

CAREERS NEWSLETTER 21 SEPTEMBER, 2026



INVITATION TO JOIN JOB JUMP

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

Job Jump provides:

Up-to-date information on tertiary study options, ATARs, apprenticeships, and TAFE pathways.

Tools to create a resume, helping students present their strengths professionally.

Customised news alerts so families stay informed about important deadlines and opportunities.

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

To register, simply visit:

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

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

Disclaimer – all information is printed in good faith

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm all details with the appropriate institution.



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

Events

This Week's Events

Indigenous Futures at the University of Sydney: Last Chance for Scholarship Applications Webinar

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 24, 2026

As the scholarship application deadline approaches, this yarn will offer a final opportunity for you to ask any remaining questions regarding the scholarship applications. Don't miss this chance to ensure you're fully prepared!

[Find out more](#)

Fashion Careers – Your Future in Fashion Online Info Session

Organisation: La Mode College

Location: Online

Date: September 24, 2026

La Mode College is offering a free online Fashion Careers Information Session for Australian students in Years 10–12 and their parents.

The session is designed to help students interested in fashion understand the career and study pathways available within the industry. It will explore careers in fashion design, buying, product development, merchandising, e-commerce and entrepreneurship, including what different roles involve and current salary ranges.

Students will also learn about university, TAFE and alternative study pathways, portfolio preparation, skills they can begin developing while still at school, and pathways to starting a fashion business.

The session aims to give students and parents practical information to help them explore whether a future in fashion is right for them and make more informed study and career decisions. A live Q&A will be included.

[Find out more](#)

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

WSU Free Online HSC Study Sessions for Year 12 Students

Organisation: Western Sydney University

Location: Online

Date: September 28 to October 7, 2026

From Monday 28th September to Wednesday 7th October 2026, Western Sydney University will be offering a range of online study sessions to assist Year 12 students in their preparations for the HSC. These will be delivered by highly qualified senior teachers with 22 free sessions across 14 key HSC subject areas, with sessions that included content analysis, tips and strategies, and a detailed exploration of key syllabus and curriculum areas.

Students will have the opportunity to sit a practice exam and deconstruction, with feedback and advice from experts.

[Find out more](#)



AIM Music Theatre Audition Workshop, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: Australian Institute of Music, Sydney Campus

Date: September 29 to September 30, 2026

If the stage is where you're headed, this is how you get there.

AIM's Sydney Music Theatre Audition Workshop is an immersive two-day experience for high school students who are serious about turning their passion into a career.

Working directly with the industry professionals who teach our Bachelor of Music Theatre, you'll build your skills, refine your repertoire, and walk away with the confidence and feedback you need to nail your audition.

[Find out more](#)

You've Received an ANU Early Offer — What Happens Next? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 29, 2026

Congratulations! Your Early Offer is an exciting first step towards starting your university journey.

Join our Future Students and Admissions team for a practical session covering everything you need to know about what happens next.

We'll walk you through accepting your offer, change of preference, key dates and important next steps, as well as answer some of the common questions students and parents have at this stage.

After the presentation, there'll be plenty of time to ask your questions and get advice directly from our team, so you can feel confident about what comes next.

[Find out more](#)

Quantum Tech Camp for Year 9-12 Students and Teachers

Organisation: Sydney Quantum Academy

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus OR Online

Date: September 29 to October 1, 2026

Now in its fifth year, Quantum Tech Camp is a free three-day program for students in Years 9-12 who want to explore one of the world's most exciting emerging technologies.

Through interactive activities, coding and problem-solving challenges, you'll learn the fundamentals of quantum computing and experiment with concepts such as superposition, entanglement and quantum randomness. No prior knowledge of quantum physics or coding is required.

Beginners will be supported through hands-on activities, while students with coding experience can explore more advanced programming challenges using Python.

You'll also meet Australian quantum researchers and mentors, connect with like-minded students from across Australia, and discover study and career pathways in quantum technology.

In 2026 the Camp is free to attend, but spaces are limited.

SQA is committed to making this event accessible to everyone. If you require any accommodations, please let them know in advance by sending an email to: info.sqa@sydney.edu.au.

[Find out more](#)

ANSTO Stop Motion Animation Advanced Workshop for Ages 10-13

Organisation: Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre

Date: September 30, 2026

This workshop is designed for young animators who have already created their own stop motion movies, or who have previously attended one of our Stop Motion Animation Beginners workshops.

Participants will explore more advanced animation techniques using professional style stop motion



software and learn how to create smoother, more polished films. Young filmmakers will develop complex scenes, experiment with special effects and movement techniques, and discover how sound can bring their stories to life.

Learn how to:

- Create more realistic and expressive character movements
- Use advanced stop motion software and tools
- Record and edit your own audio
- Add sound effects and music
- Animate characters speaking through lip-syncing techniques
- Plan and produce longer, more detailed animations

This workshop is perfect for creative young people who are ready to challenge themselves and develop the patience, storytelling and technical skills used by professional animators.

[Find out more](#)

Money That Matters: Can Finance Change the World? Hybrid Event for Students

Organisation: INCO Academy

Location: Canva Space, Sydney & Online

Date: September 30, 2026

Want a career that actually makes a difference? This free hybrid event explores how finance can be used to tackle some of the world's biggest environmental, social and economic challenges, and why some of the most meaningful jobs in finance are ones you've probably never heard of.

You will hear from people working in sustainable finance, responsible investment, philanthropy and social impact. They'll share what they actually do day to day, how they found their way into their careers, and the advice they wish someone had given them when they were starting out. There's a Q&A, plus a chance to meet industry professionals and other young people who want to make a difference.

It's for anyone aged 16 to 25, whether you're still at school, studying at TAFE or uni, or just figuring out what's next.

[Find out more](#)

Creative and Performing Arts Workshops 2026 for Year 9 & 10

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong - Wollongong Campus

Date: September 30 to October 1, 2026

Designed to ignite creativity and foster skill development among high school students. Led by UOW academics who are experts in their respective fields, these workshops offer hands-on experiences in **creative writing, performance and theatre, visual arts, and music.**

These workshops aim to inspire students and strengthen their connection with the university community, providing a glimpse into the vibrant academic environment at UOW. Register now to attend! Price includes light refreshments. Students are asked to pack a lunch or they can purchase from the campus food outlets.

[Find out more](#)

Where to Now? Careers Workshop, Penrith

Organisation: Inspiring the Future

Location: YES Youth Employment Services Springwood

Date: September 30, 2026

Join us at YES Youth Employment Services in Windsor for a free, interactive session focused on exploring your career options and working out what your next steps could be and what supports are available for you.



This session will help you:

- Learn how your interests and what you're good at could link to a future career
- Explore different directions you could head in based on your interests
- What supports are available to you

We'll use simple, interactive activities (using your phone) along with group discussions in a relaxed and supportive space.

Whether you're not sure what's next or you're ready to start making moves, come along, get some practical tips, and connect with others who are figuring things out too.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Games and Animation Workshop Day for Year 10-12 Students, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: September 30, 2026

AIE's Games and Animation Workshop Days are a great opportunity for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to learn about the local and international game development, 3D animation and visual effects industries.

Students will get the opportunity to learn about the different pathways to get into the industry, what should be in a portfolio and will be able to get creative in practical workshops using industry-standard 3D animation and game development tools.

The sessions are run by industry professionals who have worked on blockbuster games and films. Everything is provided for you to participate in the hands-on workshops and you will be using the same software that is used in the industry.

If you are thinking about a career in the games or film industry then this is a great place to get started. Places are limited so registrations are required for this free event.

