

BGGGS Careers Newsletter

Issue 14, 2026

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Introduction

As Term 3 draws to a close, the Tertiary Pathways team has been actively supporting our Year 12 students with university applications and scholarship opportunities. With mock examinations now complete, many Year 12 students are turning their attention to the next stage of their journey and considering the exciting possibilities that await in 2027.

Earlier this week, we were delighted to welcome back alumna Natasha Miric (2023), who presented to a group of Year 12 students interested in the process of Medicine and Dentistry Program interviews. Drawing on her own experience, Natasha shared valuable insights, practical advice and helpful strategies that contributed to her receiving a medical provisional place offer at UQ.

Our Year 10 Tertiary Pathways program has also continued with a valuable presentation on careers in business. We were fortunate to hear from BGGS's own Ms Retha Wood, Executive Director of Human Resources, who provided an insightful overview of her career across business and human resources in a wide range of industries. She highlighted the breadth and variety of the field, from interpersonal communication to policy development and organisational strategy. We were also privileged to welcome Sally Dwyer, Senior Coordinator, Student Wellbeing and Advanced Programs at UQ, who shared the twists and turns of her career journey. Spanning London, Hong Kong and Australia, and including finance and business ownership, Sally's story gave students an inspiring insight into the many possibilities a career in business can offer.

The Tertiary Pathways team wish our students and their families a safe and restful term break, and we look forward to continuing our work with students in Term 4.

Events

21 September: Griffith Year 12 Academic Bootcamps

Organisation: Griffith University

Location: Griffith University, Nathan, Gold Coast & Logan Campuses

Date: September 21 to October 1, 2026

Griffith's Academic Bootcamps are highly effective four-day courses run in the September school holidays, designed to help Year 12 students achieve their full academic potential in their final external exams. They aim to improve confidence and understanding in senior science and maths subject areas, reducing anxiety around assessment and preparing students for future tertiary study.

Students may attend one bootcamp each week, allowing them to complete up to two subjects across the holiday program. Please check the campus location carefully when registering, as not every subject is available at every campus.

[Find out more](#)

22 September: Women in Defence Virtual Information Session

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Online

Date: September 22, 2026

Consider a career in the Navy, Army or Air Force and work alongside likeminded, supportive, proud serving men and women.

Tune in for a virtual info session to speak with current serving women in Defence to learn more. Spaces are limited, so register ASAP!

[Find out more](#)

23 September: The Creative Design Academy – School Holiday Program for Year 6-10 Students

Organisation: BOP Industries

Location: WeWork - Office Space & Coworking

Date: September 23, 2026

The **Creative Design Academy** is an exciting school holiday program that invites students to step into the world of graphic design, digital media, branding and creative entrepreneurship. Hosted at WeWork Edward Street, students will spend the day exploring how creative ideas can be transformed into professional designs, digital content and portfolio-ready projects.

Throughout the day, participants will take part in hands-on workshops and creative challenges covering graphic design, illustration, branding, content creation and visual storytelling. Students will experiment with digital design tools as they develop their own creative concepts, build a personal brand and create original work they can showcase in a creative portfolio.

Students will also hear from a guest speaker from Canva, who will share insights into Canva, his role within the company and the opportunities available for young people interested in design, technology and the creative industries. Students will discover how digital creators can showcase their skills, build an audience and even turn their creativity into future study, career or entrepreneurial opportunities.

The program is perfect for students in Years 6–10 who are interested in art, drawing, graphic design, branding, digital media, content creation, entrepreneurship or creative technology.

[Find out more](#)

23 September: Moving to Canberra and Living on Campus at ANU – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 23, 2026

Find out what it's really like to live on campus, meet new people and make Canberra your new home.

Hear from our team about residential life, making friends, finding your feet in a new city, getting around Canberra and making the most of everything campus has to offer — from study and support to social life and everything in between.

Whether you're moving from across the country or just a few hours away, you'll get practical tips on what to expect, what to bring and how to make the most of your first year away from home.

