as a university student. Across the week, more than 5,000 Year 12 students from schools across NSW will join us on campus to:
— Attend real university-style classes led by UOW academics.
— Explore study areas that interest you! From business to health, engineering to creative arts.
— Get a feel for campus life, including our world-class facilities, cafes, and student spaces.
— Chat with current UOW students and staff who can answer your questions about Early Admission, scholarships, accommodation, and more.
—Start planning your next steps towards university and your future career.
Whether you're certain about your path or still exploring, Discovery Days will help you see what's possible at UOW.
Year 12 Discovery Days 2027 will be held between **15-19 February 2027** at the Wollongong campus. Student registrations open at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 4 November 2026 and will remain open until 3:00 pm on Thursday, 11 February 2027.
Find out more

Scholarships

UOW Wollongong Chapter No. 59 Order of the Eastern Star Nursing Opportunity Scholarship

Organisation: University of Wollongong
Location: New South Wales
Value: AU$7,000 per year
Open Date: November 9, 2026
Close Date: March 14, 2027
Find out more

Competitions

Technovation Challenge 2027
Organisation: Technovation
Location: All
Value: Up to US$10,000 in seed funding
Close Date: March 11, 2027
Find out more

Flash 500 Fiction Competition
Organisation: Flash 500
Location: All
Value: £300
Close Date: December 31, 2026
Find out more

Rhiza Teen Author Development Prize
Organisation: Rhiza Press
Location: Australia
Value: Manuscript appraisal + mentorship + publishing contract
Close Date: December 31, 2026
Find out more

Experiences

mycar Tyre & Auto Work Experience Program Year 10+
Organisation: mycar Tyre & Auto
Location: Australia
Find out more

Future Doctors Australia Program
Organisation: National Institute of Education
Location: Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney & Perth
Find out more

UOW Year 12 Future Me Program 2027
Organisation: University of Wollongong
Location: Across New South Wales and Online
Date: March 8, 2027
Find out more

Weekly Posts

SHORT COURSES & MICROCREDENTIALS

17 cool courses to explore
Learning something new is never wasted, and it doesn't have to mean signing up for a full degree. A short online course could help you test out an interest, pick up a skill for your resume, or simply use your spare time well.
Here are 17 courses across music, business, science, health and more. Some let you start for free and others charge a fee, so check each course page for the latest costs.

Courses for creative thinkers

1.Creative Problem Solving – This University of Minnesota course on Coursera focuses on coming up with lots of ideas to solve one problem (aka divergent thinking). Some tasks ask you to break your normal routine, then reflect on how it felt.

2.Ignite Your Everyday Creativity – Offered by the State University of New York, this course looks at what creativity is and how to build it. Based on three principles: b aware, b inspired, and b creative. One early task asks you to picture a tree, then picture it again from a bird's view or an ant's. It's a simple way to practise seeing things differently.

3.The Music Marketing Master Class Bundle – Want to get your band or your own music heard? This set of seven courses (22 hours of learning) from music producer Tomas George covers promoting music on social media, selling online, getting songs onto streaming services, and the basics of music theory and production.

Courses for future workers and business owners

4.Entrepreneurship Fundamentals 4-Week Course – Got a business idea? This free 4-week course walks you through writing a business plan, creating a logo, planning your marketing, and building a simple website.

5.The Science of Leadership – This three-hour course explains how our brains, past experiences, and surroundings shape the way we lead and work with others. It was written with managers in mind, but the ideas work just as well for captaining a sports team or running a group project.

6.Remote Work Revolution for Everyone – In this Harvard course, you'll learn how to build trust with people you rarely meet face to face and how to choose the right digital tools to get a job done. It takes about three weeks at two to three hours a week, and you can audit it for free.

7.The Emotional Intelligence & Decision-Making Bundle – Employers often look for people who can stay calm, deal with change, handle conflict, and work well in a team. These ten short courses cover self-awareness, managing stress, resolving disagreements, and making good decisions.

8.The Art of the Job Interview – Getting ready for your first interview? This Coursera course covers how to prepare, what to do with your body language, and how to read a job ad so you'll head into an interview knowing what the employer really wants.

Courses to help you study smarter

9.Learning How to Learn for Youth – Made for young learners, this course explains why we put things off and how to stop. It also shows how sleep and exercise help your memory, and how active learning beats simply rereading your notes.