[Find out more](#)

CDW Studios Digital Art Holiday Workshop for Ages 14+ – Sydney & Online

Organisation: CDW Studios

Location: CDW Studios, Sydney Campus & Online

Date: October 1, 2026

Level up your drawing skills in a fun, interactive, full day workshop!

Participants will get an introductory insight to the industry whilst learning techniques that they can apply straight away! Perfect for beginners who wish to learn more as well as more experienced artists who want to push their work to the next level. This workshop is a fantastic starting point for those who are curious about venturing into the competitive world of visual effects and entertainment design.

Take this rare opportunity to learn from professional artists in a fun, engaging environment.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Film Production Workshop for Ages 16+, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: October 2, 2026

Learn what it takes to plan and produce a film shoot in this intensive film production workshop. You will get hands-on with cameras, lighting, and the latest in virtual production LED screens. Industry-experienced filmmakers will guide you in taking your script through the various production stages. In this workshop, we will fast-track the film production process by choosing one scene and taking it through the pipeline from idea to finished shots. As part of this process, participants will be leveraging virtual production sets! This is an exclusive opportunity to learn more about this



revolutionary technology which is empowering filmmakers.
This workshop is suited to participants 16 years+ that are interested starting their career in film.
[Find out more](#)

Create for a Day at SAE Sydney

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2026

This October school holidays, SAE University College Sydney is opening its doors for Create for a Day: a one-day, hands-on experience where you'll step into the studio, lab or production space and start creating.

Choose from:

- Animation
- Audio
- Computer Science
- Design
- Film
- Games
- Songwriting & Electronic Music Production
- VFX

Create for a Day lets you skip the textbooks and jump straight into building, recording, designing, coding or filming, all guided by lecturers who work in the industry.

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with your own finished project and a certificate of participation, plus a clearer idea of what studying at SAE is really like and where your skills could take you in the future.

Open to students in Years 10-12 and young creatives up to age 21.

[Find out more](#)

FUTURE EVENTS

Apply to ANU: UAC Now Open – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: October 6, 2026

Ready to apply to ANU? Join us for a quick, practical session on how to apply through the University Admissions Centre (UAC). We'll walk you through the process, key dates and what you need to know to get your application sorted.

Already completed your ANU Early Offer application? You're all set – there's no need to apply again.

[Find out more](#)

Young Architects Workshop for Ages 12-16: Build Your Own Coffee Shop!

Organisation: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Location: Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Date: October 8, 2026

In this unique Young Architects Workshop, students age 12-16 will meet at MRAG and then head to the nearby NICHE Cafe where, in their upstairs workshop space, artist Jen Denzin and architecture student Camille Cherry will lead a workshop on designing a coffee shop!

This hands-on super-fun workshop allows students to harness their creativity and design potential.

This is a rare opportunity for young people to learn about the art of architecture and everything that



goes into our homes, places and spaces.

Students will learn the basic principles of architecture and then get a chance to build their cafe, with all materials supplied. During this special school holidays workshop, parents are welcome to stick around and enjoy a coffee at Niche as well. This is a free program proudly supported by NSW Government, Cleverpatch and EJE Architecture.

[Find out more](#)

UON Surveying Webinar

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: Online

Date: October 8, 2026

Interested in joining one of Australia's most in-demand professions?

Join Program Convenor Associate Professor Mehdi Khaki to learn more about the University of Newcastle's surveying programs and new study options.

Hear about our flexible hybrid approach, combining online learning with dedicated on-campus field intensives, and explore the range of study options available. You'll also discover where a career in surveying could take you and have the opportunity to ask your questions in a Q&A.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: October 12, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

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

[Find out more](#)

TAFE NSW Accounting and Finance Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW

Location: Online

Date: October 14, 2026

Join us online or at your nearest participating campus, and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Registrations are mandatory. Get in quick to secure your seat today.

Courses covered:

- Commercial Law for Tax (Financial) Advisers
- Commercial Law for Tax Agents
- Diploma of Applied Commerce
- Financial Accounting Theory and Audit
- Bachelor of Applied Commerce

[Find out more](#)

UNSW TAFE/VET Pathway Info Session

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: Online

Date: October 16, 2026

This online info session is your chance to find out exactly how the TAFE/VET Pathway works at UNSW.



Thinking about using your TAFE or VET qualification to get into UNSW? This online info session is your chance to find out exactly how the TAFE/VET Pathway works and whether it could be your route into a UNSW degree.

What we'll cover:

- Which UNSW degrees are available through the TAFE/VET Pathway
- What credit you may be eligible for and how it can shorten your degree
- How to apply and what the process looks like step by step

Plus, bring your questions for a live message Q&A so you can get answers in real time.

[Find out more](#)

JMC Academy Portfolio & Audition Masterclass, Sydney

Organisation: JMC Academy

Location: JMC Academy, Sydney Campus

Date: October 17, 2026

JMC is running a fun and interactive series of masterclasses for future creative students this October. Ace that audition in Acting, Musical Theatre or Music Performance, or perfect that portfolio in Animation, Design, Game Design or Music Production.

Choose a stream that suits your creative aspiration.

These sessions are great for:

- Year 10-11 students wanting to make an early start on their journey into a creative course
- Year 12 students applying through UAC, VTAC or QTAC
- Year 10-12 high school students looking to experience JMC facilities

Masterclasses not only give you a chance to get practical advice, expert feedback and hands-on experience to help you prepare for auditions or develop your portfolio, but you'll also get to enjoy a fun and interactive experience with our creative courses.

[Find out more](#)

HSC Workshop: Visual Arts Induction, Marrickville

Organisation: Inner West Council Libraries

Location: Marrickville Library and Pavilion

Date: October 18, 2026

An essential presentation for students in Year 11 beginning the HSC Visual Arts Course in Term 4. Visual Arts teachers are also welcome!

This session unpacks the dual role students will play as both artist and critic, offering a clear understanding of what lies ahead - from developing the HSC Body of Work to preparing for the HSC Written Exam, with practical advice on how to navigate course content, Case Studies, time management in preparing for school-based assessments and external exams. This induction equips students with tools to start strong and stay on track throughout the HSC Visual Arts journey. Visual Arts teachers are welcome to attend and bring a group of students or come along for their own professional development.

BYO pens, highlighters, clipboard, notebook and water bottle. A workbook will be provided.

[Find out more](#)

SCU Future Leaders Workshop, Coffs Harbour

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour Campus

Date: October 21, 2026

Join us for Future Leaders, a free full-day workshop facilitated by world record-breaking pilot and leadership development speaker, Lachie Smart. With engaging content, practical activities, and a supportive environment, the event aims to inspire students to unlock their potential, lead with



confidence, and make a positive impact in their schools and communities. This event is for Year 11 and 12 students; specifically student representatives, aspiring school leaders and anyone wanting to enhance their confidence and resilience in leadership.

- Explore our campus and experience our state-of-the-art campus facilities.
- Through interactive activities, develop strategic plans and acquire essential leadership skills.
- Meet current Southern Cross University students and network with us throughout the day.
- Enjoy a catered morning tea and lunch on us.

School staff can register online through the university's event page by filling out the registration form, indicating the number of students attending from your school and selecting the desired campus.

[Find out more](#)

Study project management at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 21, 2026

Project management is a versatile field. From delivering infrastructure to launching major events, project managers are the go-to people to get the job done.

Sydney's Bachelor of Project Management provides you with skills to excel in today's complex and uncertain environment. Join this webinar and hear about many reasons to study project management at Sydney.

[Find out more](#)

Beneath Our Feet: Understanding the Ground That Supports Our World – Discover Lecture Series with Macquarie

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: October 21, 2026

What's happening beneath the ground we walk on every day — and why does it matter?

