



'Motivate your mate'

Justice and Solidarity

Careers Newsletter

1 September 2021

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 Mr Madani please email jmadani@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au

JobJump - Parents and students please watch YouTube video and sign up

Sign up to JobJump for information about tertiary study options, ATAR's and apprenticeship and TAFE information. Create a resume, sign up for news alerts.

To register go to <https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

Search school – St Pius X Chatswood

Register with an email address (use a private address, not spx)

Password – pius (lower case)

Parent information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZoyckJwVg&feature=youtu.be>

[University of Sydney | Business majors showcase: marketing, innovation and entrepreneurship](#)

Wednesday 8 September 2021, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Online

Learn more about the wide range of study areas (majors) offered by the Business School. Academic staff from innovation and entrepreneurship (new in 2022) and marketing will share insights on learning opportunities and career pathways available to Bachelor of Commerce students.

Find out more: <https://uni->

[sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gK2fNAfDRAerMi93rCkmnw](https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gK2fNAfDRAerMi93rCkmnw)

[UOW College | Online Info Session](#)

Wednesday 15 September 2021, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Online

Want to get into uni? Use your time wisely and get started on your pathway to UOW. UOW College offer pathway courses that can guarantee entry into a range of bachelor programs, some with direct entry into the second year. Please join us for our upcoming online info session to find out more about our range of courses, scholarships and how to apply at the Wollongong, South Western Sydney, Loftus, Southern Highlands, Bega, Batemans Bay and Shoalhaven campuses. Staff will be available on the night to answer your questions.

Find out more:

<https://studentservice.uow.edu.au/Portal/Events/EventDetails?eventId=7026a598-35e8-eb11-8182-005056812c00>

Basair | Pilot Career Webinar

Sunday 19 September 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Online

In this free & interactive Pilot Career Webinar, you'll learn everything you need to know about a career as a Commercial Pilot.

Find out more: <http://www.basair.com.au/Events/Register/209>

ACU | Elite Athlete & Performer Program Information Session

Tuesday 21 September 2021, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Online

Join us online to hear about the ACU Elite Athlete & Performer Program (EAPP).

As an elite athlete or performer, you're always reaching for the top and we'll help you get there.

The EAPP is designed to help you maintain sporting and performance excellence while study.

Benefits include access to early timetabling, academic support and financial scholarships.

Future students may be eligible for up to 5 adjustment factors.

Find out more: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2021/september/acu-elite-athlete-and-performer-program-information-session>

CQUni | Apply to CQUni Webinar

Wednesday 22 September 2021, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Online

If you're thinking about studying with CQUni, let us help you find out the right way for you to apply.

The way you apply to CQUni will vary depending on where you are in Australia. CQUni is hosting a live webinar to help you understand each of the Tertiary Admission Centres (TAC), how you can start your application with your relevant TAC, and if you're eligible to apply direct through our website.

The webinar will also cover how to apply to CQUni's study hubs and Regional University Centres (RUCs), how to order course preferences, key dates and offer rounds, what a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) is and how to apply for the Australian Government's Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS).

Find out more: <https://www.cqu.edu.au/events/event-items/information-session/apply-to-cquni-webinar>

William Angliss Institute | Interview Skills Workshop

Wednesday 22 September 2021, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Online

A job interview is the most important step you'll take in your job search journey.

It's your best chance to show the Hiring Manager or Recruiter that you're the best person for the job. Put yourself in the best position possible, stand out from the crowd and start the career you love!

In this workshop, you will learn about:

- Types of interviews
- What & how to prepare before an interview
- Strategies to answer interview questions
- How to present during the interview
- Four reasons why you are unsuccessful in job interviews

Find out more: <https://www.angliss.edu.au/events-hub/past-events/interview-skills-workshop/>

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme

Value: Up to \$15,000 AUD per year

Open/Closing Dates: August 30, 2021 – October 11, 2021

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is designed to encourage and assist undergraduate students in health-related disciplines to complete their studies and join the health workforce. The scheme provides scholarships for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people studying an entry level health course.

