

BMGS CAREERS NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, 29 November 2021

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Open Days & Info Sessions

TAFE NSW | Information Sessions

Monday 22 November 2021, 9:00 am - Wednesday 6 April 2022, 6:00 pm

Online & On Campus

Join us at an Information Session to learn more about TAFE NSW courses. Select your campus and course from the menu.

Find out more: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/information-sessions>

UNSW | Accommodation Information Drop-In Sessions

Wednesday 1 December 2021, 12:00 am - Wednesday 12 January 2022, 12:00 am

Online

Campus living provides the ultimate lifestyle, convenience and independence while you study.

Speak with campus residents and college deans to have your questions answered and find how you can make the most of your university experience by joining a fun and nurturing resident community centred around you and your education.

Join a session for help and advice choosing the right accommodation option for you. Our student residents will also share how living on campus has shaped their UNSW experience and pass on their advice for the year ahead.

Find out more: <https://www.events.unsw.edu.au/event/unsw-accommodation-information-drop-sessions>

Macquarie University | Campus Tours

Wednesday 1 December 2021, 10:00 am - Monday 31 January 2022, 4:00 pm

Macquarie University

Macquarie University understands the crucial role learning environments play in student success which is why they've invested more than \$1 billion in facilities and infrastructure.

From 1 December, future students can register to tour our new facilities and get a taste of Macquarie's unique campus life. Expressions of interest are now open.

Find out more: <https://page.mq.edu.au/campus-tours.html>

Endeavour College of Natural Health | Transitioning from High School to Higher Education

Thursday 2 December 2021, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Online

If you're a high school student who is interested in a future in natural health, this webinar is for you. We'll cover everything you need to know about our courses, enrolling, fees as well as student life to equip you with the knowledge to smoothly transition into higher education.

Find out more: <https://www.endeavour.edu.au/events/transitioning-from-high-school-to-higher-education7/>

University of Newcastle | Campus Tours

Friday 3 December 2021, 10:00 am - Friday 10 December 2021, 4:00 pm

University of Newcastle, All Campuses

Let our Student Ambassadors show you some of our must-see teaching and learning spaces, their favourite study spots, and of course – where to get the best coffee on campus. Not only will you get a personalised tour, but an opportunity to ask as many questions as you have about what uni life is really like!

Tours are offered across five of our campus locations in Newcastle and the Central Coast.

Find out more: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/campus-tours>

iCanMed | Summer Holiday Study Plan: How to Catch Up on UCAT Prep

Sunday 5 December 2021, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Online

In this webinar, Ray, iCanMed's education advisor, will share with you the techniques and timelines that are research-proven to help you best utilise your summer break for the most effective/efficient results with reference to the following points:

- Top tips on how to catch up on the prep that you have missed since April
- How to best organise your prep with the do's and don't of what gets you a UCAT score high enough to earn interview spots
- A summer holidays 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/summer-plan-2>

ADF | Virtual ADFA Careers Information Session

Thursday 9 December 2021, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Online

At the Australian Defence Force Academy you will receive service training while studying for your UNSW degree. You will earn a salary while learning (with no HELP debt!) and step into a guaranteed role upon graduation as an Officer in the Australian Defence Force.

Join us for an info session soon to find out how ADFA can change your life.

Find out more: <https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events/events-detail/dhqj2bx>

Explore Your Options

Monday 13 December 2021, 10:00 am - Thursday 23 December 2021, 4:00 pm

Macquarie University & Online

Deciding where to study is a huge decision so it's important that students get all the information they need.

Macquarie University is inviting prospective students to register for Explore Your Options. From Monday 13 December to Thursday 23 December 2021, Macquarie University's friendly experts will be available from 10am to 4pm to advise on all things Macquarie. Students will have the chance to speak to current students, find a pathway into uni, take a campus tour, or take the next step and enrol.

Find out more: <https://page.mq.edu.au/explore-your-options-EOI.html>

UNSW | Careers in Business

Monday 13 December 2021, 4:00 pm - Tuesday 14 December 2021, 5:30 pm

Online

Interested in studying business? Whether you are interested in our Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Information Systems or Bachelor of Actuarial Studies, there is a session to suit you.

You'll hear from industry representatives, current students and lecturers and be able to ask them your questions about studying and working in the world of business.

Find out more: <https://www.events.unsw.edu.au/event/careers-business>

UTS | Year 12 Engineering & IT – on campus tours

Tuesday 14 December 2021, 9:00 am - Wednesday 15 December 2021, 7:00 pm

UTS Faculty of Engineering and IT, Broadway

UTS Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology will be offering on-campus tours of our Engineering and Information Technology facilities for Year 12 Students on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 December.

