



'Motivate your mate'

Justice and Solidarity

Careers Newsletter

27 October 2021

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 Mr Madani please email jmadani@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au

JobJump - Parents and students please watch YouTube video and sign up

Sign up to JobJump for information about tertiary study options, ATAR's and apprenticeship and TAFE information. Create a resume, sign up for news alerts.

To register go to <https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

Search school – St Pius X Chatswood

Register with an email address (use a private address, not spx)

Password – pius (lower case)

Parent information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZoyckJwVg&feature=youtu.be>

ADF | ADFA Virtual Information Session

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Online

Would you like the opportunity to undertake military training while earning a degree? All without debt – in fact, we'll pay you!

Head to the upcoming info session to speak with current serving military personnel and learn more about the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Find out more: <https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events/events-detail/tywd1r7>

SCCE | Exchange Webinar

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 6:00 pm

Online

At SCCE, we understand that there is a lot to consider when going on exchange, which is why we are happy to offer these regular online information webinars to teach you all about your student exchange options. Our online sessions go for approximately 30 minutes. They will guide you through everything from you need to know about our programs. There is also time at the end of the presentation to ask questions, providing a wonderful opportunity to interact with both our staff and other future exchange students.

Find out more: <https://www.thisisscce.com/learn-more/exchange-webinars/>

ADF | Defence Careers Virtual Information Session

Thursday 28 October 2021, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Online

Consider a career like no other and represent Australia with pride in the Navy, Army or Air Force.

Tune in for a virtual info session to speak with current serving members and ask your questions – is a career in the Australian Defence Force for you?

Find out more: <https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events/events-detail/yuzd9iy>

AIE | Film Careers Day, Sydney

Saturday 30 October 2021, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Ultimo

Discover the courses in Filmmaking and Virtual Production at AIE's Film Career Day on Saturday 30 October 2021. AIE will be opening their doors to future filmmakers eager to find out about courses in 2022.

This event will include presentations on career pathways, curriculum, equipment and entry requirements. AIE teachers will be available to speak with you one on one about our courses and how we can help you get your filmmaking career started.

AIE's Media and Production Film School (MAPS) is leveraging over 35 years' experience and production of 1,500 films. We can teach you the skills to so you can create and tell film and TV stories set in the real-world as well as fantastic new universes with spectacular imagery.

Find out more: https://aie.edu.au/aie_event/film-careers-day/

iCanMed | How to Double Your Chances of UCAT Success by Starting in October / November

Sunday 31 October 2021, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Online

In this webinar, Ray, iCanMed's education advisor, will share with you the difference that starting now could make for you (compared to the summer break) with reference to the following points:

- All the advantages of starting UCAT preparation 8 – 9 months before the test date (NB: UCAT is sat in July every year)
- The most proven ways to solve UCAT questions and how to get your techniques under your belt
- A perfect prep plan to get you up to scratch in terms of timeline and workload distribution
- An up-to-date mini mock test containing UCAT questions based on the 2021 exam
- Comprehensive teaching to help you learn how to solve questions correctly and prepare for the UCAT intelligently

Find out more: <https://www.bigmarker.com/icanmed/double-your-chances-2>

University of Sydney | Dissecting science panel

Wednesday 3 November 2021, 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Online

There's more than one path or career that you can pursue in science. Join us to learn which degree would work best for you and what requirements are needed. You will be able to ask questions to our panel of academics and staff.

Find out more: https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rcvgkoTNQDeAuvAo4Aa0wA

University of Sydney | Discover why the Bachelor of Commerce at Sydney should be your first UAC preference

Wednesday 3 November 2021, 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Online

Learn how to take advantage of our hands-on internship placement opportunities and tailor your degree from over 100 study areas, including marketing, banking, finance, innovation, entrepreneurship, business and analytics. Join this session to learn how a commerce degree at Sydney will equip you with the analytical, practical and leadership skills along with a global mindset to launch your career in any field, anywhere in the world.

Find out more: https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAu9f1uLQKKpGBh3TPN6w

Outdoors NSW & ACT | Careers in the Outdoors Webinar

Thursday 4 November 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Online

Join Outdoors NSW & ACT for an informative session about Careers in the Outdoors and the job opportunities available in this field. Students and parents welcome.

Find out more: <https://www.outdoorsnswact.org/work-in-the-outdoors>

Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship 2022 Information Session

Tuesday 9 November 2021, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Online

There are 35 undergraduate scholarships up for grabs in 2022.