[Find out more](#)

25 September: Positive Psychology – Learn for Credit Course at Bond University for Year 11 & 12 Students

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Bond University, Gold Coast Campus

Date: September 25, 2026

Are you ready to unlock the secrets to a happier, more fulfilling life? This [Learn for Credit](#) course will introduce students to the principles and concepts of positive psychology and how they relate to wellbeing. Students will dive into the science of happiness, explore the strengths and virtues that lead to positive life outcomes, and learn how to develop and enhance these qualities.

Students will gain skills and knowledge in self-assessment, gratitude journaling, goal setting, mindfulness, and self-development practice.

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.

Registrations close Friday 18 September, 2026.

[Find out more](#)

28 September: Creative Writing – Learn for Credit Course at Bond University for Year 11 & 12 Students

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Bond University, Gold Coast Campus

Date: September 28 to September 29, 2026

In this [Learn for Credit](#) course you will harness your creative flair and passion for writing.

Develop your writing skills by exploring a range of approaches, styles and genres to help you find and tell compelling stories.

You will receive guidance from an experienced freelance journalist, author, lecturer, and content creator to learn how to draft a story from an idea through to completion.

Gain a practical insight into the basics of creative writing; learn how to find, develop and refine your voice; and critique your own work before strengthening your skills in writing intuitively from a short story prompt.

Students will also complete a two-day practical workshop where they will learn how to critique work and improve writing with the goal of applying this to their own writing. This is achieved through a close analysis and exercises around the short story *American Hustler*, the inspiration behind *Inventing Anna*. Students will also strengthen their intuitive writing skills through a short story prompt. The goal of this exercise is to write from the 'gut' to allow information to flow freely, while following the guidelines learnt around plotting and planning a story with interesting characters.

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 Monday 21 September, 2026.

[Find out more](#)

29 September: You've Received an ANU Early Offer — What Happens Next? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 29, 2026

Congratulations! Your Early Offer is an exciting first step towards starting your university journey. Join our Future Students and Admissions team for a practical session covering everything you need to know about what happens next.

We'll walk you through accepting your offer, change of preference, key dates and important next steps, as well as answer some of the common questions students and parents have at this stage.

After the presentation, there'll be plenty of time to ask your questions and get advice directly from our team, so you can feel confident about what comes next.

[Find out more](#)

3 October: Create for a Day at SAE Brisbane

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Brisbane Campus

Date: October 3, 2026

This October school holidays, SAE University College Brisbane is opening its doors for Create for a Day: a one-day, hands-on experience where you'll step into the studio, lab or production space and start creating.

Choose from:

- Animation
- Audio
- Design
- Film
- Games
- Songwriting & electronic music production
- VFX

Create for a Day lets you skip the textbooks and jump straight into building, recording, designing, coding or filming, all guided by lecturers who work in the industry.

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with your own finished project and a certificate of participation, plus a clearer idea of what studying at SAE is really like and where your skills could take you in the future.

Open to students in Years 10-12 and young creatives up to age 21.

[Find out more](#)

6 October: Apply to ANU: UAC Now Open – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: October 6, 2026

Ready to apply to ANU? Join us for a quick, practical session on how to apply through the University Admissions Centre (UAC). We'll walk you through the process, key dates and what you need to know to get your application sorted.

Already completed your ANU Early Offer application? You're all set – there's no need to apply again.

[Find out more](#)

8 October: JCU Year 12 Webinar

Organisation: James Cook University

Location: Online

Date: October 8, 2026

Get all the info and tips you need to discover what your life could look like at JCU.

By joining our Year 12 Webinar you will gain first-hand advice from current JCU as they share real stories about making the leap from high school to uni. From essential study tips to the latest on student clubs and social activities, this webinar will give you practical advice to help you thrive in your first year at JCU.

You can also get answers to all your burning questions about studying at JCU during our Q&A session.

This webinar is suitable for Year 12 students, parents, teachers and guidance officers.

[Find out more](#)

10 October: JMC Academy Portfolio & Audition Masterclass, Brisbane

Organisation: JMC Academy

Location: JMC Academy, Brisbane Campus

Date: October 10, 2026

JMC is running a fun and interactive series of masterclasses for future creative students this October.

Ace that audition in Acting, Musical Theatre or Music Performance, or perfect that portfolio in Animation, Design, Game Design or Music Production.

Choose a stream that suits your creative aspiration.

