

BGGS Careers Newsletter

Issue 10

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Introduction

Term 3 is a busy term across the School, especially for our Year 12s who are preparing for mocks and submitting university applications. Many are still working out their plans for next year and were part of the attendees at the Interstate University Expo held on Monday 21 July here at BGGs in the LMR. It was well attended with over 200 students gathering information and speaking with representatives about the prospect of studying interstate.

Events

28 July: Becoming a Protective Service Officer with the AFP – Online Information Session

Organisation: Australian Federal Police

Location: Online

Date: July 28, 2026

Gain insights into the role of a protective service officer (PSO), hear first-hand experiences, and discover what it means to do legendary work in the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

[Find out more](#)

30 July: JCU QTAC Information Webinar

Organisation: James Cook University

Location: Online

Date: July 30, 2026

If you or someone you know is planning to go to university, this webinar is essential viewing. Hear directly from a QTAC representative and get clear, expert advice on how the application process works.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) is responsible for processing applications to Queensland universities, including JCU. In this session, you'll learn how QTAC assesses applications and facilitates offers to successful applicants.

The session includes a presentation from QTAC plus a live Q&A – a great chance to get your questions answered.

[Find out more](#)

1 August: ACU Open Day 2026, Brisbane

Organisation: Australian Catholic University

Location: Australian Catholic University, Brisbane Campus

Date: August 1, 2026

Open Day gives you the opportunity to ask our teaching staff any questions you might have about your dream course, the application process, pathway options, entry schemes and more.

Chat to current students and discover the facilities your new campus has to offer. And sit in on information sessions from each of the faculties to find out more about the courses you're interested in.

[Find out more](#)

2 August: UQ Open Day 2026, St Lucia

Organisation: University of Queensland

Location: University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus

Date: August 2, 2026

We can't wait to welcome you to Open Day at UQ's St Lucia campus in Brisbane. Explore your interests and study options, immerse yourself in university life and get answers to all your questions.

What to expect:

- Attend sessions to uncover your study area of interest and find out more about the degrees we offer.
- Enter a competition, grab some freebies, listen to live music, get hands-on in a workshop or come on a tour.
- Get to know UQ. Ask current students and teachers all your questions and find out about student life.

[Find out more](#)

2 August: UniSC Open Day 2026, Sunshine Coast

Organisation: University of the Sunshine Coast

Location: University of the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Campus

Date: August 2, 2026

UniSC Open Day is all about welcoming community and future students on to campus to check out UniSC's program offerings, meet staff and explore UniSC's world class teaching and learning facilities.

[Find out more](#)

3 August: BGGS MedPrep Evening

Organisation: BGGS

Location: Louise MacDonald Room, BGGS

Date: 6pm – 7.00pm August 3, 2026

Year 10 and 11 students and parents are invited to attend the annual MedPrep Evening where alumnae now working in medicine and dentistry will speak about their career journeys. Director of Tertiary Pathways will provide information about courses, entry requirements and pathways into these competitive areas of study. Please see your email invitation or the Daily Notices to RSVP.

UniSC Open Day is

4 August: Music Careers Expo 2026, Brisbane

Organisation: The Push

Location: The Triffid

Date: August 4, 2026

The Music Careers Expo is for young people aged 15–25 who are curious about working in music — whether that's performing, producing, working behind the scenes or exploring other roles across the industry.

You'll hear from people working across the industry (artists, managers, producers, engineers) and have the chance to sit down one-on-one with professionals and educators for advice on your next steps.

If you love Australian music and want to work in it, this is where you start!

Parents, teachers and friends are also welcome to attend.

[Find out more](#)

5 August: Applying to the University of Melbourne through VTAC – Online Session for Future Students

Organisation: University of Melbourne

Location: Online

Date: August 5, 2026

Planning on applying to the University of Melbourne, but a little unsure of the steps involved through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)? Join us to discover everything you need to know about VTAC and answer all your application questions.

You'll be guided through the process by our Future Students team and a VTAC representative, so you can apply for your preferred Melbourne undergraduate course in 2026 with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

5 August: STEM + X: Careers in Agriculture – Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents

Organisation: Careers with STEM

Location: Online

Date: August 5, 2026

Careers in agriculture go far beyond the farm, spanning areas like biotechnology, environmental management, data science, policy, agribusiness, and global development. People with skills in these fields are now in high demand to help grow sustainable, nutritious and resilient food systems that improve the health of communities and the environment.

Join us for a free STEM + X career webinar, supported by The University of Queensland to hear from agriculture science students, graduates and lecturers who making an impact.

[Find out more](#)

8 August: UniSQ Open Day 2026, Ipswich

Organisation: University of Southern Queensland

Location: University of Southern Queensland, Ipswich Campus

Date: August 8, 2026

Join us at our Ipswich Campus, for the 2026 UniSQ Open Day on Saturday 8 August.