10. Neuroplasticity: How to Rewire Your Brain – Your brain keeps changing as you learn. This Udemy course uses neuroscience research to show how you can build better habits, become more flexible in how you think, and tackle procrastination.

11. Medical Terminology for Beginners – Thinking about medicine, nursing, or another health career? Perhaps you just love human biology and want to keep studying it while keeping your options open. These eight short videos teach you the words used for body systems such as the lungs, bones, muscles and nerves. Learning the language early means you can focus on the ideas later.

Courses for the curious

12. Comic Books, Geek Culture, and the Fandom Imaginary – Into comics, sci-fi or fantasy? This University of Colorado Boulder course on Coursera looks at the history of comics and fandom, how superheroes reflect questions of identity, and what happens when fans turn on each other. A final project helps you find and connect with fellow fans online.

13. Astronomy: Exploring Time and Space – Taught by Professor Chris Impey from the University of Arizona, this course takes you from our solar system out to distant galaxies and black holes. It also explores the search for life beyond Earth.

14. Feng Shui The Easiest Way – Interested in interior design? This Udemy course takes you room by room through a home, including a teenager's bedroom, showing how to arrange furniture and objects using feng shui ideas.

Courses to keep you active

15. Stanford Introduction to Food and Health – This short Stanford course covers what nutrients do in the body, how to read food labels, and how to put together a balanced meal. It finishes with a cooking workshop, so you can practise in your own kitchen.

16.STEEZY Studio – Learn to dance at home with online classes in more than ten styles, including hip hop, K-pop, breaking and ballet. There's a seven-day free trial, then it's a paid subscription.

17. The Complete Guide to Puppy & Dog Training Bundle – Taught by dog behaviour expert Sharon Bolt, these eight courses cover puppy training, walking on a lead and even running a dog training business. Perfect if you've got a new family pet or if you are considering a future working with dogs. If you're aiming for a career with animals, remember to check what formal qualifications you'll need where you live, as this bundle doesn't include one.

Before you sign up

Before you commit time or money, ask yourself:

- Have you talked it through with a parent or carer?
- Do the start and end dates fit around school, work, and holidays?
- Is the time it takes realistic for you right now?
- How long will you have access to the course?
- Do you have the internet access and device you'll need?
- What does it cost, and is the certificate free or extra?

It's also worth knowing that most short course certificates aren't formal qualifications, but they still show employers you're curious and willing to learn, which counts for a lot.

Find your next course

Once you've finished a course, add it to your resume or portfolio. It's proof that you're committed to continuous learning and that you can set a goal and see it through. Explore our Short Courses & Microcredentials page for more ways to keep learning.

JOB SPOTLIGHTS

How to become a Catering Manager

Catering Managers plan and oversee food service for events, functions, and venues, managing everything from menus and budgets to staff and logistics on the day. They work with clients ranging from weddings and corporate functions to schools, hospitals, and mine sites, making sure large numbers of people are fed well, safely, and on time.

If you're organised, enjoy working with people, and like making sure every detail comes together, this career could be a great fit for you.

What skills do I need as a Catering Manager?

- Highly organised
- Confident communicator
- Calm under pressure
- Budget management skills
- Strong problem-solver
- Client-focused mindset

- Reliable & dependable
- Team leadership skills

What do Catering Managers do?
Before an event, you're meeting with clients to understand what they need, negotiating menus and prices, and planning the logistics of the day, including staffing, equipment, and delivery timing. You'll place orders with suppliers and confirm final numbers, making sure everything is organised well ahead of time so there are no surprises later, and that the client knows exactly what to expect.
On the day itself, you're briefing kitchen and service staff, overseeing food preparation and delivery, and managing the timing of service so everything runs smoothly. You're the main point of contact for the client, so when something changes at the last minute, whether it's guest numbers, dietary requirements, or a delivery running late, you're the one adjusting the plan and keeping things on track without the client noticing the scramble.
Beyond individual events, you'll manage budgets, reconcile costs, and maintain relationships with suppliers and venues you work with regularly. Food safety and compliance are an ongoing responsibility too. Many Catering Managers specialise in a particular type of event or client, such as weddings, corporate functions, or institutional catering.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?
Catering Managers work across catering companies, function centres, corporate venues, and institutions such as schools, hospitals, and aged care facilities. Some work for businesses that cater a wide variety of events, while others specialise in a particular setting, like corporate catering or remote site catering for industries such as mining. The work setting shifts depending on the event, from commercial kitchens to venues, marquees, and outdoor functions, so no two days look quite the same.
Your schedule tends to follow the event calendar rather than a typical working week, since weddings, functions, and corporate events often happen in the evenings or on weekends. This can mean long days that start with early preparation and finish well after service ends, particularly during busy periods like wedding season or the lead-up to major holidays, when several events might overlap and stretch your planning skills.
The role combines desk-based planning with hands-on event-day work, which can mean long periods on your feet, moving equipment, and staying alert through a demanding service. Travel between venues and client sites is common, and a driver's licence is often useful. Salaries tend to be around average to start, improving as you take on larger events or more senior roles, and demand remains steady since institutions and events will always need catering.

