

## Welcome

Welcome to the October Careers Newsletter for 2025. We are into the last term for the year and the weather is improving. Please see below the latest in University and TAFE news.

## Year 12 News

We wish the Year 12 student good luck with their upcoming Year 12 Exams. They have worked very hard this year. Students can change their preferences on their VTAC Applications up until 13 December, 2025. Year 12 students will receive their ATAR results on the 11 December, 2025. The Careers Team will contact all Year 12 students during the Change of Preference time to see how the students are doing and if they need any help.

## Year 11 News

Where possible, interviews should be scheduled outside of class time.

Click here to book an interview:

<https://koonungcareers.com.au/for-students/appointment-booking>

## Year 10 News

Year 10's attend the Monash University excursion on 15 October, 2025. Students learnt about the different types of courses and a bit about University life on Campus.





Here are some photos from the day:



Year 10's attended the RYDA workshop at Box Hill Institute Lilydale Campus on Wednesday 22 October, 2025. This is Road Safety program which helps provide students with tools to become active, responsible road citizens.

The students were engaged in many different sessions which made them aware for the need for being responsible on the roads.

***Included in this newsletter:***

- Information Sessions
- Open Days
- Scholarships
- Job Spotlight - Industrial Designer





## Information Sessions

Careers with STEM & QUT – Tech Careers Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents

**Organisation:** Careers with STEM

**Location:** Online

**Date:** November 5, 2025

Imagine building the next big thing in AI, helping fight climate change with smart data, or even designing the tech behind the next generation of electric cars or space travel. Technology is now woven into every industry – from music and gaming to medicine and sustainable energy – which means a career in tech doesn't just mean one path; it means limitless possibilities.

[Find out more](#)



Monash University Clayton Campus Tour for Future Students

**Organisation:** Monash University

**Location:** Monash Clayton Campus

**Date:** November 13, 2025

[Find out more](#)

UCAT, GAMSAT and Pathways into Medicine – Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents


**Organisation:** National Institute of Education

**Location:** Online


**Date:** November 26, 2025

This forum is an excellent opportunity for teachers, students and their parents to find out about the UCAT, pathways into medicine, and have all questions answered by an expert teacher who has been working in the field since 1999.

The session is packed with invaluable information during which we will be covering the following topics, and more:

- What is UCAT? UCAT scores? UCAT Sub-tests?
  - Year 10, 11 and 12 - things to consider now
  - The undergraduate selection criteria
  - Application process into universities for medicine and dentistry
  - When and who can sit the UCAT?
  - GAMSAT
  - Can you prepare for the UCAT?
  - Undergraduate interview process
  - What, how and why about Gap Year?
  - Alternative degrees and career choices
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- Work experience advice
  - Q&A

[Find out more](#)

Future Health Careers Day at La Trobe University for Year 12 Students in Bendigo

**Organisation:** La Trobe University

**Location:** La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus

**Date:** December 8, 2025

The Future Health Careers Day is designed to give students a realistic and relevant insight into studying and working in health and science fields, particularly within regional Victoria.

Held over one full day at La Trobe University Bendigo, the event will include a dynamic mix of information sessions, hands-on lab experiences, group-based problem-solving activities and opportunities to engage with LTU academics and current students.

Students will explore the wide range of courses and pathways available at LTU Bendigo - including degrees in Nursing/Midwifery, Pharmacy, Social Work, Psychology, and Dentistry. Sessions will cover course entry requirements, tips for applications and important dates. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend an information session covering generalised information about La Trobe University, course entry requirements and important dates.

**Application deadline: 5pm, 31st October 2025** [Find out more](#)

VTAC Webinar on Getting Your Results and What Happens Next for Students Starting in 2026

**Organisation:** Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

**Location:** Online

**Date:** December 9, 2025

You're about to receive your secondary school results, but what do you need to do to prepare for the next stage of your education journey?

Join us to hear more about how the ATAR is calculated, advice on changing your preferences and how to order them, accepting an offer and other ways you can get support in this important time.