Here at UniSQ, you'll access excellence through our inspiring lecturers and have the opportunity to speak with current students and knowledgeable staff who are keen to answer your questions. Open Day is your opportunity to discover inspiring learning experiences. Explore information booths that cover all study disciplines, watch presentations from our academic staff, and tour our specialist learning facilities.

At our 2026 Ipswich Open day, you can expect:

- Take a tour around campus and discover our state-of-the-art facilities. Plus, don't forget to explore our indoor rainforest located in our Library.
- Have a career counselling session to help plan your future. It's free but places are limited so make sure to get there early to secure your spot.

- Chat one-on-one with lecturers and current students and learn about the opportunities included in your degree.
- Discover what studying health is like at UniSQ. Tour our nursing lab, take part in the CPR challenge, or put your athletic abilities to the test with the Ipswich Jets!
- Learn how occupational therapy unlocks potential and empowers lives in an interactive session that teaches you about how you can create a fulfilling career.
- Explore our simulated learning experiences in the UniSQ Skillshare Studios for social work and human services.
- Join us for a tour of the Psychology and Counselling Clinic where UniSQ postgraduate psychology and counselling students see clients.
- Sit back and relax to live music while you enjoy lunch from our food trucks.

[Find out more](#)

8 August: UniSQ Open Day 2026, Springfield

Organisation: University of Southern Queensland

Location: University of Southern Queensland, Springfield Campus

Date: August 8, 2026

Join us at our Springfield Campus, for the 2025 UniSQ Open Day on Saturday 8 August.

Here at UniSQ, you'll access excellence through our inspiring lecturers and have the opportunity to speak with current students and knowledgeable staff who are keen to answer your questions. Open Day is your opportunity to discover inspiring learning experiences. Explore information booths that cover all study disciplines, watch presentations from our academic staff, and tour our specialist learning facilities.

At our 2026 Springfield Open day, you can expect:

- Take a tour around campus and discover our state-of-the-art facilities.
- Have a career counselling session to help plan your future. It's free but places are limited so make sure to get there early to secure your spot.
- Chat one-on-one with lecturers and students and learn about the opportunities included in your degree.
- Get ready for take-off. Be immersed in live demonstrations of our flight simulator.
- Become the teacher you want to be. Find out why UniSQ graduates are sought after by schools and education leaders for their innovation and creativity.
- Tour our creative industries studios and see what studying media and communication at UniSQ would look like.
- Witness firsthand the transformative power of concrete 3D printing and learn more about studying engineering.
- Sit back and relax to live music while you enjoy lunch from our food trucks.

[Find out more](#)

8 August: Money Talks – Learn for Credit Course at Bond University for Year 11 & 12 Students

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Bond University, Gold Coast Campus

Date: August 8, 2026

Financial decision making is a core life skill, essential for a comfortable lifestyle. But with constant changes to the way people make purchases, an ever-increasing number of choices, the complexity

of investment options, and the rise of sophisticated scams, financial decision making can be stressful.

This [Learn for Credit](#) course is designed to provide you with basic tools and knowledge to assist you in navigating life financially. Through a range of interactive resources and activities, you will explore a number of topics and concepts, including savings and compounding, scams, superannuation, insurance, and investment options like shares, cryptocurrencies and NFTs.

You can choose to participate in just the in-person workshop, or complete the full course through the workshop, online modules and additional readings and assessment.

Registration closes Friday 31 July, 2026.

[Find out more](#)

8 August: Literature and Philosophy for Global Challenges – Learn for Credit Course at Bond University for Year 11 & 12 Students

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Bond University, Gold Coast Campus

Date: August 8, 2026

Are you curious about how the stories we tell influence politics, education, and society? Do you love reading, writing, and thinking deeply about human nature and global issues? This immersive [Learn for Credit](#) course invites you to challenge dominant narratives and discover how literature and philosophy can inspire real-world change.

Through engaging online modules and a dynamic on-campus workshop, you'll explore big thinkers, and dive into cutting-edge ideas from psychology, anthropology, and economics. You'll learn to read "dangerously", critiquing texts, questioning assumptions, and imagining more hopeful futures.

Whether you're passionate about English, Philosophy, or global politics, this course will sharpen your critical thinking, deepen your understanding of human nature, and empower you to become a thoughtful changemaker.

You can choose to participate in just the in-person workshops, or complete the full course through the workshop, online modules and additional readings and assessment.

Registration closes Friday 31 July, 2026.

[Find out more](#)

9 August: Griffith Open Day 2026

Organisation: Griffith University

Location: Griffith Nathan & Gold Coast Campuses

Date: August 9, 2026

Spanning across Brisbane South (Nathan) and Gold Coast campuses, Open Day will showcase our world-class facilities, unique student life, and give you direct access to students and academics.