These sessions are great for:

- Year 10-11 students wanting to make an early start on their journey into a creative course
- Year 12 students applying through UAC, VTAC or QTAC
- Year 10-12 high school students looking to experience JMC facilities

Masterclasses not only give you a chance to get practical advice, expert feedback and hands-on experience to help you prepare for auditions or develop your portfolio, but you'll also get to enjoy a fun and interactive experience with our creative courses.

[Find out more](#)

13 October: Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Brisbane

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Archerfield Airport

Date: October 13, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

29 October: Yr 12 & Beyond with ADHD – Webinar for Year 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: October 29, 2026

Designed to help Year 12 students and parents navigate the transition to tertiary study or employment with practical ADHD management strategies. It offers actionable guidance on post-school options, strengths and interests, accommodations, and setting up tailored support systems.

[Find out more](#)

5 November: Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10, 11, 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 5, 2026

A practical session focusing on why ADHD brains procrastinate and how students in Years 10–12 can overcome executive dysfunction. Attendees will learn evidence-based study tools, time-management hacks, and task-initiation techniques.

[Find out more](#)

18 December: Online Event for School Leavers

Organisation: University of Queensland

Location: Online

Date: December 18, 2026

Wondering what to do after you get your ATAR? Whether you're seeking advice, information, or simply some reassurance, we can help. We'll answer all your ATAR-related questions at our free ATAR Advice online event.

What to expect:

- Live chat one-on-one with UQ Admissions staff.
- Understand your options if your ATAR is higher or lower than expected.
- Get personalised advice on the best pathway to UQ for you.
- Find out how to change your QTAC preferences, and how to respond to an offer.
- Explore our world-class facilities through virtual campus tours.

[Find out more](#)

18 December: QUT Year 12 ATAR Advice Webinar

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology

Location: Online

Date: December 18, 2026

If you're planning to study in 2027, we're here to help you finalise your decision. Join us on Friday 18 December for advice about pathways to your preferred course, ordering your QTAC preferences, guaranteed entry, study costs and support.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

SAE Excellence in Technology Scholarship

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: Australia

Value: Half tuition fees

Close Date: January 8, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Roberts Gray Lawyers Scholarship Program

Organisation: Roberts Gray Lawyers

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$5,000

Close Date: January 22, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

MiNDFOOD Short Story Competition

Organisation: MiNDFOOD

Location: Australia, New Zealand

Value: \$1,000 AUD

Close Date: October 31, 2026

[Find out more](#)

2026 AO Schools Block Buster Tennis Challenge

Organisation: Australian Esports League

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Close Date: September 28, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Somerset National Poetry Prize

Organisation: Somerset Storyfest

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$300

Close Date: December 4, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Little Stories, Big Ideas for Years 7-12

Organisation: Express Media

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$250 + writing masterclass and more

Close Date: October 11, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Museum After Dark: Monstrous! Creative Arts Competition

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Australia

Value: Up to AU\$500

Close Date: September 20, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Nudgee College Inter-School Esports Tournament 2026

Organisation: Australian Esports League

Location: Brisbane

Value: See details

Close Date: No closing date

[Find out more](#)

Experiences

Tennis Australia Event Volunteers

Organisation: Tennis Australia

Location: Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Perth, Sydney

Registrations close: October 4, 2026

[Find out more](#)

AFTRS Intro to VFX & 3D Animation Course for ages 16+

Organisation: Australian Film Television and Radio School

Location: Australia

[Find out more](#)

Events & Community Welcome Volunteer for Community French Language School Inc, Gold Coast

Organisation: Community French Language School Inc

Location: Gold Coast

[Find out more](#)

Jobs & Careers

What's the difference between Graphic Designers and Illustrators?

If you've ever seen a job ad for a Graphic Designer and one for an Illustrator and wondered what separates them, you're not alone. Both roles are creative, both produce visual work, and both often turn up in the same industries, from publishing to advertising to product design. But what each one is asked to do, and how much creative freedom they have while doing it, is quite different. Understanding that difference can make it easier to work out which path lines up with the kind of creating you enjoy.

What is graphic design?