Check out the state-of-the-art UTS Engineering and IT building! Guided by one of our students, you will explore the facilities and study spaces that are available for engineering and IT students at UTS.

Find out more: <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-uts-engineering-and-it-on-campus-tours>

DARTA | Parenting, alcohol, parties and sleepovers in Year 9

Thursday 20 January 2022, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Online

If you're a parent of a child about to begin Year 9 it's important to prepare yourself for issues around sleepovers, parties and gatherings. Putting things into place now can prevent potential problems in the year (and years) ahead.

This presentation will focus on the positive influence that parents can have on their child's drinking behaviour, even during adolescence, as well as the barriers that they may face during this time. Peer influence is a significant issue at this time and it is important for parents to have clear rules and boundaries in the area of sleepovers, parties, gatherings and alcohol.

This presentation will also examine the latest data on Australian teen drinking behaviour and the growing evidence on the risks associated with this practice.

Find out more: <https://events.humanitix.com/parenting-alcohol-parties-and-sleepovers-in-year-9>

Workshops and Courses

Aviation Australia | Cabin Crew Recruitment Day Preparation Course, Online

Tuesday 7 December 2021, 5:30 pm - Wednesday 8 December 2021, 8:00 pm

Online

Domestic travel is in high demand, resulting in many of the airlines commencing recruitment for hundreds of roles to allow them to increase their services.

In such a competitive industry, gaining the knowledge and skills will improve your chances of securing employment as a Flight Attendant. The Recruitment Day Preparation course was designed to enhance your understanding of the Cabin Crew role as well as the aviation industry in general.

You will gain the confidence, skills, and inside-knowledge to get a head start in your career as a Flight Attendant. The course will give you a thorough understanding of the airline recruitment process.

This course is instructor-led giving you the inside knowledge directly from an ex-cabin crew member.

Find out more: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/cabin-crew-recruitment-day-preparation-course-december-tickets-207564830997>

NAS | Summer School 2022

Monday 10 January 2022, 9:30 am - Friday 21 January 2022, 4:30 pm

National Art School, Darlinghurst

When you enrol in a Short Course you experience the National Art School's unique learning environment and studio-based arts education with hands-on tuition and technical and conceptual approaches to learning. You will be taught and inspired by professional artist-educators who share their passion, knowledge and expertise, guiding you towards a personal artistic vision, develop creative thinking, and extend your practice in a friendly, supportive, studio environment.

You will always find a broad range of popular and challenging Short Courses offered across all the National Art School disciplines including Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photomedia, Printmaking, Sculpture and Studio Extra. In the Short Courses you will learn practical skills, gain an understanding of historical and contemporary concepts, and build your confidence to develop a unique visual language and a rewarding art practice.

Register for week 1: <https://nas.edu.au/product-category/short-courses/summer-school-week-one-2022/>

Register for week 2: <https://nas.edu.au/product-category/short-courses/summer-school-week-two-2022/>

University of Sydney | The Santos Science Experience

Wednesday 20 April 2022, 8:00 am - Friday 22 April 2022, 3:00 pm

The University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus

Calling all detectives! We need YOU to use forensic science and techniques to solve an unusual problem that starts out seemingly simple but will become a whole lot more ...complicated. You and your fellow detectives will need to use our university wet and dry labs, meet our STEM experts and learn new forensic skills in microscopy, cyber security, chemical sample identification and electrical circuitry for starters. Together, we will get to the bottom of a weird situation and determine who is the guilty party and how they were committing their crimes.

Find out more: <https://www.scienceexperience.com.au/programs/apply>

Scholarships

Capstone Editing Textbook Grant for Undergraduates

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: March 4, 2021 – January 6, 2022

The Capstone Editing Textbook Grant provides funds to one undergraduate student to assist in covering the cost of their textbooks for the duration of their degree.

[Find out more](#)

UOW The William Dor Transforming Futures Scholarship in Engineering and Information Sciences

Value: \$5,000 AUD per year

Open/Closing Dates: October 27, 2021 – January 28, 2022

The William Dor Transforming Futures Scholarship in Engineering and Information Sciences will support three commencing students into their degree of choice within the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences.

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Welcome Scholarship for Students from Refugee Backgrounds

Value: \$10,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: October 29, 2021 – January 12, 2022

The Welcome Scholarship for Students from Refugee Backgrounds has been established to support talented students who are refugees on permanent visas with the opportunity to pursue tertiary education at UNSW.