[Find out more](#)

15 August: SAE Open Day 2026, Brisbane

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Brisbane Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Whether you're still exploring your study options or you're ready to apply, SAE Open Day is the perfect place to get inspired, get informed, and get hands-on with your creative future.

Join us on campus this August to tour our studios, meet your future mentors, and experience what it's like to study at SAE – the University College built for creators and tech innovators.

Explore your study and career pathways across animation, audio, design, film, games, music, technology, VFX and more. Connect with current students, industry-experienced lecturers, and alumni who've turned their ideas into careers.

[Find out more](#)

15 August: UniSQ Open Day 2026, Toowoomba

Organisation: University of Southern Queensland

Location: University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Join us at our Toowoomba Campus, for the 2025 UniSQ Open Day on Saturday 15 August.

Here at UniSQ, you'll access excellence through our inspiring lecturers and have the opportunity to speak with current students and knowledgeable staff who are keen to answer your questions. Open Day is your opportunity to discover inspiring learning experiences. Explore information booths that cover all study disciplines, watch presentations from our academic staff, and tour our specialist learning facilities.

At our 2026 Toowoomba Open day, you can expect:

- Take a tour around campus and discover our state-of-the-art facilities.
- Have a career counselling session to help plan your future. It's free but places are limited so make sure to get there early to secure your spot.
- Chat one-on-one with lecturers and current students and learn about your degree options.
- Get ready for take-off. Be immersed in live demonstrations of our flight simulator.
- Tour our high-tech agricultural precinct. Discover our hypersonic flow and rocket facilities and learn about the science behind driverless tractors and precision irrigation systems.
- Check out the UniSQ archaeology lab with demonstrations, assemblages, and specimens.
- Take a dose of your future. Explore the medical science lab, understand human anatomy and physiology, and developing real clinical skills. Places are limited so make sure to get there early to secure your spot.
- Discover the world of rocket science and space engineering. Get a taste for the research that is conducted within the Institute for Space, Defence and Advanced Technologies.
- Sit back and relax to live music while you enjoy lunch from our food trucks.

[Find out more](#)

16 August: UQ Open Day 2026, Gatton

Organisation: University of Queensland

Location: University of Queensland, Gatton Campus

Date: August 16, 2026

Discover your passion for agricultural studies and animal sciences at UQ Gatton Open Day.

Explore the heritage-listed campus and world-class facilities.

What to expect:

- Attend sessions to uncover your study area of interest and find out more about the degrees we offer.
- Enter a competition, grab some freebies, listen to live music, get hands-on in a workshop or come on a tour.
- Get to know UQ. Ask current students and teachers all your questions and find out about student life.

[Find out more](#)

17-20 August: ACU Year 12 QCE Revision Webinars

Organisation: Australian Catholic University

Location: Online

Date: August 17 to August 20, 2026

Worried about your Year 12 exams? You're not alone.

Join our free online webinars from 17 – 20 August 2026. They are live, expert-led sessions designed to help you walk into your exams feeling prepared.

Can't attend live? Register anyway – recordings are available to registered attendees for one week after each webinar.

[Find out more](#)

29 August: Torrens University Open Day 2026, Brisbane

Organisation: Torrens University Australia

Location: Torrens University, Fortitude Valley Campus

Date: August 29, 2026

Come and meet our academics and Future Student Advisors, who will be able to answer all your questions about early entry, scholarships, entry pathways and our world-class facilities. Explore our campus and see firsthand how exciting studying in Brisbane can be.

- Talk to our academics and Future Student Advisors about choosing courses, scholarships and the application process.
- Embark on a guided tour of our campus facilities and get a feel of our recreational spaces, teaching spaces and more.
- Meet our current students and find out what their experiences studying at Torrens University is like.

[Find out more](#)

29-30 August: The Future of Long Haul Flying Cairns – School Holiday Program from BOP Industries

Organisation: BOP Industries

Location: Cairns Aviation Skills Centre

Date: August 29 to August 30, 2026

The Future Of Long Haul Flying program will see students participating in challenges, hearing from guest speakers, and touring hangar and training facilities as they design a series of ultra-long-haul routes to connect Cairns with the world.

Over the course of the program students will be redesigning a new section of the Cairns Airport international terminal to cater for passengers about to board a +20 hour flight, before they then explore the in-flight experience, sustainability factors to consider, and the marketing of this new route. Students will then conclude the program by presenting their ideas to a panel of aviation experts for judging and consideration.

This is an action packed program of experiences for young people passionate about aviation and interested in learning about all the exciting opportunities available to them in the aviation industry. This program is open to all students, specifically those who have an interest in aviation. The program will run as a senior program for students in Grades 7-10.