[Find out more](#)

UNSW General Merit Undergraduate Scholarships for Commencing Students

Value: Up to \$12,000 AUD per year

Open/Closing Dates: July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021

The 2022 General Merit Undergraduate Scholarships application is open for recent High School Leavers commencing any undergraduate coursework degree program in Term 1, 2022, who seek to use their academic, leadership and community engagement experience to make a positive contribution to UNSW.

[Find out more](#)

UNE Residential Financial Assistance Scholarships

Value: 37-66% discount on residential fees

Open/Closing Dates: August 16, 2021 – January 4, 2022

The University of New England has established residential scholarships to encourage qualified and motivated students who may not otherwise have considered college living because of financial constraints, to reside in a UNE residential college and be involved in the college community.

[Find out more](#)

Young Carer Bursary

Value: \$3,000 AUD

Open/Closing Dates: August 16, 2021 – September 30, 2021

The Young Carer Bursary Program supports young carers to continue with their education.

[Find out more](#)

2022 Commonwealth Youth Awards

The process is now open to make nominations for the 2022 Commonwealth Youth Awards, which offer successful candidates international recognition and cash prizes.

The aim of the awards is to celebrate the outstanding contributions by young people delivering development and progress in Commonwealth countries and communities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To submit an entry, an applicant must be:

- a Commonwealth citizen;
- between the age of 15 to 29 years; and
- have been engaged in development work for at least 12 months as a professional or volunteer.

Nominees must show a strong track record of implementing impactful development work which contributes to at least one of the 17 SDGs.

Nominations close 17 October.

Find out more and nominate here: <https://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/nominations-open-2022-commonwealth-youth-awards>

SWAN Film Festival

SWAN Film Festival is an annual film competition for students studying creative arts in Years 11 and 12, at TAFE or university.

The theme for the 2021 festival is “Acceptance”. Students are invited to submit their films based on the theme for a chance to win up to \$600.

Entries close 11 November.

Find out more and enter here: <https://swanfilmfestival.com/>

Insight Publications Creative Writing Competition 2021

Entries are open to Insight Publications’ Creative Writing Competition for 2021. This competition aims to ignite a passion for creative writing in secondary-school students and to inspire the voices of the future.

Students in Years 7-12 across Australia are invited to enter a short story based on the theme “a flash of inspiration”.

There are prizes of up to \$300 available for winners in each category.

Entries close Sunday 5 September.

Find out more and enter here: <https://www.insightpublications.com.au/writingcompetition-2/>

Australian Photography Awards 2021

Australian Photography Awards is one of the largest and most progressive photographic awards in Australia. Since 2016 we have been immersed in the discovery and sharing of big ideas through photography. In 2021 we seek to recognise work that can open important dialogues and expand our understanding of the world.

We are excited to offer eight diverse categories including Portrait, Landscape, Wildlife & Animal, Documentary, Open & Illustrative, Student, Junior and People's Choice along with an impressive prize pool valued over A\$30,000.

Entries close October 18th at 11:59pm AEDT.

Find out more and enter here: <https://www.australianphotographyawards.com.au/>

What is a Scientist?

For a long time, there has been a common stereotype of scientists – you know the ones with a white male, in a white lab coat (probably a genius) mixing liquids in beakers?

The problem with stereotypes is that they tend to oversimplify and exclude: they function to reinforce misconceptions, and without being challenged, can further alienate already underrepresented populations.

UNSW's **What is a Scientist?** is challenging those common misconceptions by resetting the lens on what a scientist's career, journey, and background looks like.

On their website, you can hear from 8 different scientists, who speak about their diverse experiences, interests and journeys – and the passion for science that unites them.

See more here: <https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/what-is-a-scientist>

Indigenous School-Based Traineeships with AFL SportsReady

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people will have access to quality finance industry job opportunities thanks to AFL SportsReady's partnership with the Commonwealth Bank and ANZ.

They are embarking on a nationwide recruitment drive to fill over 70 school-based traineeships for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students currently in year 10 and looking to take on this opportunity as part of their Year 11 and 12 studies in 2022-23.

What are the benefits of doing a traineeship?

- Work one day a week while studying Year 11 and 12
- Complete a Certificate II
- Earn a salary (the national training wage)
- Gain essential work experience
- Explore career opportunities with ANZ upon completion of your traineeship
- Receive ongoing career support through AFL SportsReady's Indigenous mentoring program

Applications are open now. Find out more here: <https://aflsportsready.com.au/school-based-trainee-bank/>

The benefits of studying university online

Why school leavers should consider online university as an option

If you're leaving school this year and thinking about applying for university in 2022, have you considered enrolling in an online course?