Graphic design uses layout, typography, colour and imagery to solve a communication problem. That might mean designing a logo that represents a new business, laying out the pages of a magazine so they're easy to read, building a brand's visual identity across packaging and social media, or designing a website so visitors can find what they need without getting lost. Most of this work starts with a brief from a client or employer. The brief sets out what the design needs to achieve, who it's for, and any rules it has to follow, such as an existing brand's colours or logo. A Graphic Designer's job is to take that brief and turn it into something that looks good and does its job, whether that's selling a product, explaining an idea, or guiding someone through information.

What is illustration?

Illustration is about creating original artwork, usually to tell a story, set a mood, or bring an idea to life visually. That could mean drawing the pictures inside a children's book, creating a character for an animated series, producing an image to sit alongside a magazine article, or designing artwork for a product like a t-shirt or a game.

Where a Graphic Designer often works with existing elements like photos, type and layout grids, an Illustrator is usually creating the central image itself, starting from a blank page. Illustrators tend to develop a personal style over time, a recognisable way of drawing or rendering that sets their work apart from anyone else's. Clients often choose an Illustrator specifically because they like that style, rather than asking them to follow someone else's.

What sets the two apart

There's plenty of common ground between the two roles, but a few clear differences show up once you look past the surface, from the kind of problem each one solves to how each workday unfolds.

What problem each one is solving

Graphic design is generally about communication, making sure a message reaches its audience clearly and fits the brand or context around it. Illustration is generally about creating an image that carries meaning, emotion or story on its own, even without any surrounding text, layout or branding to support it.

How much of the work is original artwork

A Graphic Designer might spend a project working with existing photography, stock images or simple shapes, arranging and combining them so the overall layout works. An Illustrator is usually producing every part of the artwork itself, piece by piece, using drawing and rendering skills built up over years of practice.

What a typical day looks like

A Graphic Designer typically spends time in design software, arranging layouts, adjusting typography and preparing files for print or digital use. Client or team meetings are common too, since most projects involve rounds of feedback before anything is finalised.

An Illustrator typically spends more time drawing, whether on paper or using a digital tablet, taking a piece from a rough sketch through to a finished image. Many Illustrators work independently or freelance, managing their own clients and deadlines rather than working inside a design team.

Where the two overlap

The line between the two roles isn't always sharp. Plenty of Graphic Designers illustrate as part of their work, adding hand-drawn elements to a poster or packaging design. Plenty of Illustrators use design principles like layout and colour theory to arrange their artwork for print or digital publishing. Some professionals move between both titles depending on the project, and several qualifications train people in both areas at once.

Study pathways

Both careers can lead to a formal qualification, but how structured that pathway is, and how much it matters next to a portfolio, differs between the two.

Graphic design is usually studied through a vocational qualification, such as a diploma at a technical college, which typically takes one to two years and focuses on practical, industry-ready skills. It can also be studied through a university degree in graphic design or visual communication, which usually takes around three years and covers design theory in more depth alongside practical work. Whichever path someone takes, a strong portfolio matters alongside the qualification, and in some studios or freelance settings, a strong enough portfolio can outweigh which pathway someone studied.

Illustration doesn't always follow one set path. Some Illustrators study a diploma or degree with a focus on illustration or visual arts, learning technique, style development and how to build a body of work. Others build their skills independently through practice, short courses and freelance projects, relying on a strong portfolio to open doors rather than a formal qualification. Employers and clients in illustration tend to weigh a portfolio even more heavily than they do for design roles.

At school, subjects like visual art, design and digital technologies build a useful foundation for either path.

Which one might suit you

A Graphic Designer role could be a good fit if you:

- Like solving problems within a clear brief
- Enjoy typography, layout & visual communication
- Are comfortable balancing creativity with brand guidelines
- Want work that spans branding, packaging, web & marketing

An Illustrator role could be a good fit if you:

- Enjoy creating original artwork from scratch
- Want to develop a personal, recognisable style
- Like telling stories through pictures rather than words
- Are drawn to book, editorial or character-based work

Plenty of creative people end up doing a bit of both over their career, picking up design skills to support their illustration work, or adding illustration to a design-focused role. The overlap between them means skills built in one tend to carry across if you decide to head toward the other.

