



# Career News 2019 #11

## CareerNews Key Dates & Reminders

### **For all VCE Students:**

#### **Monash Information Evenings**

When: Running until September.  
at various locations across Victoria. Visit:  
<https://www.monash.edu/information-evenings>

#### **Deakin Information Evenings**

Learn more about Deakin's course options in dance, drama, photography and visual arts and the benefits of studying a Bachelor of Creative Arts and how this prepares you for a creative career.  
Date: Thurs 19th Sep  
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Where: Burwood Campus  
Cost: Free  
Register:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/creative-arts-and-design-information-evening-tickets-60257504819>

#### **Murrup Barak Experience/Leadership Camp in August**

To register visit:  
<https://murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/study/future-students/undergraduate-study/camps>

### **Swinburne Advice Nights**

Swinburne have some great advice about VTAC applications and establishing your preferences here:

<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/choose/articles/questions-about-preferences>

However you can learn more about the preference process as well as Swinburne's offerings with their advice nights coming up in September:

#### **Wantirna Advice Night –**

When: Tue 17th Sep  
Time: 4 pm – 6 pm  
To register –  
<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/choose/events/wantirna>

#### **Hawthorn Advice Night –**

When: Wed 18th Sep  
Time: 4pm – 6 pm  
To register –  
<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/choose/events/hawthorn>

#### **Aviation Advice Night –**

Wed 18th Sep  
6 pm – 8 pm  
To register –  
<https://www.swinburne.edu.au/choose/events/aviation>

### **Important VTAC Deadlines – for 2020 Course Applications**

#### **Applications:**

Open – Monday 5th August at 9am.  
Close – Monday 30th September at 5pm.

#### **SEAS Applications**

Open - Monday 5th August at 9am.  
Close – October 11th at 5pm.

#### **Scholarship Applications**

Open – August 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am.  
Close – October 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

#### **Change of Preferences**

Close – 14th December at 4pm for December 2019 offer.  
Close – 20 December 2019 at 4pm for 2020 offers.



## News & Updates



VTAC course applications for 2020 are opening on Monday, so if you are in Year 12 and intending to study at a Victorian University, TAFE or independent tertiary college next year, it's time to ensure that you have started your VTAC application preparation.

All applications are made on the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website ([www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)) as VTAC receives, collates and forwards all student applications to institutions including special consideration (SEAS) requests, scholarship applications and any other relevant or required documentation.

Here are some tips to get started:

### Research!

- Research the courses on offer in your chosen field and preferred institution(s).
- Use 'CourseSearch' on the VTAC website and VTAC App (see quick link) as the primary source of course information.

### Refine your list!

- Establish your course preferences (you will do this after visiting open days too) and ensure you are aware of the selection criteria for each course that you wish to apply for, as each course and institution's entry requirements do vary i.e. interview, admission tests, audition, folio presentation, or extra form/documents that need to be completed. Note: This information can be found on each college website. Important: Take note of all relevant dates and deadlines.

### Register!

Create a VTAC user account and have all your details close at hand i.e. educational history, student numbers to ensure that you complete your application accurately.

- Place your eight courses in your order of preference. You won't be able to save a draft of your

application, but you will be able to change your preferences after it is completed. Remember: It is important to list your 'dream course' at the top of your preference list, as adjustment factors can affect your overall score and you will always be offered a place in the highest course in your list for which you meet the requirements.

Important to note: You have until 30th of September for a 'timely' application where the normal application fee is \$36.00, after this date the fee increases to \$113.00.

Handy tip –

The 'How to apply' page on the VTAC website is very helpful and may answer any questions you may have. You will also find some very useful YouTube VTAC video links about applying for courses, SEAS, scholarships, the offer process and changing preferences.

A handy resource to download at your app store –

VTAC App:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/vtac/id1119361879?mt=8>

## CASPer Test for Teaching



The CASPer test is an online tool designed to evaluate key personal and professional characteristics of all applicants applying for courses in Medicine, Veterinary Science and Education. The test measures traits like professionalism, ethics, communication and empathy, reviewing characteristics that make for successful students and graduates. It runs for 60-90 minutes and comprises of 12 sections. Each section contains either a video-based or word-based scenario followed by a series of 3 open-ended questions. Test takers are asked to type in their responses within a 5-minute time limit.

The CASPer Test is compulsory for students wishing to apply for degrees in teaching, so it is important to be aware of the test dates, fees and technical (computer and internet) and security requirements you will need to follow.