In this talk, Dr Golnaz Alipour explores the world of the underground and explains how soils and rocks play a vital role in everything we build; from homes and bridges to tunnels and entire cities. Using real world examples such as landslides and sinkholes, Golnaz will explain how engineers strengthen and stabilise the ground, and how new tools, including sensors, satellites and artificial intelligence, are changing the way we monitor and protect the places we build on. Major Australian projects will bring these ideas to life and highlight the often unseen work that keeps our built environment standing.

This event is part of Macquarie's [Discover Lecture Series](#), monthly talks suitable for ages 10 and up that offer inspiring insights and a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our future.

[Find out more](#)

Why study business with Sydney? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 28, 2026

Discover how our commerce degree prepares you for the future of work and a wide range of career opportunities. You will learn about the range of study areas (or majors) available – such as marketing, finance, or innovation and entrepreneurship - and the many ways in which you can combine your interests, with over 100 study areas to select from our shared pools of majors and minors.



Find out more about internships, industry-focused experiences, and global mobility opportunities on offer to our Bachelor of Commerce students.

[Find out more](#)

UTS Bachelor of Nursing Information Session

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 28, 2026

Join us online to find out what studying the UTS Bachelor of Nursing involves, and ask our academics your questions.

The UTS Bachelor of Nursing prepares you for the role of the Registered Nurse, combining theoretical and clinical subjects across three years full time, or six years part time. This session is your chance to hear how that works in practice, and what it takes to get in.

- How the course is structured, and what you'll study in each year
- Clinical placements, which begin in the first session of your first year and continue every session after that
- Simulation-based learning, and choosing a specialty elective in your final year — paediatrics, critical care, perioperative or mental health nursing
- Entry requirements, pathways and how to apply

[Find out more](#)

UON TAFE to Uni Webinar

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: Online

Date: October 28, 2026

Interested in taking your studies to the next level? Join us online to learn why TAFE and vocational qualifications are an excellent and popular pathway into the University of Newcastle.

[Find out more](#)

Yr 12 & Beyond with ADHD – Webinar for Year 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: October 29, 2026

Designed to help Year 12 students and parents navigate the transition to tertiary study or employment with practical ADHD management strategies. It offers actionable guidance on post-school options, strengths and interests, accommodations, and setting up tailored support systems.

[Find out more](#)

TAFE NSW Government, Library and Legal Services Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW

Location: Ultimo Campus

Date: October 29, 2026

Join us online or at your nearest participating campus, and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Registrations are mandatory. Get in quick to secure your seat today.

Courses covered:

- Certificate IV in Library and Information Services
- Diploma of Library and Information Services

[Find out more](#)



Explore speech pathology at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 4, 2026

Curious about a career helping people communicate, connect, eat and swallow safely? Join our academic experts to explore the University of Sydney's Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology).

Learn about the degree structure, clinical placements, career opportunities, and what it's like to study Speech Pathology. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A session.

[Find out more](#)

Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10, 11, 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 5, 2026

A practical session focusing on why ADHD brains procrastinate and how students in Years 10–12 can overcome executive dysfunction. Attendees will learn evidence-based study tools, time-management hacks, and task-initiation techniques.

[Find out more](#)

TAFE NSW Art and Design Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW

Location: Online

Date: November 5, 2026

Join us online or at your nearest participating campus, and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Registrations are mandatory. Get in quick to secure your seat today.

Courses covered:

- Certificate IV in Interior Decoration
- Diploma of Interior Design
- Bachelor of Interior Design

[Find out more](#)

CSU Making It In Media Workshop for Year 9-12 Students, Bathurst

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus

Date: November 6, 2026

Are you passionate about content creation, journalism, advertising or public relations?

If you're a student in Year 9, 10, 11 or 12, join us for our free Making it in Media workshop!

Ever wondered what it's really like to host a podcast, write newsworthy articles or work in TV? In this exciting full-day workshop, you'll dive deep into the dynamic worlds of design and content creation, journalism and strategic communication.

This interactive, hands-on experience invites you to collaborate with other students and explore the diverse majors on offer when you study with Charles Sturt.

What to expect:

- Hear from our course director, leading academics and alumni and get your questions answered.



- Step into our brand-new TV studio and creative hub.
- Get a taste of what it's really like to work in media.
- Take part in practical and fun workshop sessions.

[Find out more](#)

Beginner Shakuhachi Workshop for ages 16+

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Date: November 7, 2026

If you've always wanted to try the shakuhachi, now's your chance!

Shakuhachi Master Bronwyn Kirkpatrick will present this workshop and demonstration introducing shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese bamboo flute.

The demonstration/workshop is open to anyone 16 years of age and over and no prior musical experience is necessary.

It will interest students who feel drawn to Asian music and philosophies and people who want to find out more about the shakuhachi and its tradition. It may also be of particular interest to flute and recorder students who are exploring contemporary techniques on their instruments, as many of these techniques are similar to traditional shakuhachi techniques.

The demonstration will include the history of the shakuhachi and performances of different styles of music, from Zen Buddhist to contemporary. There will also be plenty of opportunity to try it out for yourselves! In the workshop, we will work on making sound and improving tone. We will learn to read basic Japanese notation and to play some simple Japanese folk songs.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: November 9, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

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

[Find out more](#)

Life of an agricultural scientist – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 11, 2026

Explore a future in agricultural science at the University of Sydney. Hear from one of our agricultural scientists about their career and discover our Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Honours pathway, from agribusiness and policy to sustainability and food security.

[Find out more](#)

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

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 18, 2026

Waiting for your ATAR? Whether you're feeling confident, unsure, or somewhere in between, join us to explore the many ways you can study at the University of Sydney.

Learn about admission pathways, entry schemes, adjustment factors, and the study options



available after ATAR release so you can make informed decisions about your next steps with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

Camden Careers and Jobs Expo

Organisation: Camden Council

Location: Camden Civic Centre

Date: November 19, 2026

This free event brings together job seekers, exhibitors, students, and industry leaders for a day packed with opportunities. Whether you're launching your career, switching industries, or looking to advance your skills, this is the event you don't want to miss!

- For Job Seekers: Discover a wide range of job opportunities, connect with employers, and explore career paths that could change your future.
- For Exhibitors: This is your chance to showcase your business, engage with potential candidates, and promote your training programs to an eager audience.
- For Students/Schools: Explore endless career pathways, network with employers, and find out about study and training options to kickstart your journey post school.

There is no cost to exhibit or for schools to bring students; however, registration is required.

[Find out more](#)

AIE November Open Day, Sydney

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Sydney Campus

Date: November 21, 2026

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day.

AIE Open Day is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, staff and students. The day will cover everything you need to know about the:

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

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

[Find out more](#)

TAFE NSW Animal Care and Horse Industry Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW

Location: Online

Date: November 23, 2026

Join us online or at your nearest participating campus, and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Registrations are mandatory. Get in quick to secure your seat today.

Courses covered:

- Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing

[Find out more](#)

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

Organisation: University of Sydney



Location: Online

Date: November 25, 2026

Ready to make a real impact? Discover undergraduate nursing degrees at the University of Sydney and explore a career dedicated to improving lives.

Learn about hands-on clinical placements, study pathways, and opportunities to work across hospitals, community health, aged care and beyond. Join us to see how nursing at Sydney can help you build a rewarding future in healthcare.

[Find out more](#)

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

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 26, 2026

Focuses on setting senior students up for success as they enter their final school year and look ahead to future pathways. This webinar for parents, senior high school students and career practitioners covers strategies for managing workload stress, building independence, and planning post-school transitions.