If you're successful, you'll receive \$5,000 over three years as well as stack of opportunities through the Westpac 100 Scholars Network, like mentoring, internships and a trip to Singapore (pending no travel restrictions).

Your teacher thinks you've got what it takes, what are you waiting for!

In this session we will:

- Tell you a little more about the scholarship,
- Run through some FAQs,
- Give you some application tips,
- Provide you with an example application letter.

Find out more: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/westpac-young-technologists-scholarship-2022-information-session-tickets-185406906047>

University of Sydney | Careers in UX and interaction design

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Online

Hear from current students and graduates about their experiences with the interaction design industry. They will share their plan for their path forward further into their careers, their design practice and their view of the industry's role in our modern world.

Find out more: https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bj7Y9cW7QWOWczV_yclWHg

UTS | Parents 1-1 consultations

Tuesday 23 November 2021, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Tuesday 14 December 2021, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Online

Join us for a consultation and get your uni questions answered. Find out about our admissions process, course and career information and support services.

This session is a live chat for parents of future undergraduate students interested in studying at UTS. Current students will be online and ready to answer any of your questions, including those related to:

- course content
- admission requirements
- student life
- and more!

Find out more: <https://www.uts.edu.au/study/undergraduate/our-courses/find-right-course/events-and-info-sessions/parents-1-1-consultations-register-your-interest>

ACU | Blacktown Campus Information Day

Saturday 4 December 2021, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Australian Catholic University, Blacktown Campus

Come along to ACU's Blacktown Information Day to check out the newest campus and learn more about our courses, admission pathways and everything ACU Blacktown has to offer.

Register for your 45-minute session time to:

- chat with ACU staff and current students
- tour facilities
- learn about careers and work experience during your course
- hear helpful tips on preparing for university.

Find out more: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2021/december/blacktown-campus-information-day>

WSU | Discover Western: The Western Experience

Tuesday 7 December 2021, 4:00 pm

Online

We all need a little help sometimes. Access to the right support while at University is essential to completing your degree. Creating a network of friends and staff will help you to enjoy your life at university and after. It's not only about getting a degree, its the experience and people you meet along the way! Hear from current students and discover why over 47,500 students choose to study at Western

Find out more: <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/western-webinars>

NIE | Simulated UCAT Day Workshop, Online

Sunday 19 December 2021, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Online

If you are in Yrs. 10, 11, 12, or you may be older and considering sitting the UCAT in the future, then this program is for you. The Simulated UCAT Workshop program is ideal and often a necessary step towards effective and efficient preparation for the UCAT.

This event will be conducted by the National Institute of Education in partnership in partnership with UCAT Preparation Australia, and MICAS (Medical Interviews and Career Advice Services).

The workshop is primarily designed to cover fundamental techniques in navigating all five sections of the UCAT test and also for participants to gain a better understanding of their own level of preparedness for the test.

Find out more: <https://www.nie.edu.au/ucacourses/simulated-ucac-day-workshop>

UOW Dr Krish & S Reddy Indigenous Medicine Scholarship (Pre-Medicine)

Value: \$10,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: August 4, 2021 – January 28, 2022

Dr Krish & S Reddy Indigenous Medicine Scholarship 2021 (Pre-Medicine) has been established with the aim of producing more Indigenous Doctors in our country, and the ultimate goal of improving Aboriginal health outcomes in the longer term.

[Find out more](#)

University of Sydney Sciences Po Dual Degree Equity Scholarship

Value: \$15,000 AUD per year

Open/Closing Dates: October 15, 2021 – November 30, 2021

This scholarship aims to provide support to students studying a Sciences Po dual degree who are experiencing disadvantage or hardship.

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Indigenous General Merit Undergraduate Scholarship

Value: Up to \$30,000 AUD per year

Open/Closing Dates: July 1, 2021 – December 19, 2021

The 2021 Indigenous General Merit Undergraduate Scholarship is open for recent High School Leavers, UNSW Pre-Program Graduates and IAS Students commencing an undergraduate coursework degree program at UNSW Sydney in 2022.

[Find out more](#)

Deaf Children Australia Art Competition

Deaf Children Australia's inaugural art competition is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and nurturing deaf and hard-of-hearing youth in their pursuit of creativity and self-expression. The theme is "This Is Me" and is an amazing opportunity for 12 to 23 year-olds to showcase their talents.