[Find out more](#)

Macquarie Maybanke Anderson Scholarship in Early Indigenous Education

Value: \$2,500 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: November 1, 2021 – March 1, 2022

The Maybanke Anderson Scholarship in Early Indigenous Education (Sponsored by the Sydney Community Foundation) recognises the potential of Indigenous education students, providing financial support as they continue their study at Macquarie University.

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

Future Leaders Writing Prize 2022

The Future Leaders Writing Prize is designed to recognise and reward talented young writers. It aims to encourage expressive and creative writing.

Year 11 and 12 students in Australian secondary schools are invited to submit a piece of writing (800 to 1,000 words). The writing can be fiction or non-fiction and on any topic.

In 2022, the award winner will receive \$1,000. Where there is more than one winner the prize money will be shared. The winners of the Future Leaders Writing Prize will have their work published.

Entries are open until 1 May 2022.

Find out more: http://www.futureleaders.com.au/awards/Writing_Prize_2022.pdf

Summer Challenge Photography Competition

Looking to improve your photography? Join *Australian Photography's* inaugural Summer Challenge.

The Summer Challenge, presented by [LaCie](#), is designed to help you hone your photography skills and sharpen up your portfolio with three fun photo challenges: [Umbrella](#), [Mirror](#) and [Time Out](#).

We've also created a new [Australian Photography Summer Challenge Facebook Group](#) where you can share your images, get feedback and see how other photographers are progressing with the challenges.

There are three categories to match the challenges and the winner of each category will take home \$1,000 cash and a swag of great prizes from LaCie. The competition is open throughout summer, **opening 1 December 2021 and closing 28 February 2022.**

Find out more: <https://www.australianphotography.com/summerchallenge>

2021 Christmas Gingerbread House Competition

Design, create and decorate your own 100% edible gingerbread house, based on the theme of Christmas!

Whether you are dreaming of a white Christmas with an edible, rustic forest cabin, or showcasing the epitome of an Australian Christmas with a bright, coastal-themed gingerbread beach house, the possibilities to your incredible gingerbread creations are endless.

Embrace the Christmas holiday spirit and bring in sweet, confectionery elements to your decor, like piped icing, candy canes, chocolate features, textured biscuits and edible baubles, to detail your gingerbread house and create an edible scene of the season.

One talented, lucky winner will receive an amazing Le Cordon Bleu prize pack full of merchandise, including the ultimate world-famous cookbook, the Chocolate Bible.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age to enter.

Entries close on 12 December 2021.

Find out more here: <https://www.cordonbleu.edu/news/australia-christmas-gingerbread-house-comp/en>

Work Experience

Updated Grandshake Virtual Work Experiences

Grandshake offers a ton of awesome Virtual Work Experience programs for young people across Australia aged 14-19. These programs are a great way to get a taste of your dream career, all from your own home. And they help you learn some valuable skills along the way as well.

The programs run all year, during school and the holidays, so you can sign up to start at any time. The programs typically run for four weeks, with a 2-4 hour commitment per week. Best of all, they're totally free.

Grandshake has just updated some of their older Virtual Work Experiences, so now is a great time to jump in and try one:

- [Construction / Civil Cadet](#)
- [Junior Digital Engineer](#)
- [Electrical Technician](#)
- [Sustainability Cadet](#)
- [Systems & Signals Operator](#)
- [Environmental Planner](#)

[Learn more](#)

Careers & Jobs

Where to look for Summer Work

Looking for casual or short term jobs over the upcoming summer break? There are **loads** of opportunities out there.

We've put together a list of places where you can have a look at what's on offer – you might find the idea job or you might just be inspired to find something similar near you.

Start your summer job search here:

- Straight up [Student Super](#) have updated their list of 40 places looking to hire Christmas casuals right now in 2021 – they've also featured another blog with [25 summer casual jobs](#) to look at
- The [Summer Jobs database](#) also talks about plenty of job openings around the country – check it out and see if there's anything near you
- [Student Edge](#) is yet another database that links to lots of major employers, you can search by state
- [Seek](#) always have plenty of jobs on offer
- [Indeed](#) are another recruitment site that list dozens of jobs you can browse
- The [Student Job Board](#) might have something for you too – you'll need to check eligibility as this site might be more targeted towards uni students
- [Aus Venue Co.](#) promises a summer of fun and list hundreds of bartenders, hosts, floor staff, chefs and management staff jobs in their teams located in 170+ pubs, bars and restaurants across Australia
- [Adventure Pro](#) feature casual jobs in the outdoors if that sounds like your perfect summer job
- The [Backpacker Job Board](#) might sound a bit of a random place to look, but with overseas travellers in short supply again this year, employers might be glad to consider you for their vacancies
- This [blog](#) lists a few ideas of jobs to consider and contains a couple of links to relevant organisations as well
- Search for local job sites in your area like this one, [Tourism North East](#) in Victoria's high country
- There are plenty of farmers crying out for worker all across Australia so have a look at sites like these <https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest>, <https://www.harvesttrail.org.au/>

Be Responsible

Some of the jobs listed on the sites we've found above may not be suitable if you're under 18 or don't hold relevant licenses or qualifications; remember to read the eligibility criteria carefully before applying.

