

Open Days & Info Sessions

Compass | Open Days

Farm Campus: Wednesday 2 November 2022, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Caboolture: Thursday 3 November 2022, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Compass Open Days are a great way to see our various campuses, explore our programs, meet our passionate team and trainees, and experience some Compass magic!

We invite anyone interested in meeting us and seeing what we do first hand to attend. This includes current families, who may want to meet other current families; prospective trainees and families; support co-ordinators; school and special school representatives; community members; members of the business community; interested volunteers... ALL are welcome!

Find out more: <https://www.compassinc.org.au/2022-open-days/>

Mater Education | Open Days

Brisbane: Thursday 3 November 2022, 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Find out how you can turn your passion into reality at Mater Education's upcoming Open Day events.

Whether you're a student in Years 9-12, parent/carer, school leaver, career changer or community member, come along and find out what career pathways are available through Mater Education.

There will be activities including flushing a cannula, bathing a baby and testing your hand hygiene, as well as the chance to talk to our friendly staff and students.

Find out more: <https://www.matereducation.qld.edu.au/news-events/campus-open-days>

Queensland Police Service | Open Day – Townsville

Saturday 5 November 2022, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Townsville Police Academy

Interested in becoming a Queensland Police officer? Find out more about life as a police recruit, try your hand at the obstacle course or kick start your application at an information seminar.

At the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Open Day, you'll be able to check out our state-of-the-art training facilities and watch demonstrations from our specialist units, like Dog Squad, Road Policing, Dive Squad and more.

Tour our driving course and scenario village and drop in to information sessions throughout the day where you can ask questions about your future career as a police officer.

Think you might be made for a career in policing? You can complete your physical testing and kickstart your application at our recruitment information hub.

Find out more: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/queensland-police-service-open-day-townsville-registration-412645151757>

Camp America | Online Information Session

Tuesday 8 November 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Online

Summer Camps are looking for you! Teach your skills all summer, make a difference and meet great mates on your next adventure. Stop dreaming and start your next adventure from home. Join us for an online information session from the comfort of your home!

We've got heaps of tips and tricks to make your dreams reality and make application stand out. Get a full rundown of what your Camp America Experience could look like. Bring mum, dad and your best friend, all are welcome.

Summer 2023 is waiting for you!

Find out more: <https://www.campamerica.com.au/events/camp-america-online-3>

endota Wellness College | Open Day

Thursday 10 November 2022, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

endota Wellnes College, Fortitude Valley

eWC invites you to come to Open Day and learn how we get our students job-ready within Australia's largest spa network. Offering full-time, part-time and blended learning courses in Beauty Therapy, Remedial Massage and Salon Management.

Find out more: <https://endotawellnesscollege.edu.au/open-day-rsvp/>

TAFE QLD | Cairns Open Day

Saturday 12 November 2022, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

TAFE Queensland, Cairns Campus

Join us at our TAFE Queensland Cairns campus Open Day this November and open the door to a bright future.

Learn more about what's on offer in 2023, tour our facilities, and get all your questions answered.

Join in on all the action with demonstrations, workshops, activities, live entertainment, food and more as our faculty leaders and experienced teachers share their wisdom.

Find out more: <https://tafeqld.edu.au/news-and-events/events/2022/nov/cns-open-day>

AIF | Virtual Open Day

Tuesday 15 November 2022, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Online

Our virtual Open Day is your chance to get all your questions answered about studying with us, all in one place. Learn about our range of industry-leading courses, live chat to our friendly career advisors, discover how AIF helps you get a career, plus much more.

Find out more: <https://enquire.fitness.edu.au/open-day>

Basair | Pilot Career Seminar

Thursday 17 November 2022, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Basair Aviation College, Archerfield

Learn about career paths, salaries, entry level jobs, qualifications, pilot courses and everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot in less than a year at Basair.

Find out more: <https://basair.com.au/seminar-events/brisbane-pilot-career-seminar-nov-17-2022/>

Achieve Fest

Tuesday 29 November 2022, 9:00 am - Wednesday 30 November 2022, 1:00 pm

Online

Achieve Fest is a free, two-day online immersion designed to explore identity, build networks, and develop the skills needed to thrive now and into the future.