Our team is accepting a wide variety of submissions for this competition working to the theme – both visual and digital art.

The competition is open until 23 January 2022.

Find out more and enter here: <https://www.deafchildreनाustralia.org.au/art-competition>

CameraPro Monthly Photo Competition – Macro Photography

Inspire us with your best macro shot for your chance to win a CameraPro Voucher, valued at up to \$300.

We will accept all types of images including those edited, creative composites, panoramas etc. Get creative!

Entries close 31 October.

Find out more and enter here: <https://www.camerapro.com.au/photocompetition>

Commonwealth Bank Careers in Tech Program

Learn what a career in technology might look like with one of Australia’s leading financial institutions. Throughout this program, you will experience some of the tasks that people with innovation and technology careers do in their everyday job. By completing these tasks you can see how technology can help businesses in the following ways:

- **Design:** Discover why it’s important to plan what a website looks like and how people can use it effectively.
- **Build:** Learn why Software Engineers are critical in bringing a design idea to life.
- **Protect:** In a world where there are constant threats, Cyber Security experts play a key role in keeping people’s information secure from theft. You can learn how they do this.
- **Analyse:** Explore how Data Analysts use technology like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to understand masses of information and pull the right data to tell the story to help businesses make decisions and improve projects.
- **Automate:** Understand how Artificial Intelligence and Robotics can work together to provide 24/7 customer service.

[Learn more](#)

How to ask people about their jobs

Is there a job out there you think you would absolutely love? It can be hard to know exactly what a job is like unless you have hands-on experience. Unfortunately, this isn’t always possible.

But you can do the next best thing – ask someone!

Why should I ask someone about their job?

Getting advice on a career you’re interested in is always a smart move. You can find out a lot you might not know, like pathways into the career, the ups and the downs, daily tasks, industry insights, and a whole lot more.

Then, you can use this valuable info to help steer you in the right direction. Think about what you learned and weigh up your options – is this still something you’d want to do, or has your perspective changed? It can also help you think about things you can do right now to get closer to your goal.

It’s always helpful to get more than one perspective too (if possible). Talk to as many people as you can.

What should I ask?

Here are some questions that you might like to ask to get the most out of the experience:

- What does a normal day look like?
- What's your favourite (and least favourite) part of your job?
- How did you get this job?
- Is this what you wanted to do when you were younger?
- Do you have any advice for someone looking to get into the industry?

It's important to consider how well you know the person you're asking, and remember there are some things that could be inappropriate to ask (for example, asking how much money someone makes).

Some final tips

Take notes – you don't want to go to all this trouble only to forget everything a few days later.

Ask follow-up questions – if there is something you don't quite understand, it's better to ask for clarification than to be left unsure. This is also a great way to show you've been actively listening.

Keep in touch – send the person a letter or email thanking them for their time and effort. This could be your chance to make a valuable connection for the future.

Want to find out more about your dream job? You can also check out our [Job Spotlights](#).

Employment Growth Trends

Thinking about your future career? You might be interested to see where the most people work in Australia.

We've gathered some data and put it into these easy to read charts for you, so you can see where people in Australia work.

Read the full blog, including charts, here:

<https://studyworkgrow.com.au/2021/10/19/employment-growth-trends/>

Interested in a career in data science?

Ian Oppermann, Chief Data Scientist and Industry Professor at UTS, discusses his job and the use of data as it relates to smart cities of the future. Part of the International Oyster Program, this interview will give you a glimpse into the life of a Chief Data Scientist, defining how our cities will look in 2030 and beyond.

Find out more: <https://internationaloysterprogram.com/>

Top 7 Spooky Jobs

It's coming up to that spooky time of year, and if you're a fan of everything frightful, we've got some spooky jobs you might want to look into.

Whether it's leading ghost tours, directing funerals or creating wicked costumes, there's a little bit of something for everyone. You can see the full list, as well as a cool infographic, on our website here: <https://studyworkgrow.com.au/2021/10/21/top-7-spooky-jobs/>

ATAR Calculators

If you're in Year 12, there's usually one big thing on your mind at this time of the year: what will my ATAR be? Most universities and other institutions take applications well before exams are over and you receive your official ATAR. So how can you know whether you're on the right track?