[Find out more](#)

TAFE NSW Farming and Primary Production Info Session

Organisation: TAFE NSW

Location: Online

Date: November 26, 2026

Join us online or at your nearest participating campus, and discover how TAFE NSW can help you get the skills you need for the job you want. Registrations are mandatory. Get in quick to secure your seat today.

Courses covered:

- Certificate III in Agriculture

[Find out more](#)

SAE Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: Online

Date: December 1, 2026

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

[Find out more](#)

AIE Online Campus Day

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Online

Date: December 5, 2026

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day. AIE will be running this event for students interested in studying online. You will be able to meet our teachers, explore how classes will run, course options, career pathways and see our amazing student work.

We will be covering everything you need to know about the:



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

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: December 7, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

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

[Find out more](#)

Notre Dame Information Day for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Notre Dame Australia

Location: University of Notre Dame, Sydney Campus

Date: December 18, 2026

Come to Info Day to find out everything you need to know to start uni next year, receive personalised advice and explore your study options.

You'll also be able to tour our unique campus, check out our new student hub, attend information sessions and workshops to find out more about the degrees we have on offer, enjoy live entertainment, tasty treats and much, much more!

[Find out more](#)

UTAS Enrolment Support Session for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Tasmania

Location: University of Tasmania, Rozelle Campus

Date: December 18, 2026

After you have been [offered a place](#) to study with us, Enrolment Support Session is here to support your next step.

Get help choosing your course, finalising your enrolment, and understanding what uni life is all about. Our friendly staff will be available to answer questions and guide you through the process so you can start your journey with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

Northern Rivers Customer-Owned Banking Scholarship at SCU

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$15,000 AUD

Close Date: February 14, 2027

[Find out more](#)

GO Foundation Scholarships for Year 9 & 11 First Nations Students

Organisation: GO Foundation

Location: Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney



Value: See details

Close Date: No closing date

[Find out more](#)

Teach NSW teach.Rural Scholarships

Organisation: NSW Education, NSW Government

Location: Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales

Value: Up to AU\$50,000 in course fees, plus AU\$7,500 per year while studying

Close Date: October 16, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Teach NSW Teacher Education Scholarship – First Nations

Organisation: NSW Education, NSW Government

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$7,500 AUD per year

Close Date: October 16, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Teach NSW Teacher Education Scholarship Program

Organisation: NSW Education, NSW Government

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$7,500 AUD per year

Close Date: October 16, 2026

[Find out more](#)

UON Penn Foundation Scholarship

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: Australia

Value: \$10,000

Open Date: August 3, 2026

Close Date: March 3, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Australian Mensa Gifted Students Grants

Organisation: Australian Mensa Inc.

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Close Date: September 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Mountain Blue Agricultural Innovation Scholarship at SCU

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$10,000 AUD

Close Date: February 14, 2027

[Find out more](#)



Competitions

Anthology Short Story Competition 2026

Organisation: Anthology

Location: All

Value: Up to €1,000

Close Date: August 30, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Science without Borders® International Student Art Contest for Students Aged 11-19

Organisation: Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation

Location: All

Value: Up to US\$500

Close Date: March 1, 2027

[Find out more](#)

International Physics Competition

Organisation: International Physics Competition

Location: All

Value: Up to US\$1,500

Close Date: November 1, 2026

[Find out more](#)

WWF Photography for Nature Competition

Location: Australia

Value: HP ProBook Laptop AI PC + front cover feature on WWF Australia 2027 calendar

Close Date: September 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Experiences

UOW Summer Master Class 2027

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: UOW Wollongong

Registrations close: November 1, 2026

Date: January 4, 2027

[Find out more](#)

International Physics Competition Local Student Representatives

Organisation: International Physics Competition

Location: All

[Find out more](#)

Brighton and Sussex Medical School Virtual Work Experience

Organisation: Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Location: All

[Find out more](#)



Weekly Posts

JOBS & CAREERS, SUBJECT SELECTION

Where construction could take you

Construction can look different depending on your school. It might appear as a subject called Construction Pathways or Building and Construction, delivered through vocational training, or it might show up through subjects like Design and Technology. However you're introduced to it, construction is about how the built environment gets planned, designed and physically put together, from a single home renovation to a new hospital or a stretch of road.

If you like working with your hands, solving practical problems, or understanding how buildings and infrastructure actually get made, there's more than one door into the industry, and which one suits you depends on what part of the process interests you most.

The skills you build studying construction

Construction develops a set of practical and technical skills that carry well beyond the subject itself.

Practical problem-solving

You'll constantly run into problems that need a workable solution on the spot, whether that's fitting materials to an unusual space or adjusting to a change in plans partway through a project. Working through these situations builds a way of thinking that's useful in almost any hands-on or technical career.

Spatial and technical reasoning

Reading plans, measuring accurately, and understanding how different materials and structures fit together all rely on strong spatial reasoning. This skill develops through repeated, hands-on practice and becomes second nature over time, whether you're framing a wall or interpreting a technical drawing.

Communication and teamwork

A construction project usually involves multiple trades and professionals working to the same plan, often at the same time. Being clear about what's been done, what's next, and what still needs to change is what keeps a project on track and everyone on site safe.

Safety and responsibility

Working on or around a site carries real risk, so understanding safety procedures and taking responsibility for your own actions and the people around you is built into the subject from the start. This kind of awareness carries directly into any workplace where safety matters.

Construction in a changing world

Construction is changing quickly, and the industry now looks well beyond bricks and timber.

- Sustainable building practices are becoming standard, with more attention paid to energy efficiency, material choices and reducing waste on site.
- Prefabrication and modular construction, where sections of a building are made off-site and assembled on location, are speeding up projects and improving consistency.
- Digital tools like Building Information Modelling (BIM) allow entire projects to be planned and coordinated in detail before construction even begins.
- Automation and technology, including drones used for site surveying, are becoming a bigger part of how projects are planned, monitored and delivered.



These changes mean construction increasingly rewards people who can combine practical skill with an interest in technology and sustainability.

Careers directly related to construction

Careers in construction generally fall into two broad categories: trade roles, which are hands-on and usually start with an apprenticeship, and non-trade roles, which tend to focus on design, planning or managing a project.

Trades

Trade careers are the most direct pathway into construction and are usually reached through an apprenticeship, which combines paid, on-the-job training with structured study over several years. Carpenters, Electricians, Plumbers, and Bricklayers all qualify this way, along with trades like Painting, Tiling, and Plastering.

Getting started is more accessible than it might seem. Before you can set foot on an active site, you'll need a General Construction Induction Card, commonly known as a White Card, earned through a short, nationally recognised safety course. Many students complete a pre-apprenticeship first, a short course that introduces the basics of a trade before committing to a full apprenticeship. Others start even earlier through a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, which lets you begin part-time paid work and training from Year 10 while still completing school, with some of that training counting toward your final certificate. A Group Training Organisation can also help, since they employ you directly and place you with a business, which takes some of the pressure off finding an employer on your own.

Design, planning and management

Non-trade roles focus less on hands-on building and more on the planning, design and oversight of a project, and the entry route depends on the specific role. Construction Managers and Site Supervisors, who coordinate trades, materials and timelines to keep a project on track, along with Estimators, who work out the likely cost of a project before it begins, and Building Surveyors, who check that completed work meets required standards, are often reached through TAFE study, industry experience or a traineeship. Building Designers and Drafters, who translate ideas into detailed plans, can enter through either a TAFE qualification or university study, depending on the level of work involved. Roles like Architect, Civil Engineer, Urban Planner, and Surveyor sit at the more technical end of this space, working on the design and infrastructure side of construction from early planning through to completion, and generally require a university degree.