You will need to register for your test at least three days before your preferred test date and time to account for identity verification and payment processing timelines.

If you have any education courses on your list of preferences, please visit the CASPer website to diarise your test date and read further on test preparation:

<https://takecasper.com/dates-times/>

## University of Melbourne Update

### Murrup Barak Camp

Applications are currently open for this year's camp which will be running from August 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. This annual Open Day Camp allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students in years 11 & 12 to experience University life. The Camp is no cost to schools, students or families.

Accommodation, transport to the camp and activities are all covered by Murrup Barak.

So if you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, are currently in year 11 or 12, on an ATAR/OP pathway and are interested in going to University after High School, visit this link to find out more:

<https://murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/study/future-students/undergraduate-study/camps>

### Meet Melbourne Rural Events

If you live outside Metro Melbourne, don't forget that you have the opportunity to meet UOM staff in your local area. The 'Meet Melbourne' rural events are a great opportunity for students and parents to ask any questions they may have about the courses available at the university.

With remaining sessions at Bendigo, Ballarat, Warragul and Mildura in August and September, you can find out more and register here:

<https://study.unimelb.edu.au/connect-with-us/events-for-future-students>

## Open Days 2019

INSTITUTION	DATE	TIME	CONTACT DETAILS
<b>Australian Catholic University</b> Melbourne Campus Ballarat Campus	Sun 11 Aug Sun 25 Aug	10am – 3pm 10am – 2pm	1300 ASK ACU Email: <a href="https://www.acu.edu.au/student-life/experience-uni-before-you-start/open-day">https://www.acu.edu.au/student-life/experience-uni-before-you-start/open-day</a>
<b>Box Hill Institute of TAFE</b> Box Hill Campus Lilydale Campus	Sun 25 Aug Sun 15 Sep	10am – 3pm 10am – 3pm	1300 269 445 <a href="http://www.boxhill.edu.au/openday">www.boxhill.edu.au/openday</a>
<b>Chisholm Institute</b> Dandenong	Mon 16 Dec	5pm - 7pm	1300 244 746 <a href="https://www.chisholm.edu.au/open">https://www.chisholm.edu.au/open</a>
<b>Deakin College</b> Geelong Campus (Waurin Ponds & Waterfront) Melbourne (Burwood) Campus <b>Deakin University</b> Geelong Campus (Waurin Ponds & Waterfront) Melbourne Burwood Warnambool	Sun 18 Aug Sun 25 Aug Sun 18 Aug Sun 25 Aug Sun 4 Aug	9am – 3pm 9am – 3pm 9am – 3pm 9am – 3pm 10am – 2pm	1800 334 733 <a href="http://openday.deakin.edu.au/">http://openday.deakin.edu.au/</a>
<b>Federation University of Australia</b>			1800 333 864 <a href="https://federation.edu.au/openday">https://federation.edu.au/openday</a>
<b>JMC Academy</b>	Sat 24 Aug		1300 410 311 <a href="https://www.jmccademy.edu.au/events/open-days">https://www.jmccademy.edu.au/events/open-days</a>
<b>La Trobe College</b> Melbourne (Bundoora) <b>La Trobe University</b> Shepparton Campus Melbourne (Bundoora) Campus Albury-Wodonga Mildura Campus Bendigo Campus	Sun 4 Aug Fri 2 Aug Sun 4 Aug Sun 18 Aug Sun 14 Aug Sun 25 Aug	 3pm - 7pm 10am - 4pm 10am - 2pm 4pm - 7pm 10am - 3pm	1300 135 045 <a href="https://www.latrobecollegeaustralia.edu.au/">https://www.latrobecollegeaustralia.edu.au/</a> <a href="https://www.latrobe.edu.au/openday">https://www.latrobe.edu.au/openday</a>
<b>Macleay College (Collins Street Melb)</b>	Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9.30am – 1pm	<a href="https://www.macleay.edu.au/openday-melbourne">https://www.macleay.edu.au/openday-melbourne</a>
<b>Melbourne Polytechnic</b> Preston Campus	Sun 18 Aug	10am – 3pm	9269 1200 <a href="https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/open-day">https://www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au/open-day</a>
<b>MIT (Melbourne Institute of Technology)</b>	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10am – 2pm	<a href="http://mit.edu.au/open-day">http://mit.edu.au/open-day</a>
<b>Monash University</b> Peninsula Campus Clayton & Caulfield Campuses Parkville Campus	Sat 3 Aug Sun 4 Aug Sun 18 Aug	10am – 3pm 10am – 4pm 10am – 3pm	1800 666 274 <a href="https://www.monash.edu/open-day">https://www.monash.edu/open-day</a>
<b>RMIT</b> Bundoora City & Brunswick Campuses	Sun 4 Aug Sun 11 Aug	10am – 4pm 10am – 4pm	9925 2260 <a href="https://openday.rmit.edu.au/">https://openday.rmit.edu.au/</a>
<b>Swinburne University</b> Hawthorn	Sun 28 July	10am – 4pm	1300 SWINBURNE <a href="https://www.swinburne.edu.au/">https://www.swinburne.edu.au/</a>
<b>University of Melbourne</b> Parkville Dookie Werribee	Sun 18 Aug Sun 22 Sep Sun 20 Oct	10am – 4pm 10am – 4pm 10am – 4pm	1800 801 662 <a href="https://openday.unimelb.edu.au/">https://openday.unimelb.edu.au/</a>
<b>Victoria University</b>			1300 171 755 <a href="https://openday.vu.edu.au/">https://openday.vu.edu.au/</a>
<b>William Angliss Institute of TAFE (City)</b>	Sat 3 Aug	10am – 3pm	1300 ANGLISS <a href="http://www.angliss.edu.au">http://www.angliss.edu.au</a>
<b>SAE Creative Media Institute</b>	Sun 11 Aug	10am – 2pm	<a href="https://sae.edu.au/news-and-events/events">https://sae.edu.au/news-and-events/events</a>
<b>Collarts</b>	Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	10am – 3pm	<a href="https://www.collarts.edu.au/open-day">https://www.collarts.edu.au/open-day</a>