This is what ATAR calculators are for. They take the results of any assessment you've done so far and use this information to estimate what your final ATAR might be. It's a handy way of seeing whether you're on track to get the ATAR you need for your course or future pathway.

How do they work?

Most of the ATAR calculators out there use data gathered from previous years to give you an idea of where you might fall on the scale.

Because assessment results and scaling change from year to year, it's important to remember that the predicted ATAR you're given from a calculator probably won't be the same as your actual final ATAR. However, they're still good to get a general idea of what to expect.

Why would I use one?

Lots of unis need you to submit your applications months before you actually receive your ATAR. So if you want to know if you're on the right track, an ATAR calculator can help.

Your predicted score might meet the requirements for your dream course – great!

Remember, you can't slack off though. You'll still need to keep up your grades for the rest of the year if you want to meet your predicted ATAR.

Maybe it will show that your ATAR won't be high enough. This isn't a reason to despair! The handy thing about these calculators is that often they will also show you what marks you need to get to reach a desired ATAR, so you can knuckle down and put in some extra effort to still reach the score you want.

Where can I find one?

Here are some ATAR calculator's we've found that you might want to take a look at:

- [ATAR Notes ATAR Calculator](#) (for HSC, VCE, QCE and WACE)
- [Deakin University ATAR Calculator](#) (VCE)
- There are a heap more you can check out [here](#)

Important: Study Work Grow doesn't endorse any particular calculator, and keep in mind that the result you get might not be accurate and shouldn't be exclusively relied on.

A final note

Remember that your ATAR isn't everything! If your ATAR isn't quite enough to get into your dream course, this doesn't mean you have to give up. There are lots of [Alternative Pathways](#) you can take to reach your goals.

You might even like to consider a pathway that doesn't require an ATAR, like studying a [VET course](#), doing an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#), or even jumping into a [job](#).

CQUni Graduate Guarantee

Did you know that CQUniversity Australia is ranked in the top six universities in Australia for undergraduate full-time employment?

Their practical approach to education sees students graduate job-ready and they're committed to continuing to improve graduate outcomes so you can land your dream job.

Which is why CQUni has launched the Graduate Guarantee – this means that they'll support your continued learning with a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Entrepreneurship for free, if you don't land a job within six months of your graduation.

Graduate with confidence with a CQUniversity undergraduate degree.

Find out more: <https://www.cqu.edu.au/courses/future-students/why-choose-cquni/graduate-guarantee>

A life of animals and adventure

Since graduating from James Cook University in 2010, Dr Campbell Costello's love of animals has taken him around the world.

He has trekked across the Wakhan Corridor in Afghanistan; worked as an airborne vet for the [Iditarod Dog Sled Race](#) in Alaska; attended the [World Nomad Games](#) in Kyrgyzstan; performed as an equine vet for the [Gaucho Derby](#) in Patagonia; treated wildlife and game in Africa; and, ridden one thousand kilometers across Mongolia in the [world's longest horse race](#) — returning yearly as one of the race's lead veterinarians.

Now he's back in Australia, running his own business, [Outback and Airborne Veterinary Services](#). Like an RFDS for animals, Dr Costello provides veterinary treatment to animals in remote locations across the Top End of Australia.

As for his experience at JCU? Here's what he had to say:

"JCU gives students a great introduction to regional and mixed animal medicine and a realistic taste of a variety of vet roles. If you're considering a career in regional or bush veterinary medicine, it's hands down the best; it prepared me for that, and has a great network of alumni that will help students into that field as well."

You can read more about Dr Costello's career and where a Bachelor of Veterinary Science could take you in the full article here: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/this-is-uni/science-and-technology/articles/a-life-of-animals-and-adventure>

Video – 7 Creepy Careers

Looking for a career that's a little less ordinary? We've put together a video showcasing some of the spookiest careers out there.

Check it out: <https://youtu.be/GhVwhyBg1Ds>

Tips for acing your Exams

You've worked so hard all year, and now it's time to show what you've learnt. But exam prep can be stressful.

That's why we've put together these exam prep tips to follow – they could help you to keep your cool and be the Exam Boss you were born to be.

The Day Before

Schedule a final revision session

1. Read over your revision notes a couple of times just to refresh your memory
2. If you haven't already highlighted your notes, grab your favourite coloured fluoro and mark up the most important information. It will help you focus, keep you motivated and hopefully help the information stick in your brain
3. Try a practise exam if you have one prepared, or read through any previous ones you've done if not
4. Finish studying at a reasonable time. When you're stressed out it can be tempting to keep studying and stay up late, but that's really not going to do much other than make you tired and less able to focus in your exam. So decide beforehand what's the latest time you'll work to and set an alarm to remind you to stop.