Achieve Fest is open to:

- Young people aged 12 to 18 years
- Educators
- Parents/guardians across Australia

Achieve Fest takes young people on a journey of self-discovery, from exploring their unique passions, to developing important life skills and taking real-world action on issues that matter to them most.

Along the way they'll participate in engaging online workshops and learn from inspiring individuals who have created careers of passion and purpose.

Find out more: <https://www.princes-trust.org.au/young-people/achieve-fest>

AIE | Online Campus Day

Saturday 3 December 2022, 1:00 pm

Online

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day on Sat 3 December 2022. 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: https://aie.edu.au/aie_event/online-campus-day/

ACU | Pathways to ACU Webinar

Thursday 8 December 2022, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Online

If you didn't receive the ATAR you wanted, it's all good – there's more than one way into university. Learn about the entry pathways to ACU, including diplomas and Foundation Studies, that can give you access straight into the second year of your preferred bachelor's degree.

Find out more: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2022/december/pathways-to-acu-webinar>

SAE | Open House

Thursday 15 December 2022, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

SAE Institute, Brisbane

Open House is your one-stop event to experience SAE as a student. Whether you want to view student work, specific facilities, or chat with our experienced faculty or advisors, Open House is your chance to meet your people, and experience for yourself, SAE.

Find out more: <https://sae.edu.au/event/open-house-sae-melbourne/>

CQUni | Change of Preference Online Chat

Friday 16 December 2022, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Online

Didn't get the ATAR you need or changed your mind about what course you want to study in 2023? We're here to help!

All you need to do is head over to Facebook Messenger and send us a message during our Change of Preference event and you'll receive real-time answers to all your questions.

Alternatively, you can call us on 13 27 86 to speak directly to a student adviser.

Speak with our expert team and discover your options at our Change of Preference event on Friday, 16 December at 9am AEST. Get guidance on how to change your preferences and learn more about CQUni's alternative pathways.

Find out more: <https://www.cqu.edu.au/events/event-items/information-session/change-of-preference-online-chat>

UniSQ | Change of Preference Information Session

Toowoomba: Friday 16 December 2022, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Ipswich: Friday 16 December 2022, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Springfield: Friday 16 December 2022, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us at UniSQ and find information about changing your preference.

Got your ATAR and thinking about your study options? Get all the advice on alternative entry pathways, scholarships, and student support at UniSQ.

Register for Toowoomba: <https://www.unisq.edu.au/events/2022/12/change-of-preference/toowoomba>

Register for Ipswich: <https://www.unisq.edu.au/events/2022/12/change-of-preference/ipswich>

Register for Springfield: <https://www.unisq.edu.au/events/2022/12/change-of-preference/springfield>

Workshops and Courses

Ukes Alive! – Ukulele for Beginners

Wednesday 9 November 2022, 6:00 pm - Wednesday 14 December 2022, 8:00 pm

University of the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Campus

Have you been thinking about learning to play the ukulele? This course is designed for absolute beginners, so now is the perfect time to come together with other like-minded aspiring ukers. The ukulele is one of the most portable stringed instruments that you can learn to play, and you will be strumming songs and joining local ukulele groups and festivals in no time. Become the musician you have always wanted to be, or add the ukulele to your repertoire in this series of fun and friendly classes.

Find out more: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/ukes-alive-ukulele-for-beginners-tickets-428920301167>

NIE | Medical Interviews Preparation Workshop

Saturday 12 November 2022, 10:00 am - Sunday 13 November 2022, 4:00 pm

Online

This unique NIE workshop program aims for students to gain an in-depth understanding and required knowledge of the medical interview processes for specific universities, including Multi-station Mini Interview (MMI), Structured, and Semi-structured panel interviews.

The workshop is structured and based on the models that are taught during our proven one-on-one personalised medical interview sessions. The workshop will allow each and every attendee to learn the required skills and practical understanding for the university from which they received an interview offer from.

Find out more: <https://www.nie.edu.au/products-listing/product/44-umat-medical-interviews-preparation-workshop>

TAFE QLD | CRE8 Mooloolaba

Friday 18 November 2022, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

TAFE Queensland, Mooloolaba Campus

TAFE Queensland's Mooloolaba campus will transform into a kaleidoscope of colour, concepts and creativity on Friday 18 November 2022, when it hosts CRE8.