When you're looking for jobs online, things aren't always as they seem.

We always recommend doing a bit of background research on the company, call and speak to someone if you're not sure about something, get your parent or carer to suss out the position and the organisation to make sure you're all happy. Do this *prior* to submitting any online forms or providing any information about yourself.

7 Sizzling Hot Summer Jobs to Consider

Summer is coming at last, hooray! Whether you're a fan of getting outdoors and soaking up the rays (in a sun safe manner of course), or you'd love nothing more than a job where you'll be able to avoid the heat and keep cool every day – there's a perfect job out there for you.

Here's our some of our top Summer jobs to explore.

Lifeguard

If you're a strong swimmer, who's fit and active, and can focus for long periods at a time then working as a Lifeguard could be ideal for you.

Working outdoors at the beach, poolside, near lakes and other bodies of water, or you could apply for jobs indoors at aquatic centres and other recreational facilities.

You'll spend your days watching over the waterways to keep people safe, carrying out rescues and even performing CPR.

If you're good with people, able to remain calm in emergency situations and have lots of stamina you'll need to complete a relevant VET qualification and get all the skills you'll need before you can apply.

Tiki shack owner

Nothing screams summer like a Tiki shack. These themed entertainment venues usually serve elaborate, usually rum-based, cocktails although there could be a niche market for mocktails too.

If you think this could be up your alley, you'll need to find a venue, then set yourself up with [all the necessary business bits and bobs](#) from a seriously tropical name to an ABN and all the licenses required to keep you operating. (The ATO, your local council and registered RSA providers in your state are the best places to start).

From there your imagination is the limit. You'll need a theme for the decoration and cocktails, find ways to promote your business and get customers through the door to cool off in style.

If you're not sure you can pull that off while you're still at high school, you could start small with a Tiki themed drinks stand; or contact local event planners to see if they'd let you go along and sell your drinks.

Swimwear designer

Just as the name suggests, swimwear designers create the latest trends in beach and swim wear.

If you're creative with a flair for fashion, then you could look into designing your own swimwear line.

You'll probably need to work with a pattern maker to bring your garments to life. And then you'll need to find a manufacturer who can make up some samples for you to show and sell.

Thinking about fits for all sizes, comfort, making sure it'll last the distance are all things you'll need to perfect. You'll also need to consider the business side of things from a logo to marketing and everything in between.

Marine biologist

Marine biology is a very broad area and scientists usually choose to specialise in one field. If you love water and the things living in it, or you're looking to discover new things, or help to protect the planet this could be a great area to explore.

A career in this field will require some tertiary studies but that doesn't mean that you can't volunteer on projects, run your own clean-up operations, start your own research and observations, or find other ways to get involved over your summer break.

Tour Operator

Tour operators earn a living by providing organised holidays or recreational activities.

They do the research, learn a lot about the destination, attraction or activity. Design a trip including the itinerary and content, organises and hires any services required such as accommodation, transport, guides or tour leaders. Then they market their package and help people to learn, have fun and create great memories.

You'll need to be great at planning and some knowledge of small businesses would be helpful if you're thinking of setting up on your own. You can always start small and aim to grow.

If you need inspiration, [AAT Kings](#) started off as a small family business doing guided tours to Katoomba and Jenolan caves in a seven-seater car. They're now one of the largest tour operators in Australia and New Zealand.

Ice Cream Manufacturer

Ice cream manufacturers develop recipes, experiment with flavours, and satisfy their customers cravings.

You don't necessarily need any qualifications to become an ice cream manufacturing but gaining some culinary expertise and brushing up on your business and marketing skills could help you to get ahead faster.

The Global Ice Cream Market was valued at a whopping **US\$111.58 billion** in 2020. [Ben & Jerry](#) are a great example of how to make it big, they started off in 1978 with a \$5 correspondence course in ice cream-making from Penn State and a \$12,000 investment (\$4,000 of it borrowed). Jerry now has a net worth of \$150 million.

You could start off making small batches of ice cream at home to perfect your technique and develop new and interesting recipes – test the on your family and friends. Or scale up and start selling your frozen treats (check that you have the environmental health are OK with you selling your wares and speak with the ATO first maybe).