With all the disruptions to your education and your life so far in 2021, it's another option that's definitely worth looking into.

If you've been stressed or anxious about the thought of applying or getting into university, or perhaps you're feeling unsure about moving away from home – then this could be a perfect solution for you.

Doing a bit of research won't commit you to anything, but it could open up a whole lot more benefits to consider.

Get a university degree on your own terms

These days most universities offer courses online, and there appear to be more and more options added each year.

As a result of the pandemic, you may even find your choices and the availability of online courses increases, with delivery becoming more sophisticated and streamlined.

If you'd like the chance to study at your own pace, wherever and whenever you want – then studying online could be a seriously great move to think about.

What you'll need to study online

When you're researching your options or you enrol on a course, you may find out you'll need to be on-campus occasionally. For example, you might have to go in for exams or to complete certain modules, especially if there are units where specialist equipment or supervision is required.

Otherwise all you'll need is:

- **Internet connection**, it needs to be reliable. If home doesn't have internet you can find out about dongles, hot spotting from your phone, or find free WIFI local to you e.g. lib (secure accounts are the best though)
- A suitable **device**, usually a PC or laptop will fit the bill. You'll have to make sure it's modern enough to support the software that your provider uses without any issues. A webcam and microphone will probably be required too
- A **workspace**. Preferably somewhere comfortable and quiet where you can focus on your work

Course content is usually available online 24/7, tutorials may be held via video link, and you can connect with lecturers and other students on your course through email and chat sites.

Discover some of the benefits of studying university online

There are lots of positives about online learning; here's a few to consider:

- You'll have even **more courses to choose from** if you study online. When you're looking at on-campus qualifications, *where* you want to study can be an influencing factor, so you could be limited to courses offered by a particular provider. Studying online removes those barriers.

- **Live at home** you could save money on accommodation, stay close to your family and friends, plus get all the home comforts you're used to.
- **Flexible study** means you can fit your uni work schedule in around your lifestyle. That means you do a degree while keeping (or getting) a job, enjoy all your hobbies and still have free time to socialise.
- Choose the study **environment** that suits you best. Whether that's your bedroom, the kitchen table, in your favourite café, or at the library. We're all different, so you can make it work for you. You could even stream lectures while you're working out at the gym or enjoying the fresh air at your local park..
- **No commuting** each day could save you money and time too, so you'll get more time to do what you want and less debt at the end of your studies.
- Become more **self-disciplined** and **motivated**, improve your **time management**, as well as learning to be **responsible** for managing your workload and overall outcomes. These are all fantastic life skills that are highly desirable in the workplace and will look great on your resume.
- Gain new **technical skills** as you learn to navigate new systems, platforms and use new software. Lots of the skills you'll gain or develop through online studies will be necessary in the workplace, making you an appealing candidate to potential employers.
- If you're a bit shy, or you're easily distracted in the classroom, then online study could be a great way for you to feel more comfortable and perform better. You could leave uni with a better GPA than you might through on-campus study.
- Online degrees are equally well **respected by employers** as traditional degrees. (Just make sure that the course you choose is accredited by the industry you'd like to go into before signing up).

Still not convinced? Compare the pros and cons of "[On campus vs online](#)".

Start your search

Most [universities and higher education providers](#) will have a page dedicated to their online courses. If you can't find one, simply search the courses you're interested in and see if they offer an "online" option on their course overview page. It's usually listed under the location or delivery mode section.

You can find out a lot through a simple internet search, but don't forget you can get help from the providers themselves about the courses they offer online and different options that are available to you.

So, give them a call, send them an email, or fill out an online enquiry. You can even contact some education institutions directly through their Facebook or other social media pages.

Applying for online courses

Applying for an online course varies between institutions. Sometimes you can apply directly to the provider by filling out the necessary forms. Some organisations, such as [James Cook University](#), require Year 12 school leavers to apply through a Tertiary Admissions Centre (TAC). If you're unsure about what you have to do at any point, contact the uni directly, and they'll make sure you have all the right information and the key dates you'll need.