Get everything ready for the following day

- Organise your pens and other equipment that you might need, (remember to take spares as well)
- Double check the location, time that the exam start (and how long you've got to complete it), then organise how you'll be getting there (remember to leave a few extra minutes in case you get held up)
- Don't spend all day cramming, remember to take breaks, eat and stay hydrated. Otherwise you'll feel uptight and exhausted before you've even started your exam
- Have a healthy dinner (you could always try some brain food like oily fish), spend some time relaxing, then get to bed nice and early for a good sleep
- Set your alarm, leaving yourself plenty of time to get ready in the morning. If you usually find it difficult to get out of bed, then set a second alarm too – exam day isn't the day to sleep through it

On Exam Day

Be positive and wake up your brain

Get moving – When you hop out of bed in the morning have an invigorating shower and play some of your favourite tunes, you'll be feeling in a much happier place already. Or if you normally do some exercise first thing in the morning, great – do that too.

Eat something – Even if you're feeling nervous and your stomach doesn't feel much like eating, hunger is a distraction that you really don't need when you're sitting an exam. So it's important to eat a good breakfast that will keep you going. Anything is better than nothing, but something wholesome and nutritious that will fill you up for a long time is ideal.

Relax – It can be tempting to pick up your revision notes and get some final cramming in, we'd suggest that you don't. A little light reading however, is perfect to get your brain ready for the work ahead, think of it like stretching your body before a work out. So maybe read the news, an article or a few chapters of a book and help your brain limber up.

Remember to take a bottle of water, the equipment you'll need in your exam and wear comfortable clothes. Stick to your planned travel schedule, allow yourself extra time to get to the exam so you don't arrive late and flustered.

In your exam

Breathe

Take a few deep breaths – it could help you to feel more relaxed and better able to focus your mind.

Ears Open

Listen to all the instructions from the examiner and remember to pay attention to how long you have to complete your exam.

Read

Use any reading time to quickly look through the exam to see how many questions there are and give yourself an idea of how long you can spend answering each question.

One step at a time

Go back to the start of your paper, be methodical. Read each question. Read it again. Then start answering. Try and keep your writing and any workings out neat so that it's easy for the examiner to understand what you've written.

Double-check

Once you've completed all your questions, if you have time, go back and read through your paper. If you've missed something out or made a mistake this gives you an opportunity to put it right.

Don't panic

If you're running out of time, don't panic, try to answer each remaining question to the best of your ability. You might have to keep answers shorter than you would like, but at least if you get something down & you get in the key information, the examiner will have something to give you a mark for.

What to do after the exam

Congratulations, you did it! Now's the time to relax, take a break, and prepare for any other exams you've got coming up.

- Don't talk about the exam with your friends, that never ends well. Congratulate each other and move on with your day.
- Reflect on what went well (and not so well) for next time – did you read through all the questions? Did it help to start with an 'easy' question? Or did you get stuck somewhere?
- Look after yourself for the next day or so – remember it's just an exam and it won't change the course of your life, so don't let it get to you.

Be prepared not scared to leave high school

Even if you've hated every single minute of high school, chances are the thought of leaving high school while exciting might also be a little bit daunting.

And if like me, you absolutely loved school, then you could also be really sad to leave.

Either way leaving high school is a huge milestone in your life and it's normal to feel a little uncertain or scared about what comes next. Just remember, this isn't the end, it's the beginning of a new chapter.

Being prepared could help you to navigate your transition to uni, work, or your gap year without faltering. Here's our tips.

Study and focus

After 12 years of hard work, don't let it all fall by the wayside at the last moment. There's only a few weeks left, so knuckle down, get your revision done and focus on your exams.

Make a decision

Choosing is hard, it really is. Especially when the decisions you're making feel monumental. But if you don't make a decision now about what pathway you'll take after school, you might miss your chance and have to live in limbo until the next opportunity or intake comes along. Going on to do tertiary studies? Yay you. Make sure you've got your completed [applications](#) in. Find out about [alternative pathways](#) and have a plan in mind if you don't get an offer or a place on the course you'd most like.