[Find out more](#)

1 September: QUT Year 12 Advice Night

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology

Location: Online

Date: September 1, 2026

Year 12 students and parents are invited to join us online to find out about applying and studying at QUT. With the right information and support, transitioning from school to university can be easier than you think. In this webinar we'll provide advice on:

- making course and career decisions
- entry requirements and how to apply
- study costs, scholarships and financial support
- transition to university and support for students
- resources for parents and students.

You'll also hear from real students about their uni experience and have the chance to ask them questions about their course, why they chose QUT and uni life.

[Find out more](#)

8 September: START QUT Webinar for Year 11 Students

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology

Location: Online

Date: September 8, 2026

Year 11 students and parents are invited to join us to find out about our START QUT program. Students apply in Year 11 to study a university subject while in Semester 2 of Year 11 or Semester 1 of Year 12. Learn about what's involved, eligibility requirements and how to apply, and also hear from past students about their experience in the program.

[Find out more](#)

16 September: UQ Ready – Information Session for High School Students, Online

Organisation: University of Queensland

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Join us for an informative night that will provide you with everything you need for a smooth transition from high school to university.

- Get advice on maximising your ATAR score and preparing for university.
- Understand the QTAC process, from application to offer.
- Hear about our diverse student support services, including mentoring, accommodation, neurodiversity support and more.
- Learn how to enrol and plan your timetable.
- Get tips for successfully transitioning from school to university.
- Hear about UQ's vibrant and inclusive campus culture.

The information will be valuable to any high school student looking to go to any university.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

UQ Paula and Tony Kinnane Music Scholarship

Organisation: University of Queensland

Location: Queensland

Value: At least AU\$10,000

Open Date: May 6, 2026

Close Date: September 7, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Bond University Indigenous Scholarship

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Queensland

Value: Up to 100% tuition remission

Open Date: May 1, 2026

Close Date: August 31, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Job Spotlights

How to become a Radiographer

Radiographers use medical imaging technology to produce high-quality images of the inside of the body, helping doctors and other health professionals diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions. Working with equipment such as X-ray, MRI, and CT scanners, they play a central role in the diagnostic process across hospitals and medical imaging services.

If you're drawn to both healthcare and technology, enjoy working closely with people, and want a role where precision genuinely matters, this career is worth exploring.

What skills do I need as a Radiographer?

- Precise & detail-oriented
- Strong communicator
- Empathetic & patient
- Analytical thinker
- Safety conscious
- Calm under pressure
- Team player & independent worker
- Committed to continuous learning

What do Radiographers do?

Much of your day begins with receiving imaging requests from doctors and specialists. You'll review each request, prepare the imaging room and equipment, and make sure everything is calibrated correctly before a patient arrives. Keeping accurate records and maintaining a well-organised workflow is important, particularly in busy hospital settings where multiple patients move through throughout the day.

When a patient arrives, your role is as much about people as it is about technology. You'll explain the procedure clearly, answer any questions, and help the patient feel as comfortable as possible before and during the scan. Positioning matters enormously in medical imaging, and you'll guide patients carefully to capture the clearest possible image. Throughout the process, you'll monitor radiation levels and follow strict safety protocols to protect both the patient and yourself.

Once imaging is complete, you'll review the images for quality, document your findings, and forward results to the referring clinician. In some settings, particularly with more experience, Radiographers may also contribute to image interpretation or work alongside radiologists on complex cases. Some develop areas of focus over time, such as MRI, CT, or radiation therapy, building deeper technical expertise within the field.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Radiographers work primarily in hospitals and private medical imaging clinics, though some roles exist in specialist centres, research settings, and rural or remote health services. Because diagnostic imaging is needed around the clock in hospital environments, shift work including evenings, weekends, and public holidays is common. Radiographers in private clinics tend to work more predictable hours.

The role is largely indoor and clinic-based, as the specialised equipment used cannot be relocated. You'll spend most of your time on your feet, moving between patients and equipment, and the work can be physically and emotionally demanding at times, particularly in acute care settings.

Salaries for Radiographers are above average, and the profession offers strong job security given ongoing demand for diagnostic imaging services. The ageing population and continued advances in medical technology mean the outlook for this field remains positive, with opportunities available in metropolitan areas and increasing demand in regional and rural settings.

How to become a Radiographer

- **Complete the right subjects at school** A strong foundation in biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics is important preparation for university-level study in medical imaging. These subjects underpin both the scientific knowledge and the technical understanding you'll need in the role.
- **Earn an approved degree** You'll need to complete a bachelor's degree in medical imaging, radiation therapy, or a related field from an approved provider. These programs combine academic study with clinical placements, giving you hands-on experience in real healthcare settings before you graduate.
- **Register with the relevant board** Before you can practise as a Radiographer, you'll need to register with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia. This process involves meeting qualification requirements and may include criminal history checks.
- **Maintain your registration through ongoing learning** Radiography is a continually evolving field, and staying registered requires ongoing professional development. This keeps your clinical knowledge and technical skills current as imaging technology advances.