If you're curious about other creative career paths, our [Jobs & Careers hub](#) has more guides like this one.

Skills for Work, Travel

The skills travel builds that show up at work and school

Travel puts you in situations you don't fully control: a schedule you didn't set, a plan that falls apart, a budget that has to stretch, decisions nobody else will make for you, and a place you've never been before. Each one builds something you'll use again, well beyond the trip itself. The clearest place to start is with the one thing almost every trip runs on: a timetable you don't get to set.

Time management and planning

On a school trip, that timetable isn't optional. The bus leaves at a set time whether you're ready or not, and if you're late to the meeting point, the whole group waits. On top of that you're managing your own bag, your own money, and your own ID, all while keeping pace with times you didn't choose.

An assignment due on a date you didn't set works the same way, and so does a shift that starts regardless of how your morning went. Working backwards from a fixed time is the same habit either way.

Problem-solving under pressure

Sticking to a tight schedule like that gets harder the moment something goes wrong, and on a trip, something usually does. A direction turns out wrong, a venue closes early, or a connection you were counting on doesn't show, and there's rarely a moment to weigh up every option properly. You work with what you know and adjust.

A group assignment falling apart close to a deadline works the same way. A shift that throws up a problem nobody saw coming does too. Travel just serves up more chances to practise it, since something unplanned is fairly likely on any longer trip.

Adaptability

One disruption is one thing. On a trip with no fixed itinerary, they don't stop coming: a bus that's stopped running, a booking that's fallen through, advice from someone you meet that sends you somewhere else entirely. Working around it happens more than once a day.

Subjects, teachers, and even the direction of a whole course of study can shift over a few years. A new manager, a new role, or a different process at a job can show up with just as little warning.

Managing money over time

Every adjustment on the road often comes with a cost. On a longer trip, like a gap year or an extended stretch of backpacking, that cost is money: a fixed amount that has to last until the end. Every choice becomes a trade-off: spend more here, and there's less for later. Small regular costs, a coffee, a snack, add up faster than the occasional big one, and that becomes obvious once there's a hard limit on what's left.

Saving from a part-time wage toward something specific asks for the same discipline. Sticking to an agreed budget for a school project or work event, without going back to ask for more halfway through, asks for the same thing.

Independence and decision-making

Deciding how to spend what's left is one of many calls you make without anyone else weighing in while travelling. Nobody's checking in when you're travelling without family, even when you're travelling with friends. Where to stay, how to get there, and what happens if the plan changes are all decisions nobody else is making for you.

Nobody tracks a study schedule day to day, and a task at work often gets handed over without anyone standing behind you the whole time. Both call on the same kind of self-reliance.

Approaching unfamiliar situations with confidence

Every trip eventually puts you somewhere completely unfamiliar, with systems and norms you don't already know: a transport network you've never used before, social customs that don't quite match your own, streets that look different simply because you don't know them yet. Doing this again and again, even on short trips, builds a habit of walking into the unknown without needing it mapped out first.

Starting a new job, joining a new team, or walking into a classroom for the first time all ask for the same thing: stepping into something you don't fully know yet and getting oriented anyway. Having done that already through travel means it tends to happen faster, even though the specific situation is different every time.

Building on what a trip gives you

You don't need to travel to build any of these skills. School and a part-time job can do it too, usually more slowly and one at a time. A trip tends to bundle several of them together, in situations where you don't have much choice but to develop them quickly.

Our [Travel section](#) has more on gap years, exchanges, and other options to consider.

Job Spotlights

How to become a Heritage Consultant

Heritage Consultants assess the cultural and historical significance of places, buildings, and landscapes, and advise on how those values should be considered when development or change is proposed. They sit at the point where history meets the planning system, translating what makes a place meaningful into practical guidance that architects, developers, and planners can act on.

If you're curious about history, enjoy research and writing, and want work that connects the past to decisions being made right now, this is a career with a clear sense of purpose.

What skills do I need as a Heritage Consultant?

- Research & analytical thinking
- Clear & precise writer
- Attention to detail
- Knowledge of planning systems
- Curious & historically minded
- Confident communicator
- Collaborative approach
- Objective & evidence-based

What do Heritage Consultants do?