## Career Focus – (Medicine) Surgeon

There are many areas of Medicine that you can undertake your training and work in, for example; Paramedicine, Pathology, Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmology, Pediatrician, Anesthetist and the list goes on! Training usually starts with an undergraduate degree in Medicine or Biomedicine and then post graduate study follows in a specialist area.

One specialist area in medicine is to become a Surgeon. Surgeons treat diseases, injuries and deformities by using a range of different methods and instruments, and may specialise in a particular field, such as cardiovascular or plastic surgery.

Surgeons:

- Operate on patients to repair injuries, fix deformities, treat disease and improve function.
- Examine patients to determine medical state and surgical risk.
- Prescribe pre-operative and post-operative treatments to patients including sedatives and antibiotics.
- Analyse patient medical history, allergies and examination results to decide the best courses of action.
- Refer patients to other medical specialists and exchange relevant medical details.

Surgeons can work in private practice alone or with fellow medical practitioners, in a group practice, in community health centres or at a (public or private) hospital. They work in cities, suburbs and rural towns. There are a number of specialisations of surgery:

- Brain Surgeon
- Cardiovascular Surgeon
- Orthopedic Surgeon
- Plastic Surgeon

The important personal requirements to be a surgeon are:

- Good communication skills
- Ability to exercise high ethical standards
- Compassionate towards others
- High level of motivation and self-discipline
- Excellent hand-eye coordination

To gain entry into undergraduate courses in medicine, you usually need to gain your VCE with particularly good results. Prerequisite subjects, or assumed knowledge in one or more of English, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics are normally required. Some universities offer medicine as a double degree and may have different prerequisites and some have flexible entry requirements.

Training also involves experience in approved hospitals and the passing of examinations leading to membership of the appropriate professional college. Specialist training programs and examinations are administered by the colleges. Entry into these courses is highly competitive and based on a combination of academic achievement, performance on the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) and a structured interview. The UCAT is a two-hour computer-based test which assesses a range of mental abilities identified by universities as important to practicing in the fields of medicine, dentistry and clinical sciences.

Entry into the graduate-entry courses is based on prior completion of a bachelor degree, performance in the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) and a score resulting in a semi-structured interview. Studies in behavioral, social, biological and physical sciences and humanities are likely to enhance performance in the test, and are offered at most universities.

Following course completion, graduates must undertake one year of full-time employment (internship) at a recognised teaching hospital to be able to gain full registration as a surgeon with the Medical Board of Australia. Prior to commencing clinical placements, students will be required to undergo a National Police Check and a Working with Children Check and provide evidence of immunisations. It is a legal requirement that graduates to be registered with the Medical Board of Australia before practicing in any state or territory in Australia.