Entering the [workforce](#)? Great. Make sure your resume is up to date and start looking and applying for positions.

Be ready to adult

Becoming independent can be great fun, but there's also more responsibility.

If you don't already have these things organised, you're going to need to sort them out soonish.

- Bank account
- [Superannuation fund](#)
- [Unique Student Identifier \(USI\)](#) if you're planning on any kind of tertiary study
- [Tax File Number \(TFN\)](#)
- [Medicare Card](#) and [Centrelink Customer Reference Number](#)
- myGov account
- [Resume](#)
- Email account (not a school one)
- Register on the [electoral roll](#)

Why not make a start and get one or two things ticked off the list each week, then set reminders for the things you can't sort out yet.

Future proof yourself

If you're going on to study, do you know what skills you'll need to get through your course?

Take some time to look for some tips and lock in some time to read through them.

Learn how to cook, do your laundry, clean up after yourself, and do a bit of basic DIY.

Get to know yourself, listen to your body. You'll need to know when you need to eat more healthily, sleep more, take some time out, exercise. Take control of your [physical and mental health](#)

Learn how to get around without relying on friends and family to give you lifts. Figure out the public transport systems and give them a go. If you can drive and are lucky enough to own a car – make sure you know how to look after your vehicle and stay safe driving in any conditions.

Be work ready and learn about your [rights and responsibilities](#).

Listen to your parents and think about ways you can keep yourself safe.

Find your inner money master

If you don't understand the world of [finance](#), it's a great idea to take some time now to learn the basics and get yourself set up.

Start off by finding out about:

- Interest
- How to avoid debt
- How and when to lodge a tax return
- Starting a saving plan
- Contributing to your superannuation
- How to budget and track your expenses
- Living within your means (not spending more than you earn)
- Government payments or subsidies you could be eligible for
- Scholarships, grants and bursaries to apply for

Organise your digs for next year

If you'll still be living at home, sweet, lucky you. Think of ways you can contribute to the household a bit more and keep everyone happy. If you'll be studying online you'll need to check that your internet is (literally) up to speed and reliable, or find somewhere else where you can work.

If you're moving out, then you'll need to find and organise where you'll be living next year. You could rent a place privately or rent a room in a shared house. Go into university accommodation or specialist student accommodation (we've got a Guide for that, find it here).

Think about your back up plans

You've completed senior high school in the midst of a global pandemic, so you also know that life doesn't always go to plan. If there's any cohort out there who are resilient and adaptable, then it's you.

Learn from what the last two years have taught you and whatever plans you make, have a Plan B in mind. Just in case things don't go quite the way you imagined.

Have the best time

Wishing all the very best of luck with your plans and futures from everyone on the Study Work Grow team. We're sure you'll go on to do great things.

Need more help? Grab a copy of our [school leaver toolkit](#) with more information, link, handy resources and checklists.

10 questions to ask your future self

We get it – thinking about your future can be hard. But it's important. In fact, thinking about our future goals can help us decide the actions we should be taking right now.

You don't need to work out every tiny detail of your future – even if you do, sometimes things happen that you don't expect, and that's okay. But having a plan can help you navigate any bumps along the way.

What should I ask?

Here are 10 questions you can ask yourself to start thinking about possible futures:

1. How would you describe your future self?
2. Where does your future self live?
3. What job is your future self doing?
4. How much does your future self earn?
5. What does a typical day for your future self look like?
6. What hobbies does your future self enjoy?
7. How does your future self handle conflict?
8. What do other people say about your future self?
9. How does your future self feel about themselves?
10. What has your future self achieved?

Once you have the answers to these questions, you can start working backwards; think about what you can be doing now to make this future a reality.

What do I do next?

So, for example, if your future self is an engineer, what can you do *right now* to achieve that goal? You could start looking at potential university degrees, and you'll need to make sure you're getting good enough grades to get in. So, here is what we can do right now: build good study habits.

Reverse-engineer each answer until you get to what you can do now for each. If your future self is kind and generous, maybe think about doing volunteer work. If your future self wants to run a marathon, start exercising and getting fitter.

Every now and then our goals might change – this is fine! Just revisit these questions again and see what you can do differently to work towards these new goals.

Want more?

If you need some help setting goals, take a look at our [Goal Generator](#) to get you started.

Life Maps

Most of us don't live life according to the map. We float from one thing to another, which is great, because it gives us the flexibility to move with the flow and make the most of opportunities. There is, however, a downside to making things up as you go.