How to become a Catering Manager
- **Gain early hospitality experience**: Take on part-time or casual work in hospitality, such as kitchen or service roles, to build a foundation of practical experience in how food service actually runs on the ground, from prep to service to pack-down.
- **Study a hospitality or events qualification**: Complete a certificate or diploma in hospitality, event management, or a related field, which can often be studied alongside paid work experience in the industry rather than full-time.
- **Move into supervisory roles**: Progress into coordinator or supervisor positions within catering or hospitality businesses, where you'll start managing staff, budgets, and logistics on a smaller scale before taking on bigger, more complex events.

- **Develop specialist knowledge**: Build expertise in areas like budgeting, client relations, and food safety compliance, and consider specialising in a particular type of event or client to strengthen your reputation and referrals in the industry.

From here, you could move into senior catering, hospitality, or event management roles, take on larger and more complex events, or eventually start your own catering business.

What can I do right now?

If you're in high school and interested in working as a Catering Manager, here are some practical steps:

- Look for part-time or casual work in hospitality, such as at a café, restaurant, or catering business, to build practical food service experience.
- Help organise a school event, such as a formal or fundraiser, to practise budgeting, planning, and coordinating with others.
- Volunteer to help with catering at a community event or fundraiser to see how planning translates into a smooth day of service.

Find out more about alternative careers on our Job Spotlights page.

JOBS & CAREERS, RESILIENCE, WORKPLACE SAFETY

Seven high-risk jobs for thrill seekers

Some people panic or freeze when things go wrong. Others go quiet, focus, and get the job done. If you're the second type, and you also love a bit of adrenalin, there's a whole group of jobs that most people would never dream of doing.

These jobs are risky, but they're not reckless. The people who do them train for years, follow strict safety rules, and check their gear again and again. The thrill comes from doing something difficult, carefully, in a place where any mistakes could have high costs. If you've got nerves of steel and can focus in any situation, here are seven high-risk jobs worth knowing about.

Live line insulator washer

Big power lines are held up by insulators, the stacks of glass or ceramic discs you can see hanging from tall towers. Over time, they get coated in dust, salt and bird droppings. That grime can cause power faults, so someone has to clean it off.

Live line washers do this while the electricity is still flowing. Some spray from a raised platform, while others work from a helicopter hovering right next to the line. Because the power stays on, homes and businesses don't lose their electricity.

This is a niche role, usually done by specialist crews working for power companies or helicopter firms. Most people start as an electrical lineworker through an apprenticeship, then complete extra training in live line work.

Saturation diver

Saturation divers repair and build things deep under the sea, like pipelines and offshore structures. Instead of coming back to the surface after each dive, they live in a sealed pressure chamber on a ship for weeks at a time. A diving bell takes them down to the seabed and back.

It's one of the hardest diving jobs to get. You first train as a commercial diver, then build years of experience before you can do closed bell training.

Wind turbine technician

Wind turbine technicians climb turbines to inspect and repair them, often working in tight spaces, high winds, and cold weather.

This one isn't rare. In the US, it's one of the fastest-growing jobs, with employment expected to grow

by nearly 30% between 2025 and 2035. Most technicians need Global Wind Organisation (GWO) Basic Safety Training, which covers first aid, working at heights, fire awareness and manual handling. Many start with a course or apprenticeship in electrical or mechanical work.