Yacht Captain

If you've ever drooled over mega-yachts docked in tropical ports all over the world and can't quite afford your own just yet. How about living an endless summer aboard someone else's luxury liner?

The job requires a high degree of responsibility, and you'd have to not only sail the ship but also plot and navigate safe passages, manage a budget, maintain your vessel, manage and supervise a crew, plus keep everyone on board safe.

On the plus side you could make a great salary, be paid to travel all over the world, have all your accommodation and meals included, and often get some hefty tips.

You'll need to be fit and healthy, obtain all the relevant qualifications and licenses, get your experience up working sea hours, and get a great reputation and references.

Further Learning

What are my future options?

After you finish school, there's a whole wide world of options out there for you. Maybe you want to study. Maybe you want to work. Maybe you want to travel. But how do you know what the right choice is for you?

Well, you've got lots of options. And if one pathway doesn't quite fit, there's bound to be another. Let's take a look.

University

This is probably what most people think of when they're asked about what they want to do after school. University is a great option if you have a career in mind, and know what you need to study to get there (for example, if you want to be a doctor, you're going to have to study medicine).

Most students finish Year 12, and use their ATAR to gain entry to university. But this is far from the only way. There are a ton of alternative pathways you can take if your first option doesn't work out (take a look at some [here](#)).

You can find out more about applying to uni on our website [here](#).

TAFE/VET

Speaking of study, uni isn't your only option. Vocational Training and Education (or VET) is a great way to get skilled for work, often in a much shorter time frame than university. Most VET courses don't have any entry requirements either, so you don't need to stress about results.

And if you decide you do want to study at uni one day, you can use your VET qualification for entry.

You could even combine work and study by doing an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#).

Find out more about VET pathways and options [here](#).

Work

Maybe you don't want to do anymore study, and that's okay too. There are lots of jobs out there that you don't need a qualification to jump into.

Or, you could start at the bottom and work your way up – maybe you've had your retail job for a while, and there's an opportunity to become manager. Even better, you might come up with the next big idea and start your own business.

You might even find that you can access some pathways you thought you'd need a degree for – but this will usually take lots and lots of time and experience.

Interested in the world of work? Take a look at our resources [here](#).

Gap year

Not quite sure what you want to do just yet? That's totally fine! You can always take some time off to evaluate your options and spend time growing as a person.

Traditionally people take a gap year to travel, though this changed a bit thanks to COVID. Luckily, lots of travel and exchange programs are opening back up. You can combine your travel with work, or just get out there and have some great experiences.

Even if you don't want to travel, there's so much you can do – you could volunteer, pick up a new hobby, learn a new language, build your soft skills... The list is nearly endless.

Read more about your gap year options [here](#).

Combine your options

We've already mentioned it a couple of times, but one of the best (and most common) things to do is combine your options.

While you're studying, you might like to get a casual or part-time job. If you want to work full-time, you could upskill with microprograms or short courses that won't take time out of your busy day. Pick up a job while you travel overseas. Get a VET qualification, then use it to get into uni. Take some time off to rest and relax, then start studying mid-year.

The options out there are nearly endless! And if you don't end up liking the pathway you've chosen? You can always try a different one. Even if it's after six months, or twenty years down the track.

Wherever you want to go, there's probably more than one pathway you can take to get there.

You can find a ton more resources on [Study Work Grow](#).

What are Microcredentials?

We know that in the future of work, our transferrable skills will be more important than ever. Gone are the days of getting one qualification and being done. Today, jobs are constantly evolving, and so our knowledge and skills need to as well.

The popularity of microcredentials has exploded over the last few years. They're a new take on learning – instead of a course taking you months or even years, microcredentials are designed to teach you a new skill in no time at all.

Microcredentials are short courses, typically taught over the course of a few days or weeks, that teach skills and knowledge in specific areas. They are a great way to quickly learn new skills or refresh existing ones.

What are the benefits of microcredentials?

One of the most obvious benefits of microcredentials is that they're short. You don't need to disrupt your work or social commitments to finish one. Employers love them too because it means they can upskill their employees without having to take time off.

Another benefit is that they're generally low-cost. If you can't afford to fork out thousands for a VET or university qualification, microcredentials can be an affordable alternative.

Most importantly, microcredentials allow you to keep your skills and knowledge up to date in a rapidly changing world. Technology is advancing so fast that what you learn over a two- or three-year course might be obsolete by the time you finish. But with microcredentials, you can learn quickly and stay up to date.

What do microcredentials involve?