Always ensure that you submit applications fully completed and on time, to be considered for the start of the next course. Otherwise you might have to wait until the next round begins.

You'll get all the help you need

Just because you'll be studying remotely, it doesn't mean you won't be getting any help; far from it.

Universities value their online students as much as any other. You'll have assigned lecturers and study groups, online forums and chat pages, email contact and video face-to-face time. There will be facilities in place so you can upload your assignments, ask for help, order library books, check your results or access other resources.

Before you sign up

A few things you could check before you commit are:

- Is the course accredited?
- Are there any prerequisites?
- How long has the provider been running online courses?
- Find out how materials are delivered
- What devices are needed (and recommended)?
- What are the duration and costs?
- Learn about exactly how flexible the course is
- How will you be able to connect with tutors and other staff, as well as other students?
- What academic help is on offer
- Who do you contact if you're experience technical issues?
- Is there any [financial help available](#) for the course?

Note: [HELP loans](#) and Centrelink payments also apply for online studies. Some [scholarships](#) may too.

It could be well worth spending a little bit of time doing your own research, to see if the benefits of studying university online stack up in your favour.

If you decide it's not for you, then there are plenty of resources available on the [Study Work Grow](#) website that could help you figure out all you need to know about applying for a traditional university course on-campus too.

[Change of heart? Not a problem, just change your preferences](#)

****Originally published 12 July and updated 25 August 2021***

If you're in Year 12 and want to go to Uni next year, then you'll probably know that Term 3 is the time to start getting your applications organised. But did you also know that if you have a change of heart, it's not a problem, you can just change your preferences?

Uni's have tried to design a system that's as flexible as possible, bearing in mind all the different courses on offer and the thousands of applications they receive each year. Both the universities and admission centres recognise that signing up for tertiary studies is a huge decision. There's a lot to take in, and so many options available, so it's inevitable that students are going change their minds for all kinds of reasons.

It happens and it's not a big deal. There are lots of ways that you can tweak your university applications even after you've submitted them. With just a little bit of time and effort you can easily get back on track.

Before ATAR results are released

Were you stressing about submitting your uni application between school work and other commitments? If you were in a hurry perhaps you didn't give too much thought to the order of your preferences.

If your choices have been weighing on your mind, or you've had some time to do a bit more research and found a different course that would suit you better; or maybe done some further reading on one of the courses you'd already selected but have now decided that's the one you'd *really* like to study.

Perhaps you've had a change of circumstances which means that you'll need to rethink where you'll be able to go to uni.

Whatever the reason, the good news is that ***you can reorder your preferences any time.***

You'll need the login and password details for the relevant account that you created when you originally applied. So dig those out, then hop online to see what you need to do next.

If you're having any trouble you can give the relevant admissions centre a call. If you applied directly to a university and want to change your application, it's best to contact the university directly – ask to speak to the admissions team, they'll know how to help.

Windows for changing your preferences

If you never got around to changing your preferences because life was just too busy and it wasn't a priority before your exams but you'd still like to change the courses you've selected or the ones you'd most like to receive an offer for. Or you've received your ATAR results and you've done much better, or perhaps not as well, as you'd hoped. You can still change your preferences.

Bear in mind that the whole results-to-offers process moves quickly, so if you're thinking you might want (or have) to change your preferences then keep reading...

In each state, the ATAR results are released on different days and the main round of offers made through Tertiary Admissions Centres happen a couple of days after that. They always allow a period where you can change your preferences between receiving your ATAR and offers being made.

Say you do end up getting a lower ATAR than you expected. You could reorder your preferences and list a course with lower entry requirement first, you'll be more likely to receive an offer and you get to influence which course you'd like as your second option.

Or, if you did way better than expected, you can move a course with a higher selection rank to your top spot (just make sure you're not moving it because you can and that it's something that you do actually want to study).

Here's the dates you'll need to know if you don't want to miss that opportunity.

State	Admissions Centre	Results Release Date	Change of preferences cut-off for main round offer
NSW & ACT	UAC	17 December	By 11.59pm 18 December
Victoria	VTAC	16 December	By 4pm 20 December
Queensland	QTAC	17 December	By 12pm 20 December
WA	TISC	19 December	By 11.59pm 19 December

SA & NT	SATAC	Check SACE between 14 December (TBC)	15 December
Tasmania*	UTAS	15 December	N/A speak to UTAS to change your preferences up until course start date.