Smokejumper
Smokejumpers are firefighters who parachute into remote forests to stop small fires before they grow. They can be out in the wild for up to two weeks, so they need to be very self-reliant.
This is a rare job. In the US, there are only a few hundred smokejumpers, and you can't start as one. You need to work as a wildland firefighter first. Surprisingly, almost no new recruits have jumped out of a plane before they start training.
Not every country uses smokejumpers, but places with big bushfire or wildfire seasons usually have specialist crews for hard-to-reach fires. Here in Australia firefighters rappel in from helicopters instead, different aircraft but the same role.

Rope access technician
Rope access technicians use ropes and harnesses to reach places that ladders and cranes can't. Think the outside of skyscrapers, wind turbines, bridges, dams, and offshore oil platforms. They might inspect, build, repair, clean, or paint.
This job is more common than you might expect, and it's a good way into height work. Under the global IRATA system, you start at Level 1. You then need at least a year and 1,000 logged hours of work before moving up a level. Many technicians also have a trade, like welding or painting, which makes them more useful on the job.

Bomb disposal technician
Bomb disposal technicians find explosives, make them safe, then destroy them. In many countries, the main way in is through the armed forces.
In the British Army, for example, Ammunition Technicians learn to inspect, store and destroy ammunition and use bomb disposal robots. With experience, they can move up to become bomb disposal operators. Selection is tough, and attention to detail is everything.

Helicopter rescue crew
Helicopter rescue crews are lowered on a winch to reach people stuck on cliffs, at sea, or in the mountains. A crew might include a pilot, a winch operator, a rescue crew member and a paramedic. These roles are competitive, and most people move into them after years of experience as a paramedic, in the military, or in emergency services. It's a career goal to work towards, not usually a first job.

How to start preparing in high school
You don't need to be fearless to get into these jobs (although that won't hurt). You will need to be fit, careful, and calm under pressure.
Get fit, and stay fit. Almost every job on this list has a fitness test. Swimming, running, climbing and team sports all help.
Choose useful subjects. Maths and physics will help you understand electricity, pressure, and forces. Hands-on subjects like engineering or electrotechnology could also give you a head start.
Practise staying calm under pressure. Join things like surf life saving, cadets, scouts, or a rock climbing club with qualified instructors. These are safe places to build skills, network, and most importantly learn how you react when things get tricky.
Do a first aid course. It's a requirement for many high-risk jobs, and it's a skill you can get while you're still at school. Remember to get a USI (or the equivalent in your country) so you can keep track of all of your qualifications.

Learn to love checklists. The best people in dangerous jobs aren't the boldest. They're the ones who meticulously check their gear and the conditions every single time, even when they've done it a thousand times before.
Talk to someone who does the job. Ask what a normal day looks like, and what they wish they'd known at your age.

Ready to find your path?
High-risk jobs aren't for everyone, but if you can keep a cool head when your heart is racing, they could be a great fit. Many of them start with hands-on training, so a trade or technical course is often the first step.
Ready to take it further? Explore our website to explore other careers or see how you could start learning on the job.

COMPETITIONS, JOBS & CAREERS

Exploring a career in sales and business development

Businesses need sales, so every business needs customers. From the bakery on your high street to a global tech company, someone has to find those customers, understand what they need and keep them coming back. That's the job of people in sales and business development. If you enjoy talking to people, solving problems and working towards clear goals, this could be a path worth exploring. The good news is that there's more than one way in, and you can start building useful skills while you're still at school.

Sales and business development: what's the difference?
Sales is about helping a customer choose something that meets their needs. A good salesperson listens, asks questions and suggests the right product or service. It's less about pushing and more about matching.
Business development looks further ahead. Instead of focusing on one sale, it's about finding new ways for a company to grow. That could mean teaming up with another business, moving into a new location, or finding ways to reach a different type of customer.
In a retail shop for example, the sales team helps the people who walk through the door today. The business development team works out where the next shop should open, who might shop there, and what they'll need to stock.

Who this path could suit
This path suits people who are outgoing, curious, and self-motivated. If you're part of the Linker Cluster, it could be a strong match. Linkers help people find and use the products and services they need, and they're skilled at building relationships.
People in the Coordinator Cluster may also enjoy it, especially business development. If you like planning, setting goals and managing clients, you'll find plenty to keep you busy.