Just like other courses, each microcredential is structured differently. Typically, they will consist of learning through live or pre-recorded seminars and other resources, and involve some sort of assessment or tests to ensure you're taking the course content on board.

Once you're finished, you'll receive a digital badge or certificate to show you've successfully completed the course. You can add this to your digital portfolio, resume, or even show it off on platforms like LinkedIn.

Want to know more?

It's easy to take on microcredentials online. Here are some places you might be interested in looking at:

- [Coursera](#)
- [edX](#)
- [Grandshake](#)

Your University Offers Made Simple

In a perfect world, you'd know exactly what you wanted to study and where. You'd then place that course in your first preference spot on your university application which you submitted to the relevant admissions centre or in some cases directly to the university.

Next ATAR release date comes around, you get the score you wanted – or better – and a few days later you receive an offer to study your dream course that placed as your first preference. You accept the offer, enrol and move on to the next chapter of your life. Job done.

Unfortunately as you'll know by now, life isn't always that straight forward.

So what happens if you miss out on your first preference, don't get any offers at all, or get an offer for your first preference but have changed your mind and want to study something else or the same course but at a different uni?

First of all, don't panic. It's really all OK and universities and the offer system are very flexible in what you'll be able to do next.

University offers simplified

We've created a step-by-step flow chart that explains the offers process and your options in each scenario.

And **YES** you can accept an offer in the main round and still wait for other offers in future rounds. Bear in mind that means you might need to change the order of your preferences before the cut-off date for the next round of offers.

If you find yourself in the position of having received multiple offers that you've accepted, yay for you, that's absolutely fine. Then you get to decide which offer best suits you and simply withdraw from the other offers.

It's really important to remember to withdraw from any institutions you've accepted offers from but don't want to study at anymore, before the census date – otherwise you might find yourself enrolled in more than one course and paying more than one lot of uni fees.

For more information about changing preferences, key dates, etc., you can download the [Apply to Uni Guide](#) – check for any further key date changes with the TAC or university directly as well – thanks to COVID those dates have change quite a few times this year already.

The Power of Planning and Organisation with Grandshake

Grandshake has released a brand-new microprogram, designed especially for young people. This time they're showing you how you can become a master of planning and organisation.

In this 40-minute Power of Planning and Organisation microprogram, you'll cover planning and organisation essentials including time management, task prioritisation, and project management. Pick up practical techniques that will help you regain control of your time, so you can hit deadlines without sacrificing self-care and hobbies. You'll also explore how to identify your distraction triggers so you can stay focused; how to accurately estimate the duration of tasks; and how to keep yourself accountable. Whether you're studying or entering the workforce, this program will empower you with the skills to smash targets and get things done.

The program can be done online, and best of all is totally free.

Check it out here: <https://www.grandshake.co/product/the-power-of-planning-and-organisation>

Alternative Pathways

You've spent the last few years studying hard, and have applied to uni. But what happens if offers start rolling out and you miss out?

We know it can be disappointing, but it's important to not give up. There's always another way to get into the course of your dreams.

Maybe you could consider taking an alternative pathway.

What are alternative pathways?

Like the name suggests, alternative pathways are different ways of getting into university. Instead of taking the traditional route of applying with your ATAR at the end of Year 12, many unis offer tons of different ways you can get in instead.

They do this so that nobody is disadvantaged – maybe you had an illness that affected your studies, or you had music or sporting commitments that took up a lot of your time. Maybe you just didn't quite get the ATAR you were expecting, or missed a prerequisite subject. Or maybe you feel like you're not quite ready to jump into uni straight after school.

There are options out there for everyone.

What are some common alternative pathways?

- Choose a course with a lower ATAR in the same field and transfer.
- Do a uni pathway course.
- Take the [Special Tertiary Admissions Test](#) (STAT).
- Take a bridging course (find out more about them [here](#)).
- Study at TAFE or through an RTO.
 - For example, want to do engineering but didn't get in? You can [study engineering at TAFE](#).
- Get an apprenticeship – you can always go to uni later on to consolidate your skills (plus you can earn some money while you learn).
- Find a job and gain work experience, preferably in the same field, then apply as a mature-age student.

Plus, heaps of universities offer their own special internal pathways. For example, Macquarie University offer [eleven different pathways](#) for admission – that's right, eleven! Here are just a few of them:

- Didn't quite get the ATAR you were hoping for? Try the [Next Step Program](#).
- Disadvantaged by something beyond your control? The [Educational Access Scheme](#) (EAS) could be for you.
- Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? Check out [Walanga Muru](#).

Your options are (nearly) endless!

Where can I find out more?