A huge array of creations produced by local visual arts, photography, fashion, hair, beauty, and screen and media students will be on display in a variety of galleries, pop-up shops, demonstrations and even a fashion show, while stacks of installations, entertainers and food trucks will make this free, family-friendly celebration of creation an event you won't want to miss.

Find out more: <https://tafeqld.edu.au/news-and-events/events/2022/nov/east-coast-cre8>

Mater Education | High School Health Adventure

Brisbane: Monday 28 November 2022, 8:30 am - Tuesday 29 November 2022, 3:30 pm

Townsville: Thursday 1 December 2022, 8:30 am - Friday 2 December 2022, 3:30 pm

Are you a year 10, 11 or 12 student interested in a career in the dynamic and fast-paced world of healthcare? Mater Education's High School Health Adventure program is for you!

High School Health Adventure is a program that has been designed to create a realistic experience of 'a day in the life' of a health professional. The utilization of simulation with manikins, skills stations, digital technology and case-based scenarios help to create this real-world learning in a unique environment for high school students.

This hands on, immersive experience will cover basic health professional understanding of anatomy and physiology, give students hands on experience of managing patients requiring basic life support and emergency response, supporting patients and their family through medical procedures such as surgery and childbirth.

Find out more: <https://www.matereducation.qld.edu.au/career-entry-qualifications/high-school-health-adventure>

Queensland Ballet | 2022 Junior Summer School

Tuesday 13 December 2022, 8:30 am - Friday 16 December 2022, 12:30 pm

Queensland Ballet Academy

We are delighted to offer a December Junior Summer School exclusively for younger dancers aged 7.5 – 9 years.

Across this 4-day program, children will enjoy foundational training in classical ballet, character dance, repertoire and contemporary dance classes under the guidance of Queensland Ballet Academy's world-class faculty. On the final day of this event there will be a viewing day for parents/carers to see what their child has learned in classes throughout the week.

Registrations close 7 December.

Find out more: <https://academy.queenslandballet.com.au/events/junior-summer-school-2023>

Queensland Ballet | 2023 Summer Schools

Monday 9 January 2023, 8:30 am - Saturday 21 January 2023, 5:00 pm

Queensland Ballet Academy

Summer School offers dancers aged 10 to 18 years the chance to further their training in a culture of collaboration and excellence.

Queensland Ballet Academy's esteemed Faculty are ready to mentor talented young dancers during these established Summer School programs.

The Summer School program includes classes in classical ballet technique, pointe work, repertoire, character dance, contemporary dance, and male technique (subject to number of male participants).

Students also participate in informative discussions with a variety of professionals from Queensland Ballet, the broader industry and/or affiliated health fields. On the final day of this event there will be a viewing day for parents/carers to see what their child has learned in classes throughout the week.

Registrations close 2 January 2023.

Find out more: <https://academy.queenslandballet.com.au/events/summer-school-2023>

UQ | Queensland Biology Summer School

Tuesday 17 January 2023, 9:00 am - Thursday 19 January 2023, 4:30 pm

The University of Queensland, Saint Lucia Campus

The UQ Queensland Biology Summer School (QBSS) will provide you with a deep dive into contemporary topics in ecology, conservation biology, plant science, and zoology and how these disciplines apply to the management and use of our environment and the workplace.

What's involved?

- **Live and breathe biology and related disciplines:** explore contemporary topics in biology including ecology, conservation biology, systematics, environmental management, plant science, zoology, and quantitative biology (aligned with subject matter in the QCE and IB Biology syllabuses) through interactive lectures, practicals, and tutorials.

- **Gain scientific skills** in literacy, communication, collection and analysis of biological data (useful skills for QCE Internal Assessment 2: Student Experiment and IB Extended Essay).
- **Study with biologists** who are passionate about their subject – from leading researchers to teaching specialists, and current students at the start of their research careers, all eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.
- **Consolidate your learning** with quizzes at the end of each day.
- **Make friends** with students from around the state and discover how much fun it is to be around people who love biology.

Applications are now open. To attend QBSS you must be commencing Year 12 in 2023, and taking QCE Biology or IB Biology.

The registration deadline is 27 November 2022.