Careers where construction gives you an edge

Beyond the construction industry itself, the practical thinking and project skills it builds are valued across a number of adjacent fields.

Project and business management

The ability to coordinate people, materials and timelines under pressure is valuable well beyond a construction site. People with a construction background often move into broader project management or operations roles in other industries, applying the same organisational skills to different kinds of projects.

Sustainability and technology

Sustainability Consultants, Building Information Modelling (BIM) Technicians, and construction technology specialists are newer roles that have grown directly out of the trends shaping the industry. These positions suit people who enjoy the practical side of construction but want to apply it through data, design software or environmental planning rather than on-site work alone, and



they're usually reached through further study once you already have a base in construction, design or a related trade.

Where could it take you?

Construction offers one of the clearer throughlines from a single subject or short course to a real, physical outcome, whether that's a completed building, a well-run project, or a design that gets built. Whether you're drawn to the hands-on satisfaction of a trade, the technical detail of design work, or the responsibility of managing a project, there's a starting point you can try before you've finished school, and more than one way to build on it from there.

Want to know more about your subject options? [Explore our subject selection resources here.](#)

STUDY TIPS

Master your reading with the SQ3R technique

Reading a long textbook chapter doesn't always mean you come away understanding it. Without a plan, it's easy to reach the last page having taken in very little of what you've just read. The SQ3R technique breaks reading into five clear stages: survey, question, read, recite, and review. Each stage gives your reading a specific purpose, so you finish a chapter with something to show for it beyond turned pages.

What is the SQ3R technique?

[SQ3R stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review](#), five steps you work through when approaching a reading task. The method has been used in schools and universities for decades because it gives readers a consistent way to engage with a text: previewing it, questioning it, then testing what's actually stuck.

When should you use SQ3R?

The SQ3R method works best for reading that needs a deep level of understanding, such as textbook chapters, exam preparation, or research for an assignment. It also helps when a subject is unfamiliar and you need to build a solid foundation of knowledge before moving on to more detail.

If you're just looking for a specific piece of information, like a date or a definition, the [skim and scan method](#) is usually quicker and better suited to that job.

Breaking down the five steps

Survey: get an overview before you start

Before reading in detail, spend five to 10 minutes surveying the material. Look at headings, subheadings, images, graphs, and any bold or highlighted text. Read the introduction and conclusion if the text has them.

For example, surveying a chapter on the digestive system in biology might show sections on enzymes, absorption, and the role of different organs, giving you a sense of what's ahead before you've read a single paragraph in full.

Question: turn headings into questions

Take each heading and subheading and turn it into a question. This gives your reading a specific target and something to check your understanding against once you've finished.

For example, a heading titled Causes of the Industrial Revolution could become What caused the Industrial Revolution? These questions become the goals for your reading session.

Read: read with your questions in mind



Now read the material properly, keeping your questions close by. Match your pace to how difficult the material is, and note down the answer to each question as you find it.

If you're reading about chemical bonding and your question was How do ionic bonds form?, you'd focus on the transfer of electrons between atoms and the attraction that forms between the resulting ions.

Recite: test what you remember

After reading a section, close the text and try to [answer your questions from memory](#), in your own words. If you can explain a concept without looking back at the page, you've understood it.

For example, after reading about plate tectonics, you should be able to explain how plates move and what causes an earthquake without checking your notes. If you can't recall a point, that tells you which part of the section needs another look.

Review: go back over it within a day

Within 24 hours, set aside time to go back over your questions and answers. This step helps move the information into your longer-term memory and makes it easier to spot connections between concepts.

[Spacing review sessions out over several days](#) is usually more effective than one long session right before a test. You might notice, for example, how a persuasive technique covered in one English text connects to a technique used in another piece you studied earlier in the term.

Making SQ3R work for you

SQ3R is a technique to adapt, not a fixed set of rules. Some sections might need more questioning than others, and some texts might need a slower read. The aim is to stay engaged with what you're reading, so the content stays with you once the book is closed.

A notebook for your SQ3R questions and answers can work well as a running study guide, or you could use a notes app or voice recordings for the recite step if that suits you better.

If you're looking for more ways to study effectively, our [study tips](#) section covers strategies for staying on top of coursework and exam preparation.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Disability support and pathways for apprenticeships and traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships are open to people with disability, and a number of government-funded supports exist to help make it happen. None of them are automatic, so it helps to know they exist before you actually need one. Some are paid to your employer, some come through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and others come through Australia's broader employment services system. Knowing what each one does makes it easier to bring up the right one with the right person at the right time.

Getting work-ready before you leave school

If you have an NDIS plan, School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES) can help you build the skills and confidence you need before you start an apprenticeship or traineeship. It's designed for students in their final year of school or who've recently left, and it can include things like work experience, learning to use public transport independently, and practising the everyday tasks a workplace expects. SLES is gradually being replaced by a newer NDIS support called Employment Assistance, so check with your NDIS planner or Local Area Coordinator about what's currently available in your plan. If you don't have an NDIS plan, this step doesn't apply to you, and you can move straight to looking for a role.



Finding a role with the right support

Inclusive Employment Australia is a specialist employment service for people with disability, injury, or a health condition. It replaced the former Disability Employment Services program in November 2025, and it can help with things like resumes, job applications, connecting with employers, and work trials, including for apprenticeships and traineeships. You don't need to be receiving a Centrelink payment to register, and once you're in a role, the same provider can keep supporting you to stay in it.

Disability Australian Apprentice Wage Support (DAAWS)

DAAWS is a weekly payment made to the employer of an eligible apprentice with disability, rather than to the apprentice directly. It exists to encourage employers to take on apprentices with disability who can work in an ordinary workplace with the right support and training. Alongside the wage payment, DAAWS can fund:

- Tutorial support for your off-the-job training
- Mentoring throughout your apprenticeship or traineeship
- Interpreter support, including Auslan

To be eligible, you generally need to be enrolled in a Certificate II qualification or higher, and your disability needs to be formally assessed by a registered medical practitioner or psychologist, rather than a school counsellor. The assessment has to reflect your individual circumstances rather than being applied to a group. If you're under 18, a parent or guardian is involved in that process. DAAWS isn't limited to apprentices who have a disability from day one either. If you acquire one partway through your training, you may become eligible from that point onward. Once eligibility is confirmed, your employer applies for the payment, usually with help from your Apprentice Connect Australia Provider.

Workplace equipment and changes

The Employment Assistance Fund (EAF) is separate from DAAWS, and it covers the practical side of doing a job: equipment, assistive technology, physical changes to a workplace, and interpreting support. It can help fund things like:

- Building changes, like ramps & automatic doors
- Equipment & assistive technology, like screen readers or hearing loop systems
- Auslan interpreting for work tasks & job interviews
- Vehicle changes, where a vehicle is essential to the role

To be eligible, you generally need to be working, about to start work, or self-employed for at least 8 hours a week in a role expected to last 13 weeks or more. For larger funding requests, JobAccess arranges a free workplace assessment to work out exactly what's needed before funding is approved.

How your pay can be set

Apprentices and trainees with disability are usually paid the same award wage as anyone else doing their qualification. The Supported Wage System (SWS) is a separate, optional arrangement that only applies where a disability affects how much work someone can complete in a set period of time. It isn't automatic. Your employer would need to apply for it, and an accredited assessor compares how long you take on standard tasks against an expected benchmark. Your wage is then set as a percentage of the award rate to match. Every other part of your employment, like leave, superannuation, and other entitlements, stays the same as any other apprentice or trainee.