Starting while you're at school
You don't need a qualification to begin learning about sales. Work experience or a part-time job in retail, hospitality, tourism, or customer service teaches you the basics. You'll learn how to read what a customer wants, explain products or services clearly, and stay calm even when someone is unhappy.
School activities count as well. Here are a few ideas:

- Help run a fundraising stall or school event.
- Enter a business or enterprise competition.

- Sell something you've made at a local market or online (with a parent or carer's help if necessary).
- Join a debating club to practise speaking with confidence.
- Volunteer to work one a market stall or in a charity shop.

Each one of these examples builds skills and gives you real stories to share in a job application later.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

If you'd like to earn money while you learn, an apprenticeship or traineeship could be a great fit. You'd be working in a real business and complete training alongside your job (and school if you're doing an SBAT).

What's on offer depends on where you live. In Australia, for example, you can do a traineeship in the Certificate III in Business to Business Sales. This course focuses on selling to other businesses and building strong working relationships with them. Depending on the employer and training provider, it usually takes between 18 months and two years. People with this qualification often work as sales representatives, customer service officers or business-to-business sales officers.

Many Australian employers also offer sales traineeships through the Certificate III in Business or Certificate III in Retail which could lead into roles in sales and business development.

Other countries offer business or sales traineeships too, so it's worth checking what's available near you.

Vocational courses and short courses

After school, a vocational course like the ones mentioned above, in business, sales, or marketing could give you practical, job-ready skills. These courses often cover negotiation, customer service, and how to plan a sales campaign.

Short courses and microcredentials are another option. You can find bite-sized training in areas like digital marketing, negotiation and customer relationship management (CRM) software. Some software companies even offer free online training in their own tools. Adding one of these to your CV shows employers you're keen to learn.

University degrees

If you want a broader understanding of how businesses work, a university degree is a strong choice. Popular options include a Bachelor of Business, a Bachelor of Commerce, or a marketing degree. You'll study topics like consumer behaviour, market research, and branding. Many degrees include work placements, which let you test your skills in a real workplace and start building contacts. Joining a business club or entering a pitch competition while you study could also give you a head start.

Entry-level roles to look out for

Job titles in sales and business development can be confusing, so here are some common starting points:

- Sales development representative **(SDR):** finds and contacts potential customers, then passes them on to the wider sales team.
- Account executive**:** guides customers through the buying process and closes the sale.
- Customer success manager**:** helps existing customers get the most out of what they've bought, so they stay happy and loyal.
- Business development representative **(BDR):** researches new markets and reaches out to businesses that could become future clients or partners.
- **Business development coordinator:** supports the business development team by preparing proposals, organising meetings and keeping track of new opportunities.
- **Partnerships coordinator:** supports the team that builds relationships with other businesses.

Many people start in one of these roles and work their way up, into more senior or management positions.

How technology is changing sales
Technology now plays a big part in sales. CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software helps teams keep track of customer histories down to to every conversation. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools can sort data, suggest who to contact next and help draft emails.
This doesn't mean people are being replaced. Customers still want to deal with someone they trust. The people who do best will be those who combine strong human skills with confidence using digital tools. So working on digital literacy, data analysis, and persuasive communication in high school could all help.

Moving into leadership
What could a future in sales and business development look like? Well, with experience, you could move into senior roles such as Business Development Manager, Sales Director, or Chief Revenue Officer. Some people take a postgraduate course, like a Master of Business Administration (MBA). Others build their skills through short courses in leadership and strategy. Both paths can work, what's most important is a track record of building relationships and helping a business grow. You could also decide to go ahead and set up your own business, and the skills you've gained are transferrable in lots of industries and other roles, so you'll have a bunch of options to consider.

Ready to take your first step?
Sales and business development careers are built on people skills, and you can start practising those today. A part-time job, a school fundraiser, or an entrepreneurship competition or workshop could be your first step. From there, you can choose the route that suits you best, whether that's an apprenticeship, a course, or a degree.
Want to discover more careers that match your strengths? Explore our Jobs & Careers blogs for more ideas and inspiration.

JOBS & CAREERS, WORKPLACE SAFETY

What is a Working With Children Check?
A Working With Children Check (WWCC) is a screening process that determines whether someone is suitable to work or volunteer with children. It involves checking your criminal history and any relevant findings from child protection services to assess whether you pose a risk to children's safety. If you're planning to work in education, childcare, coaching, or many other roles involving children, you'll need one.