From here, you could progress into senior or lead radiographer roles, move into medical imaging management, or develop expertise in a particular imaging modality. Some Radiographers also move into education, research, or policy work within the health sector.

What can I do right now?

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

- Focus on science subjects, particularly biology, chemistry, and physics, as these are typically prerequisites for medical imaging degrees and will give you a genuine head start in your studies.
- Look for work experience or volunteering opportunities in healthcare settings such as hospitals, aged care facilities, or community health centres to get a feel for working in clinical environments and with patients.

- Research the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia and professional bodies such as the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) to understand what registration involves and what the profession looks like in practice.

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

Skills for Work

Build career confidence with these free skills

Imagine scrolling through job ads and spotting the perfect role. The pay looks good, the hours suit you, it matches your [Cluster](#), and the work sounds interesting. Then you read the requirements list and your stomach drops. "Confident using AI tools." "Strong typing speed." "Excellent written communication." You start wondering if you're missing something everyone else already has. Thankfully, these skills (along with many others) don't cost a cent to learn. You can start building them today, using free tools and a bit of daily practice. They'll help you at work, but also in everyday life, whether you're writing an assignment, sorting out your finances, or just trying to get things done.

Get comfortable with AI tools

AI is now part of most workplaces, from writing emails to checking data. Employers aren't expecting you to be an expert and they won't want you to use AI to do the job. They just want people who can use these tools sensibly and know their limits. Try using free tools like ChatGPT or Google Gemini to help plan a project, summarise an article, or brainstorm ideas. Always check the results yourself rather than trusting them blindly.

Sharpen your typing and keyboard skills

Fast, accurate typing is still one of the quickest wins for career confidence. It speeds up everything from emails to assignments. Sites like [TypingClub](#) or [Keybr](#) offer free lessons and if you only practise for fifteen minutes a day, you'll soon see the improvements. Try touch typing (without looking at the keys), and copying paragraphs from books or news articles, transcribe your favourite song lyrics, or type along as you listen to your favourite podcast. You could even incorporate it as part of your study habits and digitise hand written notes, or start condensing course notes ready for revision.

Master time management and organisation

Employers love people who can juggle several tasks without dropping the ball. This skill separates the good employees from the great ones, and you can practise right now with schoolwork. Use a free tool like [Google Calendar](#) or [Todoist](#) to plan your week, or try the [Pomodoro Technique](#) for focused study sessions. Track how long tasks actually take compared to what you expected, and you'll get better at planning over time. You could even volunteer to coordinate school events or group projects and gain even more experience.

Easily distracted? Try apps like [Stay Focused](#) or [PawBlock](#) to minimise distractions and help you master your scheduling.

Build basic financial literacy

[Understanding budgets and simple maths around money](#) will help you in almost any job from retail to engineering, and in life generally. Try creating a simple budget spreadsheet, start comparing prices at the supermarket, or working out which phone plan gives the best value. Khan

Academy offers a [free personal finance course](#) if you want something more structured, there are also plenty of others available.

Practise professional communication

[Clear, polite writing builds trust](#), share ideas effectively, resolve conflict, and helps get things done faster. Practise by emailing teachers with specific questions about assignments, writing thank-you notes after work experience placements, or by joining a debate club or public speaking group. Get in the habit of reading your message aloud before sending, it's simple but catches most mistakes.

Strengthen your research and fact-checking skills

With so much information online, including plenty generated by AI, knowing what to trust matters more than ever. Practise checking news stories against two or three reliable sources before believing or resharing them. Learn to spot when a source might be biased, and use tools like [Google Fact Check Explorer](#), or [FactCheck](#), to verify claims that seem too surprising to be true. Not sure where to start? You can find free training and resources online, for example [International Fact-Checking Network \(IFCN\) short course and tools](#).

Learn basic design and presentation skills

You don't need to be a designer to benefit from knowing the basics of layout, colour, and clear visuals. [Canva](#) is free and a good place to start, with lots of mini tutorials and templates to explore. Try making an infographic for a class project or a poster for a cause you care about.

Grow your people skills

As more routine tasks get handed to computers, the ability to listen well, stay calm under pressure, and treat people with respect becomes even more valuable. Part-time work in retail or hospitality is a great training ground. Volunteering at community events also puts you in front of people from different backgrounds, which builds patience and perspective.

Small efforts add up over time

These skills reinforce each other. Good organisation makes research easier. Clear communication improves how you work with AI tools. Confidence with people helps in almost every job you'll ever do.

You don't need to master everything at once. Pick one or two skills that interest you most, and set aside fifteen minutes a day. By the time you finish school, you'll have built a genuinely useful set of skills, all for free.