Where to start

You can't begin an apprenticeship or traineeship without being connected to an Apprentice Connect Australia Provider, so that's the first call worth making. They can point you toward DAAWS once you



have an employer, and they work alongside JobAccess, who can talk you through the EAF and the SWS on 1800 464 800. If you have an NDIS plan, involve your planner or Local Area Coordinator early too, since SLES and Employment Assistance both work best when they're set up before you start. None of these supports are compulsory, and using one doesn't mean you have to use them all. Which ones are relevant to you will depend on your disability, your qualification, and what your employer already has in place, so it's fine to only look into the parts that apply to your situation. If you're weighing up an apprenticeship or traineeship, our [apprenticeships and traineeships resources](#) cover more on how they work and how to get started.

JOB SPOTLIGHTS

How to become a Horticulturist

Horticulturists cultivate and manage plants and green spaces across parks, gardens, streetscapes, and urban landscapes, applying technical knowledge of plant biology and ecology to establish and maintain the living elements of the built environment. They work across the full life cycle of vegetation, from selecting and propagating plants through to long-term maintenance and renewal. For people who want to work with their hands, have a genuine interest in plants and ecology, and want to contribute to the green spaces that make communities more liveable, this is a career with clear and tangible outcomes.

What skills do I need as a Horticulturist?

- Plant & ecology knowledge
- Physically capable & active
- Keen eye for detail
- Practical problem solver
- Collaborative team worker
- Patient & methodical
- Adaptable to conditions
- Clear communicator

What do Horticulturists do?

A significant part of your work involves establishing plant communities from the ground up. You'll propagate and plant vegetation according to landscape plans, prepare and assess soil conditions, and manage irrigation and drainage to give plants the best chance of survival. Before anything goes in the ground, you're making informed decisions about species selection, placement, and timing based on the site conditions, the client's requirements, and your knowledge of how different plants behave in different environments.

Day to day, you'll maintain parks, gardens, and green spaces through pruning, fertilising, pest and disease management, and general upkeep. This is hands-on, physical work that takes place largely outdoors, across a range of conditions and settings. You'll work alongside landscape architects, designers, and project teams, contributing your plant knowledge at key points in the design and delivery process and advising on what will and won't work in a given location.

Periodically you'll take on more complex projects involving the establishment of large-scale plantings, the restoration of degraded green spaces, or the management of significant public landscapes. Some Horticulturists develop areas of specialisation in particular plant types, urban greening, ecological restoration, or arboriculture. Others move into supervisory or consulting roles, drawing on their practical experience to guide the work of others or advise clients on plant selection and landscape management.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?



Horticulturists work for local councils, parks authorities, landscape contracting firms, botanic gardens, nurseries, and private landscape management companies. Some work on large public green infrastructure projects, while others focus on private gardens, commercial properties, or specialist horticultural settings. The role exists wherever plants and green spaces need to be established and maintained, which means opportunities across urban, suburban, and regional environments.

Work is primarily field-based, with most of your time spent outdoors across a variety of sites and conditions. The role is one of the more physically active in the built environment sector, and the work varies with the seasons, with more intensive planting and establishment activity in cooler months and ongoing maintenance through the warmer periods. Hours are above average in many roles, particularly in contracting environments where project deadlines and seasonal pressures shape the workload.

Salaries are average, reflecting the entry-level accessibility of the role and the vocational nature of much of the work. With experience and growing expertise, earnings can increase, particularly for those who move into supervisory, consulting, or specialist roles. Demand for skilled horticulturists is steady, supported by ongoing investment in urban greening, public open space, and landscape infrastructure. The growing emphasis on urban biodiversity and green infrastructure in planning and development is providing a broadening base of work for people in this field.

How to become a Horticulturist

- **Gain a relevant qualification:** Entry into horticulture is possible through either a vocational qualification or a bachelor's degree. A Certificate III or Diploma in Horticulture provides practical, hands-on training and can often be completed as part of an apprenticeship or traineeship. A degree in horticulture or a related field offers a broader scientific foundation and may open doors to more technical or consulting roles. Both are recognised and legitimate starting points.
- **Build practical experience early:** Look for entry-level roles or work experience with local councils, botanic gardens, nurseries, or landscape contractors. Hands-on experience in plant establishment, maintenance, and site work builds the practical judgment that study alone can't fully develop, and gives you exposure to the range of settings horticulturists work across.
- **Develop your plant and site knowledge:** The depth of your knowledge about plant species, soil types, pest and disease management, and site conditions is central to your effectiveness as a Horticulturist. Seek out varied work environments and use each new site as an opportunity to expand what you know about how plants behave in different contexts.
- **Explore areas of interest within the field:** Horticulture covers a wide range of settings and activities, from urban greening and ecological restoration to arboriculture and specialist nursery production. Getting exposure to different areas early in your career helps you identify where your interests and strengths lie, and informs the direction of your professional development over time.

From here, you could move into supervisory or team leadership roles, work in horticultural consulting, develop expertise in a particular area of specialisation such as arboriculture or ecological restoration, or transition into landscape management or project coordination roles within local government or contracting firms.

What can I do right now?

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

- Look for work experience or part-time work with a local nursery, landscape contractor, or botanic garden to get hands-on exposure to plant care, site conditions, and the day-to-day realities of horticultural work



- Start growing plants at home or through a school garden project to develop a practical feel for how plants respond to different conditions, and to build your knowledge of species, soil, and seasonal care
- Study biology, environmental science, or design and technology to build the scientific and technical foundation that horticulture draws on at every level of the profession

Find out more about alternative careers on [our Job Spotlights page](#).

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Should you do a student exchange in high school?

Whether a student exchange suits you depends on more than wanting to travel. It depends on how you'd handle being away from your usual support network for months, how it fits with your current school year, and what you're hoping to get out of the experience. Here's what to look at before you decide.

What you're signing up for

Most programs run for at least [one school term](#), sometimes as short as 10 weeks for outbound students, up to a full academic year. You'll be enrolled as a full-time student at a school overseas, not just visiting, and you'll live with a host family for the length of the program.

Exchanges are only organised through a school or an exchange organisation registered with the relevant education authority, not privately arranged. Your school's principal also needs to approve your application, and schools generally check that a student has reached a stage of maturity likely to benefit from the experience, since you'll be managing a new routine, culture, and sometimes a new language largely on your own. You also generally can't request a specific host family or location. Programs are matched based on your application and the organisation's assessment rather than personal preference.

What you could gain

Research on secondary school exchange students has linked the experience to gains in independence, confidence, and adaptability that tend to show up once students return home. Some studies have also connected exchange participation to stronger problem-solving skills and a deeper sense of cultural awareness, built through the day-to-day work of navigating an unfamiliar school, language, and family setup.

How much a student gains depends largely on how they manage the harder parts of the exchange, such as the unfamiliar routine and being away from their usual support network.

What it costs you

An exchange means being away from your friends, family, and normal school life for a significant stretch of time. You'll miss events at home, and life there continues without you while you're away. There's also a financial side. Costs vary depending on the country, provider, and length of stay, and it's an expense most families need to plan for well ahead of time.

Adjusting to a new routine and host family can be hard in the first few weeks, and that's a normal part of the experience for most students, usually easing as they settle in. What catches some students off guard is the adjustment when they get home. Research on returning exchange students has found that settling back into old friendships and routines can be just as difficult as the initial move overseas, since friends and family haven't shared the same experience and life at home has moved on without them.

What happens if the placement isn't a good fit

There's a difference between the normal adjustment described above and a placement that isn't



improving over time. If a host family or school placement genuinely doesn't work, it's a separate situation with its own process attached.