Find out more: <https://study.uq.edu.au/events/queensland-biology-summer-school>

Scholarships

Catherine Bonnes AM Scholarship

Value: \$2,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

The Catherine Bonnes AM Scholarship has been established by the Broken Hill & District Hearing Resource Centre Inc., with the view of assisting deaf and people who are hard of hearing to further their education by undertaking post-secondary studies.

[Find out more](#)

Larsen Jewellery Design Scholarship Program

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: February 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

Larsen Jewellery recognises the need to support and educate young adults wishing to begin a career in jewellery, design or visual arts; or who wish to further their studies in a jewellery, design or visual arts related course.

[Find out more](#)

QUT Go Further Indigenous Tertiary Scholarship

Value: Up to \$10,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: October 31, 2022 – March 19, 2023

Arrow Energy is providing university scholarships to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to attend and complete university.

[Find out more](#)

JCU Cullinane Law Scholarship

Value: Up to \$4,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: October 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

This program has been established with a generous donation from Professor Cullinane to support students aspiring to study law at JCU in North Queensland.

[Find out more](#)

Griffith The Kieran Ricketts Scholarship in Film and Screen Media

Value: Up to \$27,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: October 1, 2022 – March 1, 2023

The Kieran Ricketts Scholarship in Film and Screen Media will support an undergraduate student throughout their Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production degree at the Griffith Film School (GFS).

[Find out more](#)

CQUniCares Accessibility Scholarship

Value: \$5,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: October 4, 2022 – January 30, 2023

The CQUniCares Accessibility Scholarship assists students from low SES backgrounds who are managing ongoing health, medical conditions or disability during their study and require additional financial support to succeed at university.

[Find out more](#)

Alive Pharmacy Warehouse & James Cook University Award for Excellence In Pharmacy

Value: \$1,500 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: September 1, 2022 – October 25, 2022

The Business Liaison Association Inc., in conjunction with science teachers in Far North Queensland, is offering a bursary for students interested in pursuing a career in Pharmacy.

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

The Canal to Creek Prize

To celebrate the Transurban Public Art Program, high school students in years 7-10 are invited to create their own artwork, inspired by the 21 signature art pieces that form 'Canal to Creek'.

The theme for the Canal to Creek Prize is 'Connections'. We want you to consider connections to earth, culture, history, movement and environment. There's over \$15,000 in prizes to be won!

Entries are open until **4 November 2022**, and winners are announced on 30 January 2023.

Find out more: <https://canaltocreek.com/wcx/art/prize#>

Careers & Jobs

Roles in Disaster Relief

Unfortunately there have been lots of natural disasters happening recently, and over the past few years in Australia. If you're wondering how you might be able to help, there are lots of jobs and volunteer roles where you can make a difference.

Jobs in Disaster Relief

If you want a career in Disaster Relief, there are a variety of different roles to look into. From management and office work, to being on the ground while an emergency is happening, there's something for everyone.

Disaster Management Officer

Disaster Management Officers assist in creating plans for when a disaster happens, coming up with strategies to limit the impact of disasters, as well as communicating with the public to raise awareness about disaster management and prevention.

Many local councils and government bodies will employ people as Disaster Management Officers. You could also work for an external company that provides advice to other businesses and the community.

This role is perfect for people who are passionate about helping the community, and can make decisions quickly under pressure. You'll typically be doing most of your work in offices.

You can check out our Disaster Management Officer Job Spotlight [here](#).

Fire and Emergency Services

If you want a more hands-on role, this one could be perfect for you. During emergencies, firefighters and emergency workers are on the ground to protect lives and property. Your roles will vary depending on what kind of disaster you are responding to, such as fires, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, or more.

To work in this role, you'll need great physical and mental strength, as well as a strong commitment to both the job and your community.

You can read more about working in Fire and Rescue in Queensland [here](#). You can also take a look at our Job Spotlight on [becoming a Firefighter](#).

Volunteer roles

If you want to help but can't commit to a full-time job, there are also lots of volunteer roles where you can make a difference.

Volunteer with your local SES

Volunteering with the State Emergency Service is a great way to get out there and assist your community in a disaster. There are usually lots of different kinds of roles you can volunteer for – you might be helping out alongside emergency workers, creating disaster prevention plans with the council, helping deliver sandbags to areas preparing for floods, or cleaning up after storms.