Who needs a Working With Children Check?
You need a WWCC if you're working or volunteering in child-related work. This includes obvious roles like teachers, childcare workers, school cleaners, and sports coaches, but it also covers less obvious positions like school bus drivers, private tutors, or anyone who has regular, direct contact with children as part of their work.
The specific requirements vary between states and territories – each has its own WWCC system with slightly different rules about who needs one and what types of work are covered. What's consistent across Australia is that if your work involves regular contact with children under 18, you'll probably need a check.
Volunteers who work with children also need a WWCC in most states, though some states offer free checks for volunteers while charging for employees. This means if you're volunteering at a school canteen, coaching junior sports, or helping with scouts, you'll need to go through the same screening

process as paid employees.

How do you get one?
The application process differs in each state and territory, but generally involves completing an online application, providing identification, declaring any criminal history, and paying a fee (unless you're a volunteer in a state that offers free checks for volunteers).
Here's where to apply in each state and territory:

- Working With Children Check NSW – costs $112 for employees, free for volunteers, you'll need to be 18+ to get one
- Working With Children Check Victoria – costs $139.20 for employees, free for volunteers, minimum age 18
- Blue Card Queensland – $108.30 for paid work or business, free for students and volunteers - employers may pay on behalf of employees. You'll need to be 18 to apply
- Department for Child Protection SA – costs $145 for employees, $73.50 for tertiary students, free for volunteers - you must be over 13 to get one
- Working With Children Check WA – costs $87 for employees, $11 for volunteers or students on unpaid placements, you'll need to be 18 to apply
- Registration to Work With Vulnerable People Tasmania – costs $137.20 for employees, free for volunteers, you'll need to be 16 to apply
- Ochre Card NT – costs $89 for employees, or $8 for volunteers, they're issued from age 15 and over
- Working With Vulnerable People ACT – costs $163 for employees, free for volunteers, you'll need to be over 16
- Children's Worker Safety Check NZ - costs NZ$392.90 for a new card if you're accredited, NZ$348.26 if you're not accredited (renewal fees are lower). Volunteers, private domestic workers (such as privately hired babysitters or nannies), and family or disability caregivers funded directly for specific family care are generally exempt
- DBS Check in England, Wales, the Channels Islands and the Isle of Man, you'll need to be at least 16 and costs £20-41 to apply, but free for volunteers. PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) is required from Disclosure in Scotland, they cost from £25, and apply from age 16. Access NI check (Northern Ireland) are from £16 and you'll need to be 16+. If you're a volunteer you might be able to apply for free.
- In the Republic of Ireland you'll need Garda Vetting through an employer if you're over 16, typically free some groups might charge €10-20 in admin fees.

Elsewhere in the world you'll need to check the requirements and apply through the relevant body.

What does the check involve?
When you apply for a WWCC, the relevant authority will check your national criminal history and may also check child protection records. They're looking for offences or findings that suggest you might pose a risk to children, such as violent crimes, sexual offences, drug offences, or child protection concerns.
Having a criminal record doesn't automatically mean you'll be refused a WWCC. The authority considers what the offences were, how long ago they occurred, how old you were at the time, and whether they're relevant to working with children. Minor offences from years ago might not prevent you from getting a clearance, while serious offences against children almost certainly will.
You'll need to declare any criminal history when you apply, including charges that are pending, spent convictions in some cases, and any findings from child protection services. Being dishonest on your application is a serious offence and will likely result in an automatic refusal.

How long does it take?

Processing times vary depending on your criminal history and where you are applying. If you have no criminal history, your application might be processed within a few days or weeks. If you have a criminal record that needs to be assessed, it could take several months.
Because of these potential delays, apply for your WWCC well before you need it. If you're starting a teaching degree and know you'll need a WWCC for placement in a year's time, start the process early rather than leaving it until the last minute.
Some states offer provisional checks that allow you to start work while your full application is being processed, but this varies by state and workplace. Check with your employer about whether this is an option if you're facing delays.