*UTAS issue main round of offers to Tasmanian students in Mid December and to interstate students in January, you'll need to call and check with them what their system for changing preferences is.

For students who have applied via **direct entry** to institutions, look on their website or give the admissions centre a call for dates and instructions.

But wait... there's more

Didn't get an offer in the main rounds? Or maybe you did get an offer but it's not the one you wanted. Well, there's more good news – you still have time to change your preferences before the next rounds of offers, if you'd like to.

For example, if you got an offer but it's not your first preference and that's the one you really, really want, accept the offer you received and leave your preferences as they were. You might be offered a place for your first preference course in the next round of offers.

That can happen if somebody else doesn't accept an offer and a place becomes available for the next in line students (you).

You might have been offered your first preference but not be as excited about it as you ought to be, that's ok too. Again, you can accept your offer, reorder your preferences list for the next round of offers and see if you get another offer for the course you want.

These are the dates you'll need to know for the next round of offers:

State	Admissions Centre	Change of Preferences Closes for next round of offers round
NSW & ACT	UAC	By 11.59pm 6 January
Victoria	VTAC	By 12pm 20 January
Queensland	QTAC	By 11.59pm 5 January
WA	TISC	By 11.59pm 14 January
SA & NT	SATAC	10 January
Tasmania*	UTAS	Check with UTAS

Change your preferences even after you've accepted an offer

Say what? Yep it's true – even if you received an offer in the main round, you can **still change your preferences**.

(If you get an offer, it's probably always best to accept it. That way, if you don't receive an offer in later rounds, you still have that option to fall back on).

For example:

- you receive an offer in main rounds for your first preference but have changed your mind about the course you want
- accept your offer
- reorder your preferences before the cut-off date (see above table or contact the TAC) for the next round, list the course you'd like to receive an offer for in first place
- wait to see what offers you get in the next round

- accept your new offer
- withdraw your enrolment from the first institution

Important Note: Make sure that you withdraw your enrolment for any offers that you no longer want, **before the census date** (check with the uni if the information isn't in your offer email), otherwise you could end up paying two lots of fees.

Looking for more help?

If you need more information on choosing courses and uni's, how to go about applying to university, as well as preferences and when you can change them, you can download our [guide](#). It's out now and covers all the important information for each state.

Check out this short video with some tips on choosing your preferences:

Don't give up

If things don't work out the way you had hoped with your results and offers, there are still lots of different ways that you'll be able to access the courses and careers that you'd like to pursue.

Speak with the TACs and universities, or have a look at some of the resources that you might find useful on our [website](#) including [alternative pathways](#).

[Spend your Gap Year with WWOOF](#)

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) has been offering unique gap year experiences to people from all around Australia for 40 years. It's a great way to travel cheaply, learn about organic farming, gain some independence and a host of other skills.

You'll do 6-8 hours a day of work, 5 days a week, and in return receive free meals and accommodation with a host family, meaning you don't need to break the bank to get hands-on experience. WWOOF offers plenty of support for you during your stay to make sure you have a safe and fun time. There are lots of different hosts to choose from, including:

- Vineyard operators
- Coffee producers
- Oyster and pearl farmers
- Cattle stations
- Butterfly farms
- And many more!

Signing up as a volunteer costs \$70 for 2 years, and WWOOF is kindly giving us 30% off by using the code **studyworkgrow**, exclusively for our readers.

Find out more about WWOOF here: <https://wwooof.com.au/>

[Teamwork and Collaboration](#)

What does it mean?

Teamwork and Collaboration are soft skills that are highly sought after by employers.

No matter which industry you work in or what your job title is, teamwork skills are essential to your success. They'll help you to work well with clients, colleagues, managers and other people at your workplace.

While it's great that you can get on and do your job independently, being able to work effectively with your colleagues and people outside your organisation can help you to:

- complete tasks efficiently;
- boost workplace productivity; and
- contribute to an enjoyable working environment for yourself and others.

How are they different?

Both skills are similar in that the ability to work together can make businesses more efficient by sharing information and workloads to complete tasks and reach goals faster.