In many states you can volunteer with the SES once you turn 16, but you might need permission from your parents or guardians.

See more about becoming an SES volunteer in your state or territory:

- [New South Wales](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

You can also find lots of other different volunteering roles through [Volunteering Australia](#).

Other ways to help

There are lots of other ways you can help your community and the people around you in a disaster as well. You can help by [donating money](#), [donating clothes and other goods](#), making food to give out to emergency workers and those in need, and even just checking in with your neighbours and friends to make sure they're ok.

Further Learning

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) 2023

Applications are now open for students who want to be a part of the National Youth Science Forum in 2023!

The NYSF Year 12 Program offers an exciting range of in-person and digital science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) experiences for participants across Australia. If you're a year 11 student (in 2022) and passionate about STEM, apply now!

In 2023, the NYSF Year 12 Program will run from 10 to 24 January. Students will have opportunities to:

- participate in tours of science and technology facilities, and learn about cutting edge research;
- engage with industry partners and research providers;
- learn about university and STEM career pathways;
- mix with other like-minded students from all over Australia; and
- network with former NYSF participants to further increase understanding of STEM related study and career experiences.

NYSF offers Access and Equity Scholarships to students who require additional financial assistance due to experiencing financial or other forms of disadvantage or will incur additional costs to fully participate in the Year 12 Program. Information regarding Access and Equity Scholarships, including how to apply, will be sent to successful program applicants later in the year.

Applications for the 2023 NYSF Year 12 Program are still open – apply ASAP to receive the full benefit of the pre-program experience!

Find out more and apply here: <https://www.nysf.edu.au/programs/year-12-program/>

New Microcredentials from Le Cordon Bleu

Le Cordon Bleu Australia has just launched brand new microcredentials. These self-paced online programs have been designed to enhance your culinary and hospitality skills, while encouraging new ways of thinking and understanding.

They currently have three courses on offer, starting from just \$150. The courses are run fully online, and can be started at any time.

Find out more: <https://www.openlearning.com/le-cordon-bleu-australia/>

QTAC, EAS and Natural Disasters

If you've been affected by circumstances out of your control, QTAC's Educational Access Scheme (EAS) can help you get into the course of your dreams.

EAS assists students by providing rank adjustments, meaning if your results have been negatively affected by something out of your control, your uni goals don't have to be out of reach.

While there are some obvious factors that might pop right into your head, like financial disadvantage, illness, or disability, there are actually a wide variety of categories you can apply

for through EAS. This includes if you've been affected by natural disasters, such as floods or fires.

Read more here: <https://www.qtac.edu.au/educational-access-scheme/>

Resources

World Teachers' Day 28 October 2022

World Teachers' Day is coming up on Friday 28 October, and this year we're taking our "hats off" to all of our wonderful teachers!

This year, we're asking you to share your "hats off" selfie to celebrate teachers, and to tell us what they mean to you. Grab your hat and create a post on social media, making sure to use **#WTD2022** and **@aitsl**.

And don't forget to say thank you to your teachers!

Should I drop a subject?

Senior high school is tough! You're busy with school, extra curriculums, and maybe even working part time too. You might also be learning to drive, expected to do more at home, then there's all the life admin you've suddenly got to deal with...and a social life to consider.

So it's understandable that when you're thinking about Year 12, you could be tempted to drop a subject. But should you?

Why do you want to drop a subject?

If you're considering dropping a subject, be honest with yourself about the real reason behind your decision.

Could you be overreacting? Taking a step back and putting life into perspective could be a good start. Year 12 is really only another 3 full terms at school – could you hang in that long?

Do you genuinely think dropping a subject will make your life easier, or do you just hate a subject so much you can't bear to put up with it for the next year?

Asking for some help or additional support could be all that needs to change.

Take some time to reflect

Dropping a subject is a big step and shouldn't be taken lightly. Take a little time and talk to trusted adults (and friends) about what you hope will happen if you do go ahead and drop a subject.

Be realistic and consider the chances of your perceived outcomes *actually* happening. Also give some thought to what might happen if you **don't** drop a subject.

Will you still qualify for an ATAR?