How long is it valid?
Again this is dependent on where you live and apply. Generally, WWCCs are valid from two to five years, after which you'll need to apply for renewal. Some states have ongoing monitoring, meaning if you're charged with a relevant offence during the validity period, your clearance can be reassessed or cancelled.
You need to notify the relevant authority if you're charged with a serious offence while you hold a WWCC. Failing to do this is an offence itself and can result in your clearance being cancelled and potentially criminal charges.

Can you work while waiting for your check?
This depends on the state and the specific work you're doing. Some states allow you to begin work under supervision while your check is being processed, while others require you to have your clearance before you start. Your employer should be able to tell you what's permitted in your situation.
If you're doing volunteer work or unpaid placement as part of your studies, you definitely need your WWCC before you begin in most states. Universities and TAFEs are strict about this because they can be held liable if an uncleared student harms a child during placement.

What if your application is refused?
If your WWCC application is refused, you'll receive a letter explaining the reasons. You have the right to appeal this decision through the relevant tribunal or court in your state. The appeals process allows you to provide additional information or context about your circumstances that might not have been clear in your initial application.
A refusal doesn't necessarily mean you can never work with children, but it does mean you can't do so unless your appeal is successful or your circumstances change significantly (for example, after many years have passed since the relevant offences).

Working across state borders
Unfortunately, WWCCs aren't nationally recognised – each state and territory has its own system. If you work with children in multiple states, you'll generally need a WWCC from each state, though some states have reciprocal recognition arrangements for certain types of work.
Check with each state's WWCC authority if you'll be working across borders. In some cases, holding a valid check from one state might fast-track your application in another, but you'll still need to apply separately.
For teachers specifically, some states recognise interstate WWCCs as part of the teacher registration process, but you should confirm this with the relevant state teaching authority rather than assuming it will be accepted.

Where to find more information
If you're unsure if you need a working with children check, ask the relevant authority where you live.

They'll be able to answer your questions and direct you to the next steps. Job adverts usually indicate if they require you to have a WWCC, and employers might be able to help you with applications by covering the costs.
It pays to keep up to date with relevant news and information as well. For example in Australia in August 2026 the 'Banned in one, banned in all' legislation came into place. Meaning if your application is rejected in one jurisdiction you won't be able to apply in any other state or territory. If you want to find out more about WWCC reforms, this website is useful, or you can head to the ACIC page to read about the requirements.
For more general advice about work and careers that might require a WWCC, head over to our Jobs and Careers page to start exploring.

JOBS & CAREERS

Kick off a career in sports journalism

Do you listen to the sports roundups before breakfast? Can you talk about last weekend's game for longer than it actually lasted? Sports journalism could be a brilliant way to turn your interest into a career. We all know about the reporters holding the microphone at full time or the experts providing commentary behind a desk, but it's a field with far more jobs to explore.
Behind every live broadcast, podcast, and match report, is a team of writers, producers, researchers, and editors. In this blog, we'll look at the main roles, how people get into them, and what you can start doing while you're still at school.

The roles behind the coverage
Sports journalism is really a team of jobs working together. Reporters and writers go to matches, training sessions, and press conferences. They turn what they see and hear into exciting but accurate news stories, match reports, interviews, and longer features. In depth knowledge of sports, players, and coaches is important, and they need to be able to come up with impactful assessments with speed and accuracy.
Commentators are the voices providing play-by-play descriptions and deep tactical analysis while the game happens live. They might work for TV, radio, or streaming services. They need to know the sport, players, and coaches, inside out and able to communicate clearly (even when the game gets chaotic). They might work from broadcast booths or live at sports venues. Australia's Gerard Whateley is one famous commentator who started out at 18 as a journalism cadet at Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper, covering police, courts, and state politics, then movie writer, and editor of HIT magazine, before moving into sport.
Presenters host programs and hold the coverage together. Often working from a TV or radio studio, they link to reporters and interview guests, guiding panel discussions with sporting professionals. UK presenter Gabby Logan studied law at Durham University and began on local radio in Newcastle before joining Sky Sports in 1996. In 2025, she became one of the new presenters of the BBC's Match of the Day.
Producers work behind the camera or microphone. They're the bridge between the reporters, writers, commentators, and presenters and the technical production team. They plan what content goes into a show, are responsible for booking guests, choosing clips, and keeping everything running to time. You rarely see them, but very little reaches your screen without them.
Photographers and camera operators capture and share the moments people remember, while researchers and statisticians dig up the facts and figures that commentators and writers rely on; and digital and social media producers are the teams behind creating clips, graphics, live blogs, and short videos.
Some people come to the media after playing sport. New Zealand's Jenny-May Clarkson played

netball for the Silver Ferns, then joined TVNZ in 2005 as a netball commentator. She went on to work as a reporter, newsreader and Breakfast co-host. Here in Australia Giaan Rooney who won an Olympic gold medal (and many others) for swimming now works as a sports presenter and commentator. You don't need to be an elite athlete, but deep knowledge of a sport is what counts.