[Find out more](#)





## VTAC Webinar on Preferences, Pathways and Offers for Students Starting in 2026

**Organisation:** Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

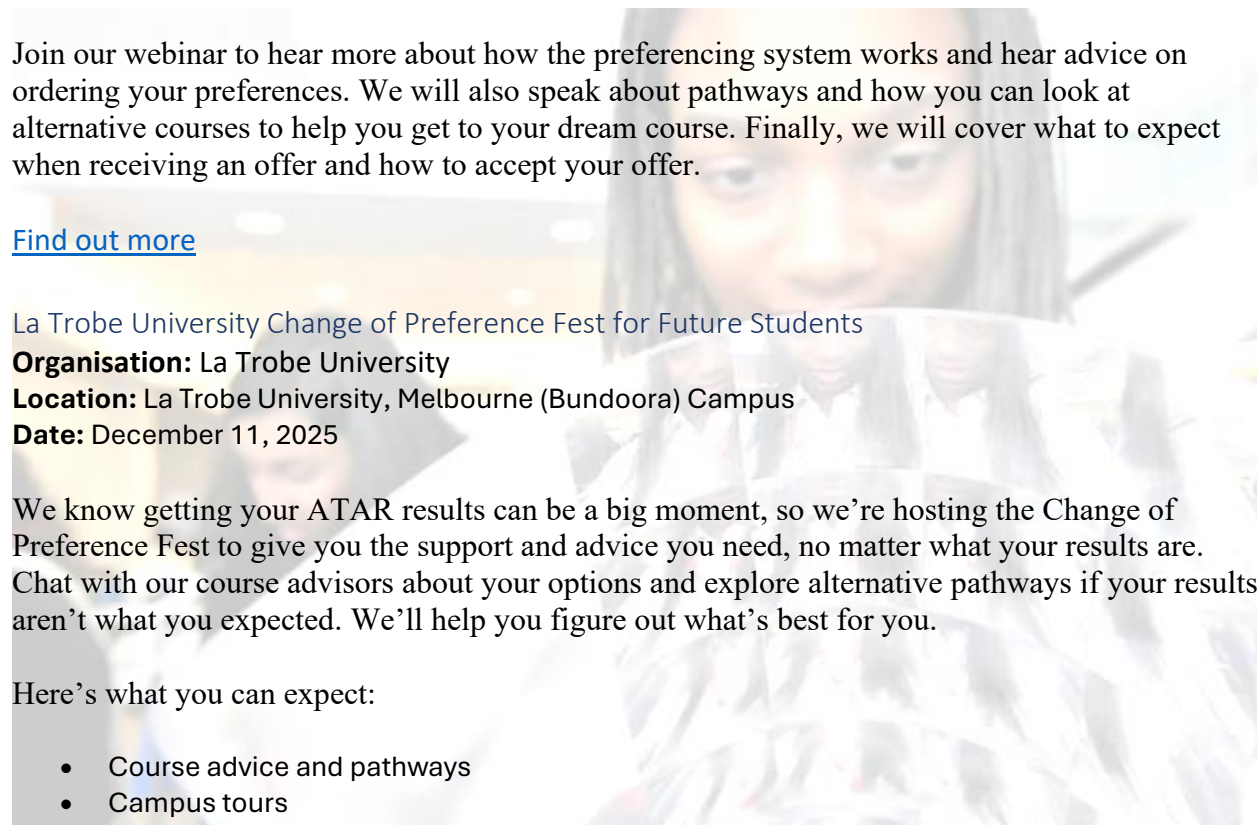
**Location:** Online

**Date:** December 11, 2025

You've just received your results, congratulations! This time can be exciting but also a bit stressful, so we are here to help guide you towards your dream course.

Join our webinar to hear more about how the preferencing system works and hear advice on ordering your preferences. We will also speak about pathways and how you can look at alternative courses to help you get to your dream course. Finally, we will cover what to expect when receiving an offer and how to accept your offer.

[Find out more](#)



## La Trobe University Change of Preference Fest for Future Students

**Organisation:** La Trobe University

**Location:** La Trobe University, Melbourne (Bundoora) Campus

**Date:** December 11, 2025

We know getting your ATAR results can be a big moment, so we're hosting the Change of Preference Fest to give you the support and advice you need, no matter what your results are. Chat with our course advisors about your options and explore alternative pathways if your results aren't what you expected. We'll help you figure out what's best for you.

Here's what you can expect:

- Course advice and pathways
- Campus tours
- Free food
- Prizes and giveaways

[Find out more](#)