If you ever want to achieve anything big, like a trip around the world, building your own home, or working for Pokemon, you're much more likely to get there if you know where you are going.

Which is where Life Mapping comes in.

You are the one writing this story – you get to decide where your life is going to lead, so you need the skills to draw your map with confidence. There is absolutely no guarantee whatsoever that you'll actually follow this map, and in fact it's highly likely that your map will change as you travel, so don't treat it as gospel, but once you've got it in your hot little hands you will hold the power.

What is a Life Map?

A Life Map is a visual way of plotting out what's possible for your future. Once you're finished, you'll have a starting place (that's where you are now) and a couple of different possible destinations, which will give you a few directions to head off in. You can come back to your Life Map anytime you've got a decision to make about where you go next; it's a tool you can use any time to keep you on track and heading in the right direction.

Your Life Map should include:

Big goals – these are your destination options

Is there anything you MUST do in your life? Any activity or challenge that you wouldn't feel complete without? Big goals can be skills you want to master (horse riding, sky diving, piano, drawing), places you want to visit (Great Wall of China, Machu Picchu, Mount Everest), or things you want to achieve (run a marathon, become a doctor, have a family, write a book).

A Roadmap – the paths you can choose from

It's not enough to know where you want to go; you also need to know the route you plan to take to get there. This means you need to know what steps you need to take to get to your goals, including how long they'll take and how much they'll cost, as well as what you'll need to do to get in. There's more than one way to get to every destination, so don't just include the most obvious routes.

Ways of Being – these are your modes of transportation

If you want to live your life according to a set of principles, then you need to add that to your Life Map. Do you want a life full of adventure, or spirituality, or do you want a life of service? Do you want to be famous, or wealthy, or calm? You may already have a pretty established way of being, but if not that's ok, you can pick one of two that speak to you.

How to create a Life Map

Creating your Life Map may take a little time, but we're talking about fun stuff here and there's no 'right' or 'wrong', so there's no pressure. You don't have to show anyone your Life Map if you're not comfortable, so don't hold back – put everything on there.

Note: Maps are visual, but if you're not a visual person you're welcome to try another format that works for you – perhaps you could write a series of life stories that help you explore the possibilities?

Your Life Map can be colourful or plain, you can use pictures and mood boards, or stick to text and descriptions.

There are no rules to follow, and the end result needs to work for you, so if you've got a preferred visual thinking model then you're welcome to start with that. At the end of this article you'll find a template you can use if you need a place to start, then follow these steps to fill it in:

Step 1 – Where are you right now?

Take a second to note down where you are – how old you are, where you live, the things you like, and the things that motivate you. You could also include your job (if you have one) or any activities you take part in, and estimate how you're going at school. This is your starting point, so it's good to get clear about where you are.

Step 2 – Choose your destinations

We recommend you try to cut it back to two or three destinations at this point – if you're finding it hard, try the [Goal Generator](#) to get things started. Once you have them, space them across your map. You may want to add some details here, like what kinds of things you'll be doing, where you'll live and what kind of house you'll live in, how much time you'll spend at work, who else is in your life, even what kind of car you'll drive. Anything that's important to this goal should be included here – be specific.

Step 3 – Build your roadmap

For each destination, fill out a couple of routes that will get you there. If you need to finish school, get a VET qualification, or go to university, then include that along your pathway, and include details like how much the qualification will cost, and how long it will take to achieve. Most of the time you'll be able to come up with a couple of pathways that end up at the same place, so don't limit yourself to just the most obvious one. As you get further away from your starting point (and closer to your destination) you may find it more difficult to be specific, but that's ok, just note down what you can. You may also need to branch out multiple times from mid-way points before you get to your destination.

Step 4 – How are you going to get there?

We each have our own unique way of tackling life, and that's totally ok. Once you know where you are, where you're going, and the route you want to take, then you need to work out how you're going to make your way between the two. For example, if you like to hit life head on then you can factor that in – you may know that you'll complete your degree in the minimum time required, and are prepared to put in the hours. Or, if you value balance you may choose to combine study with part time work and travel, taking longer to get there but seeing more on the way.

Once you have your Life Map, then what do you do with it?

Life Maps aren't static – they're just a reflection of your thoughts and ideas at one moment in time. You can adjust your Life Map as you grow and change, or even scrap it completely if it doesn't make sense any more. Life can often change around us, outside of our control, and you may need to factor these changes into your Map along the way.

