

A great way to scrub up on career ideas...

## Job Info

### Job Hunting @ end of year?

Struth! It only seems like yesterday that you were in dirty diapers, now you are (almost) ready to leave Secondary School! How did **THAT** happen? Scary!

I don't condone a career as a 'stalker' but that is what you need to become during the next little while.

Of course, the kind of **stalking** I am talking about is not the unpleasant kind, but the 'get me outta here sooner' kind. Why? Because there is a bucket-load of practical things you can do between now and the end of the year, to help catapult you into your next chapter of life.

**NOTE:** Reading things during your **stalking** phase is detestable but unavoidable, so just get over it, and get on with it. In other words don't debate or procrastinate, just concentrate, investigate, manipulate and participate!

Here's what you need to DO:

**Stalk** relevant job sites during the coming months (and understand how to use them). A great starting point for your **stalk-research** is here: [job blog](#).

**Stalk** your work experience coordinator and the [work experience blog](#) for placement ideas. Work experience (including September holidays) will not only improve your resume, it will expand your networks making it easier to find employment later.

**Stalk** your resume: where is it? Is it up to date? Is it on a device that won't be lost, stolen or eaten by the dog? [Resume secrets here](#). Do you have a career portfolio? **Stalk** it too!

Oh, and **stalk** your Careers Advisor!

## Tertiary Trinkets

### Uni Drop-out or in?

Every year, about this time, (yes, this is a repeat article) I have a discussion with a senior student (or two) about attending **Open Days**.

Without fail, I will hear the mantra "but I know what undergraduate-degree I want and which Uni I want to go to... so I don't have to go to an Open Day."

Gah! Seriously? How can this be?

Let me draw a parallel. Would you refuse to go along to see a movie on the basis that your friends have already seen it? Can you rely on your friends' judgments about the plot and actors? Wouldn't it be far better to make those calls yourself, by seeing the movie, in person?

Here are some Open Day **HOW's** to ponder.

→**HOW** can you make a choice about WHERE to study if you have NEVER been there? You need to walk in, look around, absorb the atmosphere and ask yourself, 'Can I see myself here in the future?'

→**HOW** can you choose a degree without visiting the faculty, meeting the lecturers, walking into the lecture theatres, finding the 'prac' rooms and feeling comfortable with what you see and hear?

→**HOW** do you know where you are going to live? Have you taken the time to look at the options, discuss costs, and discover the steps **you** need to follow to get the accommodation you desire?

→**HOW** will you know who to turn to for help with part-time jobs, study assistance, and the all important fees if you don't go along and ask?

→**HOW** can you possibly know all of the pathways of your degree, if you don't ask the people who own this knowledge?

→**HOW** can you choose a degree at one university without comparing it with another?

### I could go on and on...

The drop out rate from Uni in the first year is quite high. I would hazard a guess (without any hard-core evidence to hand) that students who don't attend Open Days are a fair target for the 'drop-out arrow'. Why? Possibly because their pre-uni-prep was flawed or non-existent!

I recommend that you stare down that 'spoon of concrete' and get your Open Day act together!

I was inspired to create a little YouTube-toon about this very thing—for a giggle you can find it here.

## Career Focus

### Paramedic

I have a friend who is a paramedic (aka ambulance officer), and her partner is a MICA Air paramedic (a small and elite group of highly trained people).

My friend trained to be a nurse before switching to paramedic. She found the transition easier than her peers who had not studied nursing as she already had many of the practical skills required for the job. She also has a career to fall back on if she decides to leave the ambulance job.

This couple can tell fascinating stories, and their day to day life is unpredictable and, at times, precarious. They witness humanity at every level, from the extremely dangerous to the sweet & grateful.

Training to be a paramedic is very intensive, with multitudes of tests and exams (practical and theory) to keep you on your toes.

I have taken the liberty of placing some excellent links to Paramedics on my [Scoop-it page](#) (including where to study to become a paramedic). You just need to keep popping in and out of 'Scoop-it' as you explore.

**Factoid:** Did you know that there are **TEN** different types of paramedics?

[Paramedics Scoop-it](#)

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Written by **Fay Scadden**, Career-bot at Numurkah Secondary College, **Career Veneer** is a weekly career newsletter for teenagers and their parents. The above information, plus more, can be found at <http://careerjunk.edublogs.org>