Below is a list undergraduate tertiary study options to consider as a pathway into the specialist area you wish to enter:

Undergraduate Degrees				
Institution	Campus	Course	Duration	ATAR
<b>Australian Catholic University</b>	Ballarat, Melbourne	Bachelor of Biomedical Science	3 Years	59.50
<b>Deakin University</b>	Geelong, Melbourne (Burwood)	Bachelor of Biomedical Science	3 Years	72.50-80.15
<b>Federation University</b>	Berwick, Gippsland, Ballarat, Off-campus	Bachelor of Biomedical Science	3 Years	53.05-63.85
<b>La Trobe University</b>	Melbourne	Bachelor of Biomedicine	3 Years	65.15
	Melbourne (Bundoora)	Bioscience (Diploma) / Biomedicine (Degree)	2 Yrs 8 mths	NA
	Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo	Bachelor of Biomedical Science	3 Years	62.55-72.0
<b>Monash University</b>	Clayton	Bachelor of Biomedical Science	3 Years	90.35
		Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Biomedical Science	4 Years	91.45
		Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine: (School Leaver Entry)	5 Years	84.30
		Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine: (CSP Bonded School Leaver Entry)	5 Years	NA
		Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine: (CSP Extended Rural Cohort School Leaver Entry)	5 Years	83.10
<b>University Of Melbourne</b>	Parkville	Bachelor of Biomedicine	3 Years	94.05
<b>Victoria University</b>	Footscray, St Albans	Bachelor of Biomedicine	3 Years	81.20
Chancellors Degree				
<b>Monash University</b>	Clayton	Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Scholars Program)	3 Years	98.05
<b>University Of Melbourne</b>	Parkville	Bachelor of Biomedicine (Chancellor's Scholars)	3 Years	99.9

Note: \* NA – Not applicable or under 5 offers were previously made or not available, ATAR is based on the lowest selection rank plus adjustment factors or the lowest ATAR (excluding adjustment factors).

(As subjects, course structures and requirements can vary between institutions, it is necessary to contact your chosen institution for further information).

Sources: VTAC, Good Universities Guide.

## Career Profile – Medicine



**Name:** Dr Adam Peterson

**Current Position:** Advanced trainee in Gastroenterology and Hepatology

**Can you tell us where you studied, how long your course duration was and where you undertook your work experience (if any) to become qualified as a Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist?**

After school, I studied a Bachelor of Physiotherapy for 4 years at Monash University. Following this, I undertook a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery as a post-graduate student at Monash University for a further 4 years.

I could then start working as a doctor, completed my medical internship at Austin Health and stayed on there to complete basic physician training over 3 years. I am now 1 year through advanced training in gastroenterology and Hepatology. This training position takes 3 years and I will then be a qualified Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, although many people undertake further training or research in an area of interest before commencing full time clinical work.

**Whilst you were studying at secondary school, did you know that medicine is what you wanted to get into?**

I knew I wanted to attend university and initially thought about engineering. My chemistry teacher in year 12 suggested I consider a career as a pharmacist after I expressed an interest in organic chemistry. I didn't really know what I wanted to do, but preferred multiple health degrees (pharmacy, physio, medicine, biomedical science) in my university application.

**What do you love about your job?**

I get to learn something new most days! I get to apply my understanding of science to diagnosing and managing a wide variety of medical conditions. I get to help patients through some of the most difficult periods in their lives and hopefully do this in such a way that returns them to the things that they love to do.

**What personal requirements would you say are necessary in your position?**

As you can see above, the training to be a doctor takes a really long time! A commitment to not only that training but to lifelong learning is mandatory for a career in medicine.

Being a skilled communicator is essential for dealing with patients, but also other doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals that make up the wider healthcare team. Having leadership skills is also necessary, as often the doctor takes a leading role in those teams, but these can be learned over time.

**What are the challenges of your job and the best ways to overcome those challenges?**

Working in life or death situations can be very stressful! Developing healthy strategies to deal with stress and to learn from your experiences helps you become better at meeting those challenges. It's important that you not only have support at work, but also at home.

This job can be very busy, I often have 14-hour work days, and/or work for 2 weeks at a time without a break! Time management is essential for looking after sick people, but also looking after yourself as you juggle ongoing study, teaching, research, as well as your own family and friends.