## Scholarships

Bond University First Nations Medical Scholarship Program

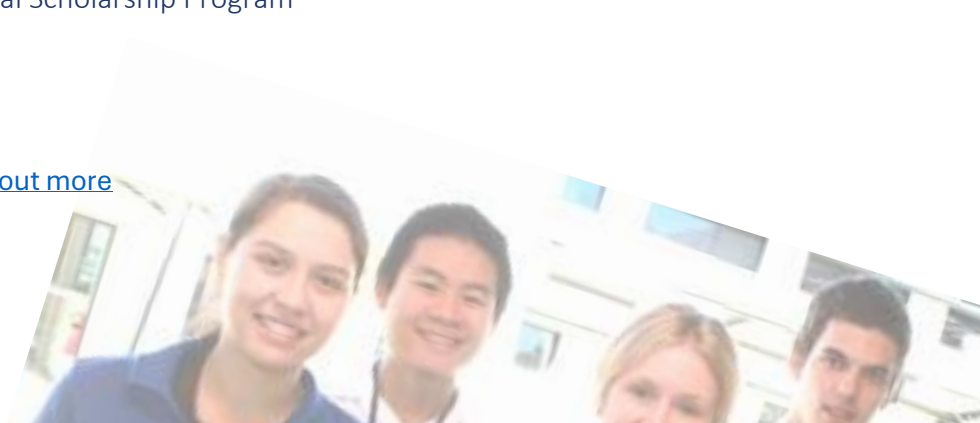
**Organisation:** Bond University

**Location:** Australia

**Value:** 50% tuition fee remission

**Open Date:** January 8, 2026

**Close Date:** January 22, 2026 [Find out more](#)





## Australian Medical Association Scholarship for Indigenous Medical University Students

**Organisation:** Australian Medical Association

**Location:** Australia

**Value:** \$11,000 AUD per year

**Open Date:** November 1, 2025

**Close Date:** January 31, 2026

[Find out more](#)

## Workplace Spotlight

### How to become an Optical Dispenser

Optical dispensers (also known as opticians) interpret optical prescriptions, fit glasses and contact lenses, and help customers select frames that suit both their visual needs and personal style. Working closely with optometrists, they ensure that every pair of eyewear fits comfortably and provides clear vision.

If you have excellent attention to detail, enjoy working with people, and are interested in combining technical knowledge with customer service, a career as an optical dispenser could be perfect for you.

#### What skills do I need as an optical dispenser?

- Strong attention to detail
- Excellent communication skills
- Patient and adaptable
- Fantastic teamworker
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Great problem-solver
- Customer service-focused
- Organised and efficient

#### What does the job involve?

- Interpreting optical prescriptions
- Taking measurements to ensure proper fit
- Assisting customers in selecting appropriate frames
- Advising on lens options, coatings and special features
- Adjusting and repairing frames
- Educating customers on eyewear care and maintenance
- Maintaining accurate customer records
- Managing eyewear inventory and displays







## What industries do optical dispensers typically work in?

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Retail Trade

## What Career Cluster do optical dispensers belong to?

Because the core of their job involves supporting other people with their health, most optical dispensers belong to the [Guardian Cluster](#). There are also elements of the role that might suit [Coordinators](#) (organising records and managing inventory), [Linkers](#) (selling products and supporting customers), and [Makers](#) (fitting and repairing frames).

## What kind of lifestyle can I expect?

Optical dispensers are commonly employed by optometrists, optical retailers, or even specialist optical dispensaries, and work standard business hours. If you work in a retail store, you may need to work some evenings and weekends to accommodate customer schedules. Part-time and casual opportunities are also common for those seeking extra flexibility.

Most optical dispensers earn an average salary throughout their careers. There are opportunities for further training and upskilling that may lead to higher wages.

The role involves being on your feet for extended periods as you move around the store greeting customers and assisting with fittings. The hands-on nature of the job means opportunities to work remotely are extremely limited.

## How to become an optical dispenser

To work as an optical dispenser, you usually need to complete a relevant qualification, such as a [Certificate IV in Optical Dispensing](#). This course involves a combination of both theory and practical experience, and can also be done as a traineeship.


In some cases, you may be able to start working as an optical assistant and build some skills and experience before receiving in-house training from your employer or support to study externally to become an optical dispenser.

## What can I do right now to work towards this career?

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

- Look for work experience opportunities at local optometry practices or optical retail stores.




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- Develop your customer service skills through part-time retail work or volunteering.
  - Work on your fine motor skills through hobbies like model building, origami, or learning a musical instrument.

### Where can I find more information?

- [International Opticians' Association](#)
- [Optical Dispensers Australia](#)
- [Association of Dispensing Opticians of New Zealand](#)
- [Association of British Dispensing Opticians](#)
- [Irish Association of Dispensing Opticians](#)
- [American Board of Opticianry](#)
- [Opticians Association of Canada](#)

### Similar careers to optical dispenser

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- Optometrist
  - Optical Designer
  - Ophthalmologist
  - [Retail Assistant](#)
  - Pharmacy Technician
  - [Pathology Collector](#)
  - [Lab Technician](#)
  - Dental Technician