Ready to build your skills?

Head over to our [Skills for Work section](#) for more free guides and tools to help you get future-ready.

Work Experience

Finding relevant and impactful work experience

Work experience is one of the best ways to work out what you want to do with your future. It lets you try a job before you commit to it, and it helps you build skills you can't learn from a textbook. But how do you find work experience that aligns with your interests and career aspirations? Spaces can be limited, some industries are hard to access, and not every student has the same amount of support behind them. The good news is that a formal placement is just one route in.

There are lots of ways to gain real, valuable experience, whatever your situation. We'll help guide you through the process.

Start with what interests you

Before you go looking, it helps to know what you're looking for. Are you someone who loves connecting people with the help they need? Or do you get a buzz from building and inventing new things? Working out your strengths and interests, by identifying your [Career Cluster](#) can provide a valuable starting point for your search. It means you can search for opportunities that actually suit you, rather than applying for anything and everything, potentially wasting your time.

Researching Opportunities

Once you have a good idea of what you want, it's time to research opportunities. You might like to use Study Work Grow's [Work Experience Database](#) as a starting point for finding placements or giving you ideas about what to look for and where to apply. If there's a specific company you're interested, head to their website to see if they offer work experience programs, give them a call, or even pop in and see them.

Don't forget to leverage your personal network as well. Teachers, family friends, and even your peers may have local connections or suggestions that could lead to work experience opportunities.

When a placement is hard to come by

Finding a traditional placement has become tougher in recent years. That means competition for the placements that do exist is high, and many students miss out through no fault of their own. It might be particularly hard if you live in a rural or remote location, or if you are disadvantaged in other ways. If this sounds familiar, don't be discouraged. A placement is not the only way to learn about careers and grow your skills.

Other ways to build real experience

Virtual work experience

Many organisations now run virtual work experience programmes and insight days. These let you complete real tasks, listen to talks from employees, and sometimes even take part in projects, all from your own laptop. They're brilliant if you live somewhere with fewer local employers, or if getting to a workplace each day just isn't practical.

Micro-placements and shadowing

Not every experience needs to last a week. Ask if you can shadow someone for a single day, or even just a couple of hours. Short bursts of exposure to a workplace can still teach you a huge amount, and busy employers are often more willing to say yes to a smaller ask.

Volunteering

Volunteering, whether in person or online, builds many of the same skills as paid work experience like teamwork, communication, and responsibility. It also shows employers that you're proactive and community-minded, which counts for a lot.

Part-time and casual jobs

A part-time job in a shop, café, or leisure centre might not match your dream career exactly, but it still teaches you punctuality, customer service, and how to work as part of a team. These are skills every employer values, whatever the industry.

Personal projects

If you can't get inside a workplace, bring the workplace to you. Start a blog, build a small app, design a poster for a local charity, or run a social media account for a cause you care about. Projects like these show initiative and give you something concrete to talk about in interviews.

Networking

Talk to people. Ask teachers, family friends, or family members if they know anyone working in a field you're curious about. A short phone call or coffee chat with someone in the industry, sometimes called an informational interview, can offer insights you won't find online, and might even lead to an opportunity further down the line.

School based opportunities

The things you do in school count too. If your school offers leadership opportunities, volunteering or mentoring roles, has a school newspaper or journal, or runs events, see how you can get involved. Just because it's at school, doesn't make it any less valid or valuable.

Gaining experience if you have additional needs

Every student deserves the chance to build experience, and if you have a disability or additional needs, there are options designed with you in mind.

Many virtual work experience programmes are built to be flexible, which makes them an accessible starting point if travel, energy levels, or sensory environments make in-person placements difficult. It's also worth contacting organisations directly and asking what adjustments they can offer, such as flexible hours, remote tasks, or extra support on the day. Most employers are more willing to help than you'd expect, but they can only do so if they know what you need.

Disability organisations and your local careers service can point you towards inclusive programmes and employers who actively welcome students with additional needs. Your school's careers advisor, as always, is your best first stop as they may know of local employers with experience supporting diverse students.

Don't be afraid to ask for what you need. Requesting an adjustment isn't a weakness, it's simply how you make sure an opportunity works for you.

Aligning Work Experience with Emerging Trends

As you're researching opportunities, keep an eye on emerging trends in the job market. Websites like [Jobs and Skills](#) can provide valuable insights into the skills that employers are looking for and the job titles that are growing fastest. Choosing work experience that helps you develop skills in these areas could give you a competitive edge when you enter the job market.

Preparing Your Application

Whichever route you choose, you'll usually need to apply for it, so a short cover letter or resume is worth having ready. Tailor each application by highlighting any relevant skills, even ones from school projects, hobbies, or sport. Explain why you're interested in the role and what you're hoping to learn. Keep it honest and specific, rather than generic, as this is what helps you stand out.