Let's take a closer look.

Teamwork

Teamwork is when a bunch of people, who might work in different departments and perform very different roles, all come together to work towards a common goal.

The workload is divided up based on team members' skills and strengths. Sometimes a team leader is appointed to delegate roles and be a central point of contact for help or questions. Team leaders are also usually tasked with keeping track of progress, chasing things up if necessary, and reporting to colleagues outside of the team.

By working in this way with everyone pulling together, the effectiveness and profitability of a business can be increased. Good teamwork can also:

- build morale at work;
- motivate employees;
- make problem solving easier;
- improve the flow of knowledge and information at work; and
- prepare you for leadership roles.

By being a great team-worker, you'll be an asset to your employer.

Collaboration

This type of working still requires that people work together towards an end goal that benefits all the teams or businesses involved. A team leader may not be required, as participants work as equals providing specialised skills or information. Contributors might be from different organisations.

Someone might be appointed or volunteer to undertake specific tasks, such as:

- coordinating team members;
- taking notes and sharing information;
- sending out collective emails to keep everyone updated; or
- organising meetings.

To be a successful collaborator, you'll need excellent interpersonal skills and be able to see the value in other people's ideas over your own. Working collaboratively is proven to keep people more focused and engaged, as well as boosting success rates for ventures.

Examples of teamwork and collaboration in the workplace

You might need teamwork in order to:

- Complete projects;
- Solve complex problems;
- Achieve targets;
- Deliver or receive effective training and development.

You'll need to work collaboratively to:

- Brainstorm ideas;
- Come up with innovative solutions;
- Have meaningful and productive group discussions;
- Create partnerships;
- Reach a consensus about processes;
- Analyse problems and find solutions.

The skills you'll need

To be great at teamworking or collaborating you'll need, as Liam Neeson once said, "a specific set of skills". They include:

- [Communication](#) – written, verbal and non-verbal
- Active listening (also part of communication, but worthy of its own bullet point)
- [Problem solving](#)
- Reliability
- Creativity
- Time management
- Self-motivation
- Independent working
- Being open minded and non-judgemental
- Social awareness and inclusivity

Gain or practise these skills at school

These are the kinds of skills that you can build and work on your whole life, but if you'd like to work on them while you're still at school, here are a few ideas:

- Take any opportunity to work on group projects in or out of the classroom.
- Make sure you participate wholeheartedly in discussions and activities (even if this means getting outside of your comfort zone).
- Be inclusive; helping others in your team to contribute will make your team stronger and could improve your project outcome.
- Ask for honest feedback about your contribution from other members and any team leaders.
- Focus on areas or skills that you (or others) highlight as needing more work.
- [Set goals](#) to help you achieve results.
- Pay attention to your teamworking and collaborative skills when you get the chance to put them into action, and practise the specific skills you're trying to build on.
- Identify and take note of people who are great team workers, then copy their qualities when you're working with others.

Demonstrate your skills on applications and in interviews

When you think you've accomplished some of the skills that make you a great team worker or collaborator, be sure to list these qualities on your resume. Because before they take you on, any employers will want to know that you:

- Are easy to get along with;
- Can work well with different personality types; and
- Will contribute your ideas and actively listen to others.

It's easy to say on applications and in interviews that you're a great team worker or that you've got collaboration skills. That's not going to cut it though; you'll be expected to demonstrate examples of times you've used these skills effectively.

We recommend that you use the STAR interview technique:

- Situation – provide some context, describe the team environment or make up.
- Task – state the goal you were working towards as a team.
- Action – describe your role, talk about your strengths, and highlight any team leadership skills.
- Result – use an example where it went well and emphasise the outcome of your team's work. If possible, link it directly to your own contribution, without sounding big headed; remember, it's about team building.

What a Gap Year really costs

Would you like to take a Gap Year but you're afraid you won't be able to afford it?

Perhaps you're really keen but your parents are concerned about where you'll find the money and don't want you ending up in debt.

They're both valid and sensible concerns. But even if you'll be financing your own Gap Year and you've got no savings at all yet, if a Gap Year is what you really want and you have a plan in mind, you might be pleasantly surprised about how affordable some options are – we were in the office.