If you're feeling uncertain about entry into your dream course, you can always contact the university directly and chat about your options. At the end of the day they want you to study, so they're bound to be able to help you out.

You can also take a look at our handy [Alternative Pathways Database](#), filled with pathway options from unis around the country.

Changing Your Preferences Quick Read

Congratulations, you've made it to the end of year 12 and survived the epic finale of exams and assessments. Now it's time to enjoy your graduation, formals, and schoolies, then relax until ATAR results are released.

If you've been pondering on your uni options, then now is the time to reassess your preferences too.

Know when to step away

If you think that you've nailed your preferences and done as well as expected in your exams, then you can focus on other things (perhaps finding a summer job, planning your gap year, applying for scholarships and grants, researching accommodation and other essentials near where you'll be studying).

Just because friends are talking about changing preferences doesn't mean you need to. Leave your selection alone if you're sure you've made all the right choices for you.

You can change your preferences right now

However, if you've any concerns about your preferences, then now is the time to change them.

You can reorder your preferences if you've changed your mind about what you'd most like to study or add new ones if you've found a course that you think will suit you better. If your circumstances have changed and your original university locations or courses may be impacted, or you think that you may have done better or worse than expected in your exams, why not spend a little time looking at other options and reordering or changing your preferences to suit.

Remember that the preference listed in your number 1 spot should be the course that you'd most like to receive an offer for during the main round of university offers (just after ATAR release).

There will be other opportunities

Don't stress if you don't get around to it, or changing your preferences becomes an issue *after* you've received your results – there will be other windows where you can make changes and ensure you receive the best offer for you.

Here they are:

State	Admissions Centre	Results Release Date	Change of preferences cut-off for main round offer	Change of Preferences Closes for next offers round
NSW & ACT	UAC	20 January 2022	11.59pm 21 January 2022	11.59pm 29 January 2022
Victoria	VTAC	7am 16 December 2021	4pm 20 December 2021	4pm 20 January 2022
Queensland	QTAC**	8am 17 December 2021	12pm 20 December 2021	11.59pm 5 January 2022
WA	TISC	19 December 2021	11.59pm 19 December 2021	11.59pm 14 January 2022
SA & NT	SATAC	8.30am 13 December 2021	15 December 2021	10 January 2021
Tasmania*	UTAS	15 December 2021	Mid-Jan	

*UTAS send out their main round of offers to Tasmanian students mid-December and to students in all other states/territories in January, so you may need to call and check with them when the last chance to change your preferences will be.

**For QTAC change of preferences, *do not press save until you are sure they are exactly as you want them.*

The first three times you click the 'save' button are free, but each time after that, you'll be charged [a change of preference fee](#).

Also please note the **28 January 2022 offer round** will be the first round where **NSW and ACT Year 12 QTAC applicants** can be made an offer on the basis of their ATAR. NSW and ACT Year 12 applicants are encouraged to apply to QTAC **by Friday 10 December 2021** and complete changes of preferences by **5 January 2022** (excludes courses with early, fixed, closing dates).

Coming soon...

There's more information about changing preferences in our [Apply to Uni Guide](#), but keep your eyes peeled because as soon as we've heard back from some more universities we'll be publishing a Change of Preference Information Session quick reference guide as well.

Resources

Planning An Alternative Schoolies?

Traditional schoolies week doesn't appeal to everyone and that's perfectly OK. If you'd still like to celebrate this milestone but the busyness of a mainstream schoolies event is putting you off, there are **lots** of other ways you can have fun and mark the occasion.

Our Top Alternative Schoolies

Relax

Staying at home, organising catch up with friends, heading to the beach, or spending some time getting reacquainted with the couch and snoozing is a perfectly acceptable (and quite frankly appealing) way to kick off your summer.

Book a beach house or AirBnb

If you're looking for something a little more special, how about planning a trip with a few of your best friends? You can lounge around all day by the pool, go sightseeing, take day trips, and party with a more intimate crowd.

Be cruisey

Is a cruise more your style? Check out what options are available or book a houseboat for a few days. You can even book [special schoolies cruises](#).

Plan a road trip

Not to be scoffed at, a classic road trip can be the ultimate in fun and adventure. Either by yourself or with a couple of friends, just choose a destination and work out how you're going to get there and where you can stay along the way.

Go camping

A good old [camping](#) option shouldn't be overlooked either. A few nights away with no plans, no responsibilities, a fridge full of food and your mates, campfires and sleeping under the stars – doesn't get much better. Or cheaper.

Work it

It might not sound much of a celebration to everyone, but if you're keen to start earning money and being independent, now's your chance. Plus, if you start applying while everyone else is planning their schoolies week, you could get ahead of the crowds and land yourself the best job.