Registered exchange organisations are responsible for a student's [welfare for the whole program](#), including managing a change of placement if one's needed. They generally try to keep the student at the same school when moving them to a new host family, but this takes time, since a new family needs to be properly screened, so it isn't an instant fix. In situations where continuing on the program isn't appropriate, organisations can end a student's participation early, and the student returns home ahead of schedule.

How it fits around your school year

Exchanges are usually taken between Year 9 and Year 11, with Year 10 a common choice since it falls before final year assessments begin. Even so, missing a term or more means missing coursework and assessments in your usual subjects, and how that's handled varies by school. Some build your exchange results into your ongoing academic record, while others expect you to catch up on missed work when you return.

What happens to the subjects you miss

Whether missed work causes ongoing problems depends on the subject. For most subjects, catching up on missed content and assessments when you return is manageable with support from your teachers. Subjects that build directly on earlier content, or where units need to be completed in sequence, can be harder to pick back up partway through.

Curriculum authorities generally allow transferring students to [continue studying the courses they were previously enrolled in](#) where possible, and principals often have discretion to approve changes to a student's subject selection if a course isn't practical to continue after time away. Before you apply, talk to your school's careers adviser or curriculum coordinator about how your specific subjects would be affected, since the answer differs subject by subject and school by school.

Questions to ask yourself

- How would months away from friends & family affect me?
- Am I comfortable adapting to a new family, routine, & language?
- How would missing part of a school year affect my subjects & assessments?
- Can my family manage the cost involved?
- Am I ready for the possibility that my placement doesn't go to plan?
- Do I meet the basic eligibility requirements, & am I applying early enough?

Deciding what's right for you

A student exchange isn't the right fit for every student, and it doesn't need to be. Being ready for the difficult stretches, the homesickness, the adjustment, the unfamiliar routine, matters as much as looking forward to the exciting parts. Talking it through with your family, your school, and students who've done an exchange before can give you a clearer picture of whether it suits you right now. If you're weighing this up alongside other ways to travel during high school, our [travel resources](#) cover more on what's involved.

Note: information is accurate as of September 2026, but schools and exchange organisations regularly update their requirements, so check directly with your school or provider for the specifics that apply to you.

JOBS & CAREERS

5 out-of-this-world space careers

The space industry is worth more than 800 billion Australian dollars and is still growing quickly, but



most of the people working in it aren't astronauts. Building rockets, running satellites, and supporting space missions from the ground takes engineers, designers, managers, and coordinators working across a huge range of specialisations. If you're interested in space but assumed the only way in was through years of astronaut training, here are five careers worth knowing about.

Propulsion engineer

As a propulsion engineer, you'd design, build, and test the engines that launch spacecraft into orbit. This covers everything from the large engines used on crewed missions to the smaller thrusters that position satellites once they're in space. Your work would involve modelling how an engine performs, running physical tests, and troubleshooting problems when something doesn't behave as expected. Companies like SpaceX and RocketLab employ large teams of propulsion engineers, and government space agencies rely on them too.

This career suits people who enjoy maths and physics and are comfortable working through detailed technical problems. Most propulsion engineers study aerospace, mechanical, or chemical engineering at university, then build specific experience in propulsion systems through graduate programmes or internships. It's a demanding field, since a small error in a rocket engine can have serious consequences, so attention to detail matters as much as technical knowledge.

What you'll need: A degree in aerospace, mechanical, or chemical engineering, along with strong maths and physics skills and the patience to test and refine designs over long periods.

Space habitat designer

As a space habitat designer, you'd plan the living and working spaces used by astronauts, whether that's inside a spacecraft, a space station, or a future lunar or Mars base. The role means solving problems that don't come up in any other kind of design work. How do you lay out a kitchen when there's no gravity to keep things on a bench? How much personal space does someone need to stay mentally well during a mission that could last months? What materials can withstand the conditions of space while still being safe and comfortable to live with?

Space habitat design draws on architecture, industrial design, and human factors engineering, which is the study of how people interact with the spaces and equipment around them. Companies like Axiom Space are already designing commercial space stations, and plans for lunar bases are pushing the field further still. This career suits people who like solving open-ended design problems and thinking carefully about how humans experience the spaces they're in.

What you'll need: A background in architecture or industrial design, along with an understanding of human factors engineering and a strong interest in how people live and work in extreme environments.

Satellite operations manager

Thousands of satellites currently orbit Earth, and someone needs to keep track of all of them. As a satellite operations manager, you'd plan satellite orbits, monitor their condition, and manage their day-to-day performance. When a satellite develops a fault or drifts off course, you'd be the one working out how to fix it, often from a control room on the ground while the satellite itself is moving at speeds of over 25,000 kilometres an hour.

The role suits people who are good under pressure and enjoy solving technical problems quickly. Most satellite operations managers have a background in aerospace engineering, computer science, or physics, along with strong analytical and problem-solving skills. As large communication networks like Starlink put more satellites into orbit, demand for people in this kind of role is climbing.

What you'll need: A degree in aerospace engineering, computer science, or physics, along with strong problem-solving skills and the ability to stay calm when something goes wrong.

Space manufacturing engineer



Some materials behave differently in space than they do on Earth, and as a space manufacturing engineer, you'd work out how to take advantage of that. Without gravity pulling on materials as they form, it's possible to produce things like purer crystals for medical research or stronger fibre optic cables than could be made on the ground. Companies including Redwire Space have already tested 3D printing equipment on the International Space Station, and more organisations are looking into what else could be manufactured this way.

This is still a relatively new field, so a lot of the processes used haven't been fully worked out yet. That makes it a good fit for people who enjoy experimenting, solving unfamiliar problems, and getting in early on an unproven part of the industry. A background in materials science, manufacturing engineering, or a related field gives you the technical foundation needed to work in space manufacturing.

What you'll need: A degree in materials science, manufacturing engineering, or a related field, along with curiosity and a willingness to work on problems that don't yet have established solutions.

Commercial space operations coordinator

As private space travel and commercial missions become more common, companies need people to keep the business side of space running smoothly. As a commercial space operations coordinator, you'd plan launch schedules, liaise with clients who want to send experiments or equipment into space, and help organise training for people preparing for commercial spaceflights. Companies like Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin rely on coordinators like this to keep missions on track.

The role suits people who are highly organised and comfortable managing multiple priorities at once. A business or management background is useful, but the most important skills are strong organisation and the ability to communicate clearly with both technical staff and clients who may not have an engineering background. Understanding how the space industry works, even without a technical qualification, is a significant advantage here.

What you'll need: A business or management background, strong organisational skills, and the ability to communicate clearly with both technical teams and clients.

Where to start

These five careers only cover part of what the space industry has to offer, but they show how varied the work actually is. Some roles need years of technical study, while others are more about organisation and communication. What they have in common is that they're part of an industry that's expanding quickly, with new companies, missions, and technologies emerging all the time. If space interests you, start by paying attention to the maths, science, or business subjects that align with the kind of role that appeals to you, and look for work experience or student programmes connected to engineering, design, or aerospace. The industry is still young enough that there's plenty of room to shape where it goes next.

Looking for more careers to consider? [Check out our Jobs & Careers section](#) for more.

WORK EXPERIENCE

7 Work Experience Ideas for Sports-Loving Students

A local sporting club relies on more than the people who show up to play. Someone organises the fixtures, someone treats injuries on the sideline, someone runs the canteen, and someone keeps the equipment in order before the next game. Every level of sport, from a school carnival to a local club, depends on people working across health, media, nutrition, psychology and event planning to keep things running, and many of these roles are open to students through work experience. Here are seven ideas to consider if you're interested in a career connected to sport.