Before you do anything else, it's really important to check that you will still be eligible for an ATAR and/or a high school certificate if you drop a subject. Otherwise, you could be jeopardising your future for the sake of a few extra hours a week.

If you're unsure about what makes you eligible to get an ATAR or a high school certificate, ask your school or check below:

- [NSW & ACT ATAR](#)
- [QLD ATAR](#)
- [VIC ATAR](#)
- [SA & NT ATAR](#)
- [WA ATAR](#)
- [TAS ATAR](#)
- [ACT Senior Secondary Certificate](#) (SSC)
- [NSW Higher School Certificate](#) (HSC)
- [QLD Certificate of Education](#) (QCE)
- [SA Certificate of Education](#) (SACE)
- [NT Certificate of Education and Training](#) (NTCET)
- [WA Certificate of Education](#) (WACE)
- [VIC Certificate of Education](#) (VCE)
- [TAS Certification of Education](#) (TCE)

Will you need that subject for university?

If you're planning on going to university, an ATAR will help you to apply easily as a school leaver.

Some courses also require you to have completed specific subjects to be eligible to apply. They're called pre-requisites. If you don't have them, you might not be offered a place in the course you want. Alternatively, you might have to spend time doing a bridging course or go through other pathways before you can start your degree.

Even if it's not a clear prerequisite, you might end up doing better at university if you've at least covered the material in Year 12. Think of it as planning ahead.

The main reasons for dropping a subject

From what we've seen, here are the top reasons students tend to think they'd be better of dropping a subject in Year 12:

More time

It's optimistic to think you're going to free up much more time by dropping a subject – it's probably not going to make a huge difference to your day or week.

Most students who drop a subject don't actually spend the additional time studying other subjects, so is it really going to benefit you?

If you're enjoying the subject and finding it useful or think that it might be useful down the track, there are always other ways you could make it work.

For example, you could get more organised, look at reducing any hours that you work, consider rescheduling some of your extra-curriculars, or maybe even just getting up half an hour earlier each day.

If you genuinely feel time poor and can't see any way around it, or you think that dropping a subject could improve your health and wellbeing, then you should go for it.

Better marks or a higher ATAR

Sometimes if students feel they're not doing well in a subject, it could pull down their overall results and end up with them getting a lower ATAR.

That's usually **not** the case – you're ranked on your top results anyway. So even if you're not doing well, maybe consider changing down to an easier program instead. For example, if you're finding Maths Methods tricky, then switch to Maths Essentials.

Reasons NOT to drop a subject

Life isn't always within your control. So if you drop a subject and then stuff up one of your exams or assessments in another subject, you could end up being in a worse position.

What if you get injured or sick just before exam or assessment time, there's a natural disaster, or you lose a loved one which then impacts your performance? Yes, you can often get exemptions in all these cases, but it could take a lot of work and may still leave you worse off.

Things might change in Year 12, the subject could just "click" with you, the teacher might change, or you might be covering topics which spark your interest. Suddenly a subject you hated could become interesting, or conversely you might end up hating a subject you previously loved.

You might change your mind about your career path, and more subjects lead to more options.

Before making the final decision

Think about any long-term implications. Are you going to need this knowledge at university, a job, or for something else?

Can you get more help? Think about a tutor or speak to your teacher to let them know you're struggling, and they may be able to help you get back on track.

Maybe you just don't like the subject. This is probably the best reason to drop it, as long as you don't need it for your career plan. It's totally OK, and it's good that you've learnt something about yourself. You can discount any uni courses or careers that will rely heavily on that subject.

How to go about it

Most importantly, don't rush into a decision – think it through and give yourself time. You might change your mind or things might pick up. If you think you can stick with it for a little while longer, it might pay off in the long run.

Talk to your school – they'll have all the information to help you understand the next steps, know if it will be recorded on your school transcripts, and can tell you what (if any) implications there may be on your high school certificate, ATAR, or future.

If you're still determined to drop a subject, you'll just need to follow your school's procedures. They'll be there to support you with that.

Lastly, just knuckle down and do your best with your remaining subjects. Remember, nothing is forever, and if you later regret dropping a subject, there will be ways around it.