The nuts and bolts

When you're looking at costs, you'll need to research **all** the money that's going to be involved.

Even if you're already working and plan to live at home rent-free and keep working for the next 12 months, you'll need a financial plan. Because without one you could fritter away all your hard-earned salary and not may not be able to achieve your goals at the end of your Gap Year.

Travel, study, and most Gap Year Programs have costs associated with them.

You'll need to figure out how much it's going to cost you overall (include the smallest details because they all add up), then figure out how you're going to be able to afford your Gap Year. If your parents or other family are helping you out – great. You still need to know what costs you're going to incur then plan a budget to make sure your money will last as long as it needs to.

Try to avoid getting into debt for a Gap Year. Paying back the costs with interest could set you back once your time out is over.

The three steps to Gap Year success

1. Plan

Work out what you want to do and where you want to go. You need these details so you can work out how much everything will cost.

2. Budget

Once you know how much you need, write a clear budget that lists every item. You'll need to know how you're going to pay for **everything** in the budget.

3. Save

You'll know how much you need, so set some goals and start saving. A contingency plan could be a good idea, just in case you don't manage to save enough.

What options are out there

There are tonnes of different programs to choose from and the costs vary with all of them. We've reached out to a couple of providers to take a look at some of the options available for 2022 and the costs associated with them.

Letz Live

They'll plan, arrange and support you in an overseas Gap Years to places like New Zealand, the UK and Thailand – yes even during Covid. You'll get placed as an assistant at a Boarding School; living, working and travelling like a local. Combining paid work with exploring your local area, you'll get the chance to travel further afield on weekends and during holidays. You'll be paid for your work, and your accommodation and meals will be included.

AIFS

Choosing to Au Pair in America or New Zealand you'll get to experience living like a local, earn pocket money, receive a study allowance, and costs include your airfare, program fee, visa, police check. You'll be living with your hosts with free meals and accommodation in your own room in exchange for providing child care. You'll also receive paid holidays and travel time.

WWOOF

Becoming a WWOOFer could allow you to learn about organic farming, gain some independence and travel Australia really economically. In exchange for 6-8 hours work a day, 5 days a week, you'll receive free meals and accommodation with a host family, plus gain some skills and experience life in different parts of Australia in a safe and fun environment. Membership provides access to all the host families and on-going support, you can save more money off your \$70 membership by using the code STUDYWORKGROW to get an extra 30% off too.

ADF Gap Year Program

The ADF offer the opportunity to spend 12 months working with the ADF in the Army, Navy or Air Force. You'll get paid a salary, have opportunities to travel around Australia and gain new skills and valuable work experience. Even better, other than your initial medical or travel costs you won't have to cough up a cent.

Actual Program Costs

Org	Location	Type of Gap Year	Cost	Earnings	Duration	Other
Letz Live	New Zealand	Working	From \$5K	\$8-14K inc. accommodation	6 or 11 months	–
Letz Live	UK	Working	From \$9K	\$14-16K inc. accommodation	11 months	Visa, available savings, & health surcharge
AIFS	USA	Au Pair	\$1,461	Pocket money, study allowance, meals, acc	12 months	Medical, interview costs, drivers license, luggage fees on flights
AIFS	New Zealand	Au Pair	\$695 – 1,295 (depending on duration) + flights	\$200-260 NZD per week plus \$1020NZD Bonus for completing 12 months	3-12 months	Application and acceptance fees. Childcare experience required
AIFS	USA	Camp America Counsellor	\$699 (before 30 Oct 2021) + flights	Pocket money, meals	9-12 weeks	Visa, police check
WFOOF	Australia	Farm work (all kinds)	\$70 2-year membership	Meals & accommodation	Any	Travel, Insurance
ADF	Gap Year Program	Various	None	From \$49,302	12 months	Costs towards living expenses deducted from your salary

You can honestly spend as much as you can imagine on a Gap Year, but if you're strapped for cash then as you can see, there are affordable options out there.

Think outside the box

Apply for money towards your time out.

There are scholarships and grants that you could apply for through some providers or external organisations. If your application is successful you could get money put towards your Gap Year program, or receive extras to add on.