Getting into sports journalism

There are lots of different ways into a career in sports journalism. You could head to university and study journalism, sports journalism, media, or communications. For example Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Sports Media, or in the UK, the University of Sunderland's sports journalism degree - which includes assignments such as reporting from the press box at Wembley Stadium. Remember that a different subject can work too, Gabby Logan studied law.

Other qualifications can work too. In the UK, employers look for qualifications like the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism. You can earn it through some degrees, short intensive courses or apprenticeships. In New Zealand, the New Zealand Diploma in Journalism (Level 5) is a one-year course at Wintec in Hamilton. From 2026, students can apply for paid internships with media companies including NZME, RNZ and Stuff as part of it.

Apprenticeships, traineeships, internships, and cadetships are other possible routes in that also let you earn while you learn, often straight from school. BBC Sport has offered a Level 5 journalism apprenticeship aimed at people without a degree, where apprentices work towards the NCTJ diploma on the job. In Australia, cadetships at newspapers and broadcasters have launched many careers, including Gerard Whateley's at the Herald Sun.

Like Gerard, plenty of sports journalists began in general news. It teaches you to find a story and check facts, skills that move easily into sport.

Opportunities around the world

Sport is followed everywhere, so the skills you build can take you a long way from home. International broadcasters, streaming services, global news agencies, and sports websites all need journalists - as well as the people behind the scenes and on camera to fill all the other roles. Many clubs and leagues also run their own media teams.

Olympic Broadcasting Services runs a Broadcast Training Programme for students in each host country. Since it began in 1984, it has trained more than 14,000 students, who learn from professionals and can be selected to work at the Games. Keep an eye on future host cities, including Los Angeles in 2028 and Brisbane in 2032, as these programs are usually open to students studying locally.

What you can do now

You don't have to wait until you leave school to start. Editors and producers love to see proof that you've already been doing the work.

- **Write regularly.** Volunteer to report on your school team or a local club's matches. Keep it short, accurate, and stick to deadlines.
- **Get involved at school.** Join or start a school newspaper, newsletter, podcast, or radio show.
- **Build a portfolio.** Save your best pieces in one place, like a simple blog. Check with a parent or teacher before posting anything publicly.
- **Ask for work experience.** Local newspapers, radio stations, and sports clubs' media teams are all great places to start.
- **Volunteer at events.** From school sports days and community tournaments, you'll find out how live sport is run.
- **Study the experts.** Read, watch, and listen to different journalists, sports coverage, and sports programs. Notice how they open a story or ask a question, see who's style you like best, and what catches your attention.

- **Make connections.** Networking is really important and could open doors, so go to sports and careers events and talk to people in the industry. Ask what their job is really like and ask for any opportunities going (politely).

Ready to start your story?
The ABC Sports Academy have a bunch of free resources that showcase some of the careers in sports journalism, it's a great place to explore before taking your next steps. Remember, sports journalism has room for writers, talkers, planners and number lovers, and there are plenty of ways in. The best first step is the same for everyone; start creating and get some real experience.
Looking for a place to begin? Explore work experience opportunities and take your first step into the industry today.

Created by Study Work Grow in 2026
Web: studyworkgrow.com
Email: schools@studyworkgrow.com
Phone: +61 7 4039 3862

This newsletter and its contents are copyright © 2026 Study Work Grow. Member Schools have a limited, non-exclusive licence to use and adapt the content for their school community, in internal and public-facing communications, including newsletters, social media, websites, virtual notice boards, and printed materials. Attribution is not required; however, redistribution to external parties, non-member schools, or use outside the intended school community is not permitted without prior written consent from Study Work Grow. By using this content, schools agree to these terms of use.