If you want to increase your chances of reaching the destinations on your map then we'd recommend telling someone you trust about your plans – be prepared for challenging questions, and if you don't feel comfortable then you don't need to share it at all.

We also recommend that you keep your Life Map and use it just like you would any other map – refer to it to keep yourself headed in the right direction.

Download the Life Map Template

Click here to [download the PDF template](#)

[How to become a Computational Biologist](#)

Help solve the world's biggest mysteries

What do Computational Biologists do?

Computational Biology is a combination of mathematics, statistics, computer science, and biology. Computational Biologists are responsible for gathering data, then using this data to create models to interpret biological phenomena. They can use this data for a number of purposes; to find patterns and trends, understand how things evolve and change, and even cure diseases.

Examples of projects real Computational Biologists are working on include finding a cure for cancer, helping to stop the spread of deadly diseases like Ebola, and helping develop more sustainable fishing practices.

If you're analytical with a mind for mathematics, are curious and inquisitive, and want to tackle some of the world's biggest problems, becoming a Computational Biologist could be perfect for you.

About you:

- Analytical and methodical
- Great mathematics skills
- Excellent problem-solver
- Fantastic communication skills
- Technologically literate
- Works well in teams and independently
- Organised and efficient
- Ethical and trustworthy

The job:

- Gathering and storing data and statistics
- Conducting in-depth research
- Coding new software and programs
- Designing machine learning algorithms to interpret data
- Practically applying research findings in the real world
- Presenting and interpreting research findings to stakeholders
- Applying for research funding and support
- Working alongside other researchers and scientists

Lifestyle Impact: Moderate

- Part Time opportunities: Low – only around 25% of Life Scientists work part-time (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- Average hours for full-time workers: 43 hours a week, which is average (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- Computational Biologists' salary (average) \$100,000* per year (source: payscale.com). *Salaries vary depending on your skills and experience.
- Future career growth: Moderate (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- You will likely be doing most of your work indoors in lab settings.

Computational Biologists are most in demand in these locations:

There is limited information about Computational Biology jobs in Australia. However, we can look at the broader Life Sciences to get a snapshot of demand for Computational Biologists.

Around 8,200 people worked as Life Scientists in Australia in 2020 (source: joboutlook.com.au), with higher than average demand in the ACT, WA, TAS and QLD. There are lots of research opportunities available all across the world, particularly in the United States and United Kingdom.

How to become a Computational Biologist in Australia

A Master's or Doctorate-level qualification in a relevant field is usually desired in order to work as a Computational Biologist in Australia.

Step 1 – Complete Year 12 with a strong focus on English, Maths and Sciences.

Step 2 – Study a relevant undergraduate degree at university, such as a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Computer Science.

Step 3 – Continue your studies with a Master's level degree. Some fields to consider include Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Statistics, or Mathematics.

Step 4 – Consider undertaking a PhD in a relevant field.

Step 5 – Gain extensive research and work experience.

Find out more here –

<https://www.abacbs.org>

<https://www.iscb.org/>

Similar Careers to Computational Biologist

Molecular Biologist

Chemist

Statistician

[Conservationist](#)

Biochemist

[Lab Technician](#)

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What do Computational Biologists do?

Computational Biologists use maths, computer science, statistics and biology to interpret biological phenomena.

Which industries employ Computational Biologists?

Computational Biologists are mostly found in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry.

What options are there for career progression?

You can start out as a research assistant before moving on to lead your own research projects, publish your own works, or even move into academia.

Do I need to go to university to become a Computational Biologist?

Yes, you will need a minimum Bachelor-level qualification to work as a Computational Biologist, though Master- and Doctorate-level qualifications are often desired.

Where do Computational Biologists work?

Computational Biologists work all across Australia, particularly in the ACT, WA, TAS and QLD.

What are 3 things I can do right now to help me become a Computational Biologist?

If you're in high school and you'd like to find out if a career as a Computational Biologist is right for you, here's a few things you could do right now:

1. Take classes or go online to learn how to code. This is an incredibly valuable skill you will definitely need in a career in Computational Biology.
2. Try and find work experience or even volunteer in a science or research-based setting. This will help you start building skills and networks for the future.
3. See if you can talk to someone working in the field and get an idea of what a day in their life is like.

Mr Madani

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