If you're keen to see more of Australia and are prepared to do some hard work, there are incentives including:

[AgMove](#) up to \$6,000 for relocation costs

[The Big Victorian Harvest](#) receive a sign on bonus up to \$2,430

[Find a Farm Job in Queensland](#) even have a [Gap Year](#) program where you could get a free membership and more.

It's always worth having a chat with [Centrelink](#) too. They won't be dishing out money for nothing, but if you'll be volunteering or earning below a certain threshold, there could be some financial assistance you'll be eligible for.

More information

If you'd like more information about opportunities or how to go about planning your Gap Year, head over to our [page](#) or grab a copy of our [Gap Year Guide](#) that'll be out soon.

[How to become a Mediator](#)

Help resolve conflict peacefully

What do Mediators do?

Mediators are a neutral third-party that help resolve disputes between two parties without having to go to court (known as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)). They don't make any decisions on behalf of the conflicting parties or give them advice, but open a line of communication between them and help problem solve potential solutions that will benefit everyone.

If you are a great communicator, can remain calm and impartial, and are an excellent problem-solver, a career in Mediation could be ideal for you.

About you:

- Excellent communicator
- Creative and critical thinker
- Great problem-solver
- Able to remain impartial in conflict
- Empathetic and understanding
- Active listener
- Emotionally resilient
- Fantastic people skills

The job:

- Scheduling meetings between parties
- Interviewing parties individually to hear their concerns
- Meeting with parties together and helping the flow of communication
- Brainstorming potential solutions
- Keeping things calm in heated situations
- Maintaining records and documentation of agreements
- Recommending alternative methods if mediation falls through

Lifestyle Impact: Low

- Part Time opportunities: Low – around 29% of Mediators work part-time (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- Average hours for full-time workers: 43 hours a week, which is average (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- Mediators' salary (average) \$82,000* per year (source: payscale.com). *Salaries vary depending on your skills and experience.
- Future career growth: Strong (source: joboutlook.gov.au).
- You will be spending most of your time indoors, in offices and conference rooms. Meetings may take place face-to-face or via videoconferencing.

Mediators are most in demand in these locations:

This is a small occupation, with around 6,600 people working as Mediators in 2016 (source: joboutlook.gov.au), with strong growth expected over the next five years. There is most demand for Mediators in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. Most Mediators work in the Public Administration and Safety industry.

ADR is becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to legal action, and is a method that is used throughout Australia and the world, so your skills as a Mediator could take you almost anywhere.

How to become a Mediator in Australia

You will usually need a university-level qualification first, and then complete training that meets standards set out in the [National Mediator Accreditation Scheme](#) (NMAS) approval standards in order to work as a Mediator in Australia.

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

Step 2 – Complete an undergraduate degree in any field of your choosing. Some common degrees chosen include Law, Business, and Social Sciences.

Step 3 – Complete a mediator training program that meets standards set out by the NMAS. [You can see a full list of providers here.](#)

Step 4 – Apply to a Recognised Mediator Accreditation Body (RMAB) to become a Nationally Accredited Mediator.

Step 5 – Renew your accreditation every 2 years through practice and continuing professional development.

Find out more here –

<https://msb.org.au/>

<https://ama.asn.au>

<https://www.adrac.org.au/>

Similar Careers to Mediator

[Solicitor](#)

[Barrister](#)

Judge

Law Clerk

[Legal Secretary](#)

[HR Manager](#)

[Social Worker](#)

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What do Mediators do?

Mediators help conflicting parties settle disputes through a process known as Alternative Dispute Resolution, without the need for legal intervention.

Which industries employ Mediators?

Mediators are usually employed in the Public Administration and Safety industry.

What options are there for career progression?

After getting some experience as a Mediator, you might like to specialise in a particular area of ADR, such as [Family Dispute Resolution](#).

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

Not necessarily, but if you don't have any qualifications, you will need lots of work experience before you start your mediator training program.

Where do Mediators work?

Mediators are most in demand in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. They usually work indoors in offices.

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

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

1. Try and find work experience in a legal setting. This could help you gain exposure to the kind of work you might be doing.

2. See if you can talk to a Mediator to get an idea of what a day in their life is like, or watch videos and do some reading.
3. Volunteer in your community to start building some essential skills, such as communication and problem solving. Plus, it also looks great on your resume.

Mr Madani

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