Ready to start exploring?

Whether you land a full placement, a virtual internship, or a single afternoon of shadowing, every bit of experience adds to your story. Head to our [Work Experience hub](#) to search for opportunities and options that fit your circumstances.

University

Finding a university course that fits you

Choosing a university course can feel like a huge decision, and in some ways, it is. But it doesn't have to be stressful. With a bit of research and an open mind, you can find courses and universities that suit your interests, your strengths, and your life.

Best of all, nothing you choose now is set in stone. You have far more freedom and flexibility than you might think.

Start with what you enjoy, not just what pays well

If you are already certain about your career goals and know what qualifications you need, then your decision making is going to be a bit easier and you can skip right to exploring universities and their offerings, to find the best match for you.

If you're 100% sure what you want to do for a career yet (that's totally normal by the way), it might be tempting to pick a course based on what you've heard about salaries or job security. Those are important factors to consider, but you'll do better in a course, and afterwards in a career, if you actually enjoy the subject. Think about which classes you look forward to at school. Think about what you read about in your spare time, causes that motivate you, or what you'd happily talk about for hours.

Once you have a shortlist of subjects, look at the different universities offerings and look into what each course entails, don't assume all courses with the same name are identical. One university's psychology degree might focus heavily on research and statistics. Another might lean more towards clinical practice. Small differences could have a big impact on how much you enjoy your studies.

Check the entry requirements carefully

Every course has entry requirements, and these can vary a lot between universities, even for the same subject. Look up the grades, subjects, and any extra requirements like portfolios, interviews, or admissions tests. Happy with everything and confident you'll meet the requirements? Great, keep it on your short list. A little unsure, perhaps add it to the maybe or dream pile for now. If you haven't studied one of the prerequisite subjects before, or you think the grades might be unachievable even after applying yourself in school more, you could look at similar courses with different requirements, consider alternative pathways, or revisit this idea down the track as a post graduate option.

University websites usually list all this information clearly, but if you're unsure, contact the future students or admissions team directly. They answer these questions every day and would rather help you now than have you apply for the wrong course.

Remember, you're allowed more than one option

You don't have to pick just one course or one university. Most application systems let you list several choices (preferences), so use that to your advantage. Or if you're applying directly to universities, remember you can apply to as many as you want - just make sure you have enough time and bear in mind any application fees.

A good approach is to pick a dream course, one that excites you even if the entry requirements are high, alongside a couple of more realistic options. This way, you're not putting all your hopes on a single outcome. If you don't receive an offer for your dream course, you'll still have solid choices lined up.

You can change your mind later

Students sometimes treat their university choice like a final decision, but that's simply not true.

You can always change your mind after submitting your application, and many people do. You can even change your mind after you've enrolled and started on a course.

Universities are used to students switching courses, transferring to different institutions, or taking a break partway through. None of this ruins your future. If a course isn't what you expected, or your interests shift, there are usually options to move sideways, defer, or restart on a path that suits you better.

Not sure about university? That's fine too

If you're feeling unsure about university altogether, or you don't receive the offer you were hoping for, don't stress - you still have plenty of choices.

Some people take a gap year to work, travel, or simply figure out what they want. Others start with a vocational course, apprenticeship, or start working straight away and move into university study later, once they know exactly what they want to study. There's no single correct order to do things in, and taking a different route doesn't necessarily hold you back as you'll still be learning, building skills, and gaining valuable life experience that's recognised by education institutions as well as employers.

Where to start your research

A good first step is to look up [open days](#), whether in person or virtual, for universities you're interested in. These give you a feel for campus life, teaching styles, facilities, and student support services, things you can't fully judge from a website alone. Talk to current students if you get the chance, they'll usually give you the most honest picture of what a course is really like.

It also helps to make a simple list for each course you're considering including what you'd study, the entry requirements, the location, and anything that stands out as a bonus or a drawback.

Comparing these side by side can really help with decision making rather than trying to hold it all in your head (it's also easier to show parents and carers why how and why you're making those choices).

Ready to start exploring?

Researching universities and courses takes time, but it's time well spent. Focus on what genuinely interests you, keep your options open by choosing a mix of ambitious and realistic courses, and remember that nothing is set in stone. This is your path and you get to decide what's right for you.

Head over to our [university section](#) for more information or use [Course Seeker](#) to start researching courses today.

Snapshot of James Cook University (JCU) in 2026

- JCU is the second-oldest university in Queensland and is dedicated to research in areas such as marine sciences, biodiversity, tropical ecology and environments, global warming, tourism, and tropical medicine.
- JCU is also a leading university in the tropics and ranked in the top 400 universities in the world - [Times Higher Education World Rankings](#). Browse here for other [rankings](#).
- JCU has a number of [campuses](#) with the main campuses being in [Townsville](#) and [Cairns](#), and there is an international campus in [Singapore](#).