Volunteer or work at a local gym



There's likely a gym or fitness centre near you, and popping in to ask about volunteer or casual work is a simple way to get started. Staff often need help with tasks like greeting new members, setting up equipment for classes, or keeping the space tidy between sessions. Being on the floor regularly gives you a full picture of how a gym operates, from how membership sign-ups work to how a class is planned and run. If you're interested in taking this further, roles like Exercise Physiologist and Exercise Scientist are accredited through [Exercise & Sports Science Australia \(ESSA\)](#), and working in a gym is a practical way to see what that career path involves before committing to study.

Help out at local sporting events

Local sporting clubs depend heavily on volunteers to keep events running each week, and there are several ways to get involved:

- Coaching or refereeing junior sport
- Helping with set up & pack down on game day
- Coordinating ticket sales or gate entry
- Lending a hand in the canteen

Clubs are usually glad to have extra help, particularly on competition days when there's a lot happening at once. Many sports also run entry-level coaching and officiating courses aimed at teenagers, supported by organisations like [Play by the Rules](#), which promotes safe and fair participation in community sport. Completing one of these courses alongside your volunteering can turn a casual role into a solid step toward coaching or officiating later on.

Flex your sports journalism skills

If playing isn't the appeal but talking, writing or filming about sport is, sports media could be a better fit. Local clubs often need help running social media accounts, or writing match reports and player profiles for newsletters. At school, you could cover events like swimming carnivals or cross country, taking photos and video or writing recaps for the newsletter. Building a small portfolio this way is useful if you're considering a career as a Sports Journalist, since people working across sports media, including journalists, are represented by industry bodies like the [Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance \(MEAA\)](#).

Help at a sports retail or equipment store

Sporting goods stores are common in most areas and often take on casual or part-time staff, including students. Working on the floor means helping customers find the right gear, learning about different products, and handling everyday tasks like stocktaking, merchandising and using a register. If you're interested in a specific sport, working somewhere that specialises in it is a good way to build product knowledge on the job. Unlike some of the other roles on this list, there's no formal qualification or governing body attached to retail work. It's simply a practical, paid way to build customer service and teamwork skills that carry over into almost any career, sporting or not.

Help out with school sport administration

Your school's Sport Coordinator usually manages a lot behind the scenes, and there's often room for a student to help out. This could include:

- Updating fixtures & results
- Helping with equipment stocktakes & maintenance
- Preparing team lists for upcoming matches
- Checking first aid kits are stocked
- Assisting with carnival or sports day set up

This kind of role gives you a sense of everything that happens before a single game is played, from booking grounds to coordinating transport with other schools. If you're interested in event management, coaching pathways, or sports administration, this is a low-pressure way to build



organisational experience early. Larger interschool competitions are coordinated nationally through [School Sport Australia](#), so a school-level role can connect you to a much bigger system than it might first appear.

Support a sports nutrition clinic or dietitian

Sports Dietitians work with athletes to plan meals, hydration and eating strategies around training and competition. Because one-on-one consultations are confidential, shadowing individual sessions usually isn't possible. Some clinics and sporting organisations run group education sessions, cooking demonstrations or team fuelling stations that students can help with or observe instead. To become a Sports Dietitian, a person first needs to qualify as an Accredited Practising Dietitian, then complete further study through [Sports Dietitians Australia \(SDA\)](#). Reaching out to a local dietitian who works with athletes, or a club with a nutrition program attached, is one way to find out if sessions like this are running nearby.

Shadow a sports psychologist or mental performance coach

This area covers people with different levels of qualification, which matters when working out who to contact. A registered Sports Psychologist has completed formal training in psychology and is regulated through the [Psychology Board of Australia](#), and their work with athletes is confidential in the same way as any other psychologist. Mental Performance Coaches, who focus on skills like confidence, focus and pre-competition routines, aren't always required to hold the same qualifications, and some run group sessions with junior athletes or teams that students may be able to sit in on. Asking a local club or academy whether they work with anyone in this space, and whether a group session is running, is a good next step if this area interests you.

Building experience across different areas

Every one of these roles builds different skills, from customer service and event planning to communication and teamwork, and trying more than one can help narrow down which part of the sporting world suits you. Some, like coaching and journalism, are open to you straight away with almost no barrier to entry. Others, like dietetics and psychology, require formal study before you can practise, but seeing what the work involves now can still help you decide whether to pursue it later. Reaching out directly, to a gym, a local club, your school's Sport Coordinator or a nearby store, is usually the easiest way to get started.

If you'd like to look into other options, our [work experience hub](#) covers more ideas and guidance on finding and applying for placements.

STUDY TIPS

How to use a marking rubric to plan an assignment

A rubric is often treated as an afterthought, something to check once a grade comes back and doesn't match expectations. By then, the assignment is finished, and any mismatch between what was written and what was being assessed is hard to fix. That mismatch almost always comes down to one thing: not knowing what the rubric was asking for in the first place.

What is a marking rubric?

A marking rubric is a grid that breaks an assignment into separate criteria, the specific things you're being assessed on. Each criterion comes with a description of what different standards of work look like, from a basic attempt through to a high-quality response. A rubric usually covers things like:

- Structure & organisation
- Use of evidence
- Analysis or argument



- Writing quality & expression

Not every rubric looks the same. Some are simple checklists, others are detailed grids with marks attached to each row. Either way, the purpose is the same: setting out the expectations for an assignment before you start, not just explaining a grade after it's given.

Reading it before you start

It's common to read the assignment instructions carefully, then skim the rubric afterwards.

Sometimes it doesn't get a proper look until a draft is already finished. That's the wrong order. The rubric holds the real detail behind an assignment, and reading it first tells you what to include and how much attention each part deserves.

Checking it early also stops you from over-polishing a section that barely counts, while a heavily weighted one gets rushed at the end.

Breaking the rubric down

Rubric wording can be vague on its own. A requirement like "analysis" or "critical thinking" doesn't say much until you turn it into a plain question you can check your work against. For example, if that requirement is about analysis, the question might be: does this explain why the evidence matters, not just state it?

Turning each one into a question like this gives you something to check throughout the assignment, rather than something you only think about once.

Working out where the marks are

Some criteria carry more weight than others. Some rubrics list an exact percentage or mark value next to each one. Others show weighting through how much space or detail is given to a criterion's description. Whichever format it uses, work out which ones carry the most value before you plan your approach.

This doesn't mean ignoring the lower-weighted ones; a missed one still costs marks. But your time and effort should roughly match what each part is worth, not be spread evenly regardless of weighting.

What this can look like

Rubrics vary a lot between subjects and schools, but here's roughly what a single criterion might include. This is just one row out of several a full rubric would usually contain:

Analysis

- **Developing:** restates information without explaining why it matters
- **Proficient:** explains how the evidence supports the main argument
- **Advanced:** draws clear connections between evidence & explains its wider significance

A real rubric would include several rows like this one, each covering a different part of your work, with its own weighting or mark allocation.

Turning it into a plan

Once you know what's being assessed and where the marks sit, you can use that to shape your plan.

Give more time to the higher-weighted criteria, and shape each section of your assignment around one or more of them directly, so you're writing toward something specific instead of guessing.

Keeping the rubric's plain-language checklist next to you while you write, not just checking it at the end, makes it much easier to stay on track.

Checking your work before you submit

Before handing anything in, go back through the rubric one more time and check your draft against each criterion. If a heavily weighted section still feels thin, that's exactly where marks would be lost,



and it's better to catch that now than after a grade comes back.

Read early, a rubric guides your time and effort toward the parts of an assignment that earn the marks.

If you want more ways to approach your assignments and study routine, our [Study Tips hub](#) has more guides like this one.

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