Job Spotlight

How to become a Jockey

Jockeys are professional athletes who ride horses in competitive races. Not only do they need to have a high level of athleticism, they also need lots of knowledge and experience with horses. This is a fast-paced career that can be difficult to break into, but also highly rewarding. If you're competitive and dedicated, prepared to put in lots of hard work, and love working with animals and in the outdoors, becoming a Jockey could be a career to consider.

About you:

- High level of physical fitness
- Resilient and dedicated
- Love horses and the outdoors
- Willing to work long hours
- Great communicator
- Tough under pressure
- Competitive and driven
- Can meet age and weight requirements

The job:

- Competing in racing trials and events
- Working with trainers to decide on strategies
- Discussing a horse's performance post-race
- Maintaining a high level of fitness
- Attending practice sessions and training

- Adhering to strict racing rules and regulations
- Maintaining riding equipment
- Undertaking promotional activities

Lifestyle Impact: High

- Part Time opportunities: Moderate – around 30% of Jockeys work part-time (source: labourmarketinsights.gov.au).
- Average hours for full-time workers: 49 hours a week, which is above average (source: labourmarketinsights.gov.au).
- Jockeys' salary (median) \$27,000* per year (source: ato.gov.au). *Salaries will vary depending on how many races you compete in and where you position.
- Future career growth: Stable (source: labourmarketinsights.gov.au).
- Being of short stature can be an advantage, and you will be required to meet strict weight requirements.
- You will be expected to maintain a high level of fitness and health throughout your career.
- This is a highly competitive career and you'll need to perform well to earn lots of money.

Jockeys are most in demand in these locations:

Jockeys can work anywhere there are racing tracks, and will often tour to different locations to compete in races. Jockeys typically work in the Arts and Recreation Services industry.

How to become a Jockey

To become a Jockey, you'll need to complete an apprenticeship in your State or Territory. This is a comprehensive program that involves riding training, vocational education, stablehand work, and other development and training.

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

Step 2 – Try to get experience working with and riding horses if possible. Also consider undertaking a traineeship as a stablehand or trackrider.

Step 3 – Apply for an Apprentice Jockey Training Program in your State or Territory, usually through your State or Territory's racing organisation. The program is usually 4 years in length.

Step 4 – Once you finish your apprenticeship and have ridden in a minimum number of [barrier trials](#), you can obtain a license and become a fully qualified Jockey.

Step 5 – Keep up with personal and professional development throughout your career as a Jockey.

Find out more here –

<https://dev.racingnsw.com.au/guide-to-racing/careers-training/general-information/talent-identification-program/apprentice-jockey/>

<https://www.racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/jockeys/apprentice-jockey-program>

<https://www.racingqueensland.com.au/careers-training/rto-qualifications>

<https://racingsa.com.au/careers/sa-apprentice-academy-news>

<https://www.rwwa.com.au/racing-careers/>

Similar Careers to Jockey

Horse Trainer

Coach

Stablehand

Trackrider

Veterinarian

Hippotherapist

Track Official

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What do Jockeys do?

Jockeys work with and ride horses in competitive races. A typical day might involve getting up early to perform warm-up exercises with your horse, then preparing for a race meet. After a race you might meet with your coach or trainer to discuss the horse's performance and next steps.

Which industries employ Jockeys?

Jockeys are mostly employed in the Arts and Recreation Services industry.

What's involved in my apprenticeship?

While you're an apprentice jockey, you will be assigned to a licensed trainer and learn all about the industry. You'll undertake both theoretical and practical learning, as well as undertaking

stablehand work and caring for horses. You will also learn about sporting integrity, professional and personal development, and even business and media skills.

Do I need to go to university to become a Jockey?

No, but you will need to complete a comprehensive apprenticeship program and obtain a license.

What if I change my mind or don't make it as a Jockey?

Even if you don't end up becoming a Jockey, the skills you gain through your apprenticeship will prepare you for a variety of other careers working with horses and athletes, such as becoming a horse trainer, stable owner, horse breeder, track official, or even fitness coach.

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

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

1. Get as much hands-on experience with horses as you can. Volunteer with a local track or club, take riding lessons, and ensure you have the right temperament to work with horses.
2. Build on your physical fitness and ensure you will be able to meet height and weight requirements.
3. Talk to a Jockey to see what a day in their life is like. If you don't know anyone, see if you can watch videos or documentaries about the role.

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