- Some of the most highly sought after courses offered at JCU include:
[Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery](#)
[Bachelor of Dental Surgery](#)
[Bachelor of Physiotherapy](#)
[Bachelor of Veterinary Science](#)
[Bachelor of Marine Science](#)
- JCU has a number of colleges and research facilities
 - [College of Arts, Society and Education](#)
 - [College of Business, Law and Governance](#)
 - [College of Healthcare Sciences](#)
 - [College of Medicine and Dentistry](#)
 - [College of Science and Engineering](#)
 - [Indigenous Education and Research Centre](#)
- JCU offers a broad range of student exchange programs - [JCU Global Experience](#).
- **Fast Facts for Health or Veterinary Science Applicants**
 JCU has a few programs where a combination of a written application and academic results may be required for selection including **dental surgery, medicine, and veterinary science**. Students applying for one or more of these courses should take note of the recommendations made at [Domestic Applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science](#) OR [International Applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science](#).



Fees & Scholarships

How industry-specific scholarships can fund your future

Scholarships are one of the best ways to fund your future studies. Most people know about the general kind, where organisations provide financial support based on your grades or your family's income for example. But there's another type that can provide significant help, they're industry-specific scholarships. These are funded by companies, government agencies, or industry bodies that want to encourage and support students from all walks of life who are heading into their field. In addition to the funding, they often offer something extra too, like mentoring, work placements, or a direct line into the sector once you graduate.

Let's dive into how you can find and apply for these industry-specific scholarships.

What makes a scholarship industry-specific

An industry-specific scholarship is tied to a particular sector, rather than to a subject or a university. Think engineering, agriculture, defence, healthcare, or technology. These scholarships aim to attract and support talented students who could contribute to the industry's future. They might be facing a skills shortage, or trying to bring more diversity into their workforce. Either way, they benefit from you succeeding, so they tend to offer more than just money. Mentoring, networking events, and industry placements are common extras, and these can matter just as much as the cash.

How to find and apply for one

You'll need to be proactive here, start by thinking about the industries that interest you. Here are some strategies to help you in your search:

- **Identify Your Interests:** Start by identifying the industries that align with your career interests and aspirations. Are you interested in healthcare, technology, agriculture, or perhaps the arts? Once you have identified your areas of interest, you can focus your scholarship search on those industries.
- **Research Industry Bodies and Companies:** Look for industry bodies, associations, and companies within your chosen field. Many of these organisations offer scholarships to support students entering their industry. Check their websites or contact them directly to inquire about any available scholarships.
- **Use Scholarship Search Platforms:** Online scholarship platforms can be a valuable resource. The Study Work Grow [Scholarships Database](#) could be a great starting point.
- **Leverage Your School's Resources:** Your school's career advisor or guidance officer may have information on industry-specific scholarships. They can also provide advice on your application.

Once you've found a scholarship that aligns with your career interests, read the criteria carefully. Some ask for strong grades, others care more about your interest and commitment to the field. Tailor your application to show genuine enthusiasm, not just eligibility. Where you can, back this up with real examples, whether that's a school project, work experience, or volunteering related to the industry. A letter of recommendation from a teacher or mentor can help too, especially if they can speak to your skills and interest directly.

Industry-backed scholarships in Australia and New Zealand

Here are a couple of examples of industry scholarships, so you can get an idea for what you're looking for and what's included. The Elevate program, run by the [Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering](#), awards scholarships to women and non-binary students in STEM fields. It's backed by government departments and companies including Snowy Hydro, and it comes with mentoring, workshops, and round-the-clock wellbeing support, not just funding.

Another comes from the [Playford Trust in South Australia](#). Its Resources Engineering Scholarships are worth \$10,000 each, funded jointly by the South Australian Government and companies including BHP, Santos, and Iluka Resources. They're aimed at engineering students specialising in mining or energy resources, and they come with the chance of a paid work placement with one of the supporting companies. It's a good example of how state governments and local industries team up to grow the workforce they need, while giving students real experience alongside their funding. New Zealand has a strong tradition of industry scholarships too, particularly in agriculture and food. Fonterra, in partnership with Massey University, offers undergraduate scholarships for [Pasifika](#) and [Maori](#) students worth \$5,000 a year for students starting a degree in Science or Technology. It also includes paid summer internships at Fonterra's Research and Development Centre in Palmerston North, giving students hands-on experience in the industry well before they graduate.

Ready to start your search?

Industry-specific scholarships offering monetary support are a great opportunity to help you study and reduce your debts. But they could also open doors to work experience, mentoring, networking, and a genuine foothold in your chosen field, whether that's submarine engineering in Australia or sustainable farming in New Zealand. Head to our [scholarships database](#) to start exploring options that match your interests, and get one step closer to funding the career you want.