Be productive

Perhaps you'd love to get away, but you still want to be a little bit proactive. Why not check out short residential courses and retreats? Indulge your passion or hobby while adding something valuable to your CV too.

[Volunteering](#)

This is a great opportunity to [explore the world](#), feel better about yourself, learn new skills and add something valuable to your resume.

Achieve a goal

While trekking to Everest's Base camp and skiing in Japan might be off the cards this year, if there's something else you've always dreamed of doing, now is your time.

- [Bungy jumping](#)
- [Sky diving](#)
- [Diving](#)
- [Rock climbing](#) or [sport climbing](#)
- Join a [drama](#) or [dance](#) company

Whatever you decide to do, why not use this time to do something memorable.

Job Spotlight

[How to become a Drone Operator](#)

Conquer the skies with your feet on the ground

What do Drone Operators do?

Drone Operators are people who are qualified and skilled at operating remote controlled drones. They can work in a huge variety of industries, including aviation and transport, the defence force, STEM, arts and recreation, agriculture, and more. Tasks can vary from taking aerial photographs, planting seeds remotely, surveying landscapes, moving equipment, and so much more.

If you want a challenging and varied career, have a passion for aviation and technology, and are keen and innovative, this could be the perfect career for you.

About you:

- Skilled with your hands
- Technologically literate
- Excellent problem solver
- Good communicator
- Innovative and curious
- Adaptable and creative
- Can work well in teams and independently
- Aware of aviation regulations

The job:

- Remotely operating drones in line with safety regulations
- Taking images and video while in the air
- Downloading data from drones onto other devices
- Using drones to move a variety of items
- Performing surveying and mapping work
- Maintaining and repairing drones and equipment
- Duties can vary greatly depending on the industry you work in

Lifestyle Impact: Varies

- Because Drone Operators can work in so many industries, average pay and work hours vary drastically.
- You will have the opportunity to do work indoors as well as out in the field, depending on the industry you work in.

Drone Operators are most in demand in these locations:

As a Drone Operator, you will likely be able to find a job in almost any industry, and all across Australia.

Here are some potential industry options:

- **Arts and Recreation:** taking aerial photography and video for events
- **Aviation and Transport:** using drones to deliver parcels, working in air traffic control
- **Construction:** using drones to survey potential construction sites, remotely checking the progress of construction
- **Education:** teaching others how to operate drones and obtain a Remote Pilot's License
- **Environment:** remotely surveying crops and livestock, inspecting the health of reefs and rainforests, spotting endangered wildlife
- **Government and Defence:** providing tactical information to Defence, guide weapons systems
- **Hospitality and Retail:** using drones to fetch items from warehouses, remotely serve customers
- **IT:** coding and programming new software for drones to increase their capability
- **STEM:** conducting geospatial surveys, heatmapping, surveying wildlife and land health

How to become a Drone Operator in Australia

Most places will require you to have a [Remote Pilot's License](#) (RePL) in order to operate drones safely and effectively.

Step 1 – Complete at least Year 10 with a focus on English and Maths.

Step 2 – Obtain an [Aviation Reference Number](#) (ARN).

Step 3 – Find a certified training provider and undertake your RePL.

Step 4 – Pass all theoretical and practical requirements.

Step 5 – Find an industry you'd like to specialise in.

Find out more here –

<https://www.casa.gov.au>

<https://aviassist.com.au/>

Similar Careers to Drone Operator

[Air Traffic Controller](#)

[Aircraft Pilot](#)

[Delivery Driver](#)

[Logistics Manager](#)

Defence Force

[Picker and Packer](#)

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What do Drone Operators do?

A Drone Operator's main duty is to fly and maintain a variety of remote operated vehicles. Other duties can vary greatly depending on the industry you work in.

Which industries employ Drone Operators?

Drone Operators are employed in almost every industry.

What options are there for career progression?

You might start out working for a company or someone else, then move on to providing freelance services. You could even consider starting your own business.

Do I need to go to university to become a Drone Operator?

Not necessarily. However, you will likely need to obtain a Remote Pilot's License (RePL).

Where do Drone Operators work?

Drone Operators are needed all across Australia, and the world.

What are 3 things I can do right now to help me become a Drone Operator?

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

1. Buy a drone and start using it for recreational purposes. Make sure you familiarise yourself with any airspace restrictions.
2. Talk to someone who works as a Drone Operator or watch videos and find out what a day in their life is like.
3. See if you can find work experience in the industry you're interested in. This is a great way to build valuable skills and make connections for the future.

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