Before you can advise on anything, you need to understand what you're dealing with. A significant part of your work involves researching the history and cultural context of a place, drawing on archival records, historical maps, photographs, and other sources to build a picture of its significance. This research forms the foundation of everything that follows, and doing it

thoroughly is what gives your advice credibility when it's tested against competing development interests.

Day to day, you'll prepare heritage impact statements and reports that assess how a proposed development or change would affect a place's heritage values. These documents need to be clear, well-evidenced, and defensible, because they're often submitted as part of a formal planning process and may be scrutinised by councils, heritage authorities, or planning tribunals. You'll also liaise regularly with planners, architects, developers, and government agencies, explaining your findings and helping project teams understand what heritage considerations mean for their work in practical terms.

Periodically you'll work on more complex projects involving significant heritage places, contested assessments, or the adaptive reuse of historic buildings where heritage values and contemporary needs need to be carefully balanced. Some Heritage Consultants develop areas of specialisation in particular periods, building types, or cultural contexts. Others focus on specific aspects of the work such as conservation advice, indigenous heritage, or landscape significance.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Heritage Consultants work for specialist heritage consultancies, architecture and planning firms, local and state government agencies, and statutory heritage bodies. Some work independently, building a practice around assessment and advisory work across a range of clients. The role exists wherever planning and development intersect with places of historical or cultural significance, which means opportunities across urban, regional, and rural settings.

Work is primarily office-based, with site visits to inspect and document places as part of the assessment process. The balance between desk work and fieldwork varies depending on the project mix, but report writing and research are central to the role regardless of the setting. Hours are generally average, and the role offers a reasonable degree of flexibility, particularly in consultancy environments where work is project-based.

Salaries are average, reflecting the scale of the field and the research-focused nature of much of the work. This is a small field with a defined scope, so opportunities are more limited than in broader planning or architecture professions. Demand is steady rather than rapidly growing, tied to the volume of development activity and the regulatory requirements that trigger heritage assessment. For those with genuine interest in the subject matter, the work offers consistent engagement with meaningful and often irreplaceable places.

How to become a Heritage Consultant

- **Study a relevant foundation discipline:** Entry into heritage consulting comes through a range of backgrounds including heritage studies, history, architecture, and archaeology. Each brings something different to the work, and all are recognised starting points. A degree in any of these areas gives you the research skills, contextual knowledge, and analytical foundation the role requires.
- **Build experience in heritage or planning settings:** Look for graduate roles or work experience with heritage consultancies, local councils, or state heritage agencies. Early exposure to real assessment work, even in a supporting role, builds the practical skills and professional judgment that study alone can't provide.
- **Develop your knowledge of the planning and regulatory framework:** Heritage consulting operates within a specific legal and policy context. Understanding how heritage legislation, planning schemes, and assessment processes work is essential to producing advice that holds up in a formal planning environment. This knowledge develops on the job but is worth pursuing actively from early in your career.

- **Build your writing and research skills:** The quality of your written reports is central to your professional reputation in this field. Seek out opportunities to write clearly and rigorously, whether through academic work, research projects, or early professional roles. Strong writers who can make complex assessments accessible to non-specialists are consistently valued.

From here, you could move into senior consulting roles managing complex or high-profile heritage assessments, take on project leadership within larger consultancies or government agencies, develop expertise in policy and standards, or build an independent practice around a particular area of specialisation.

What can I do right now?

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

- Visit heritage-listed buildings, historic precincts, and local museums to start developing an eye for what makes places historically and culturally significant, and practise articulating what you notice
- Look for work experience with local council planning or heritage teams, or with historical societies and heritage organisations, to get a sense of how heritage values are assessed and protected in practice
- Focus on building strong skills in research, writing, and history, as these are the core tools of heritage consulting work at every level of the profession

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

People with Disability, Study Tips

How to get reasonable exam adjustments at school and university

Exams and assessments are usually built around one standard way of working: sit down, read the questions, and answer within a set time. For some students, a disability or learning difficulty makes that standard format harder to work with, whether it affects concentration, processing speed, reading, writing, or physical access to the exam room. Reasonable adjustment is the term used across schools and universities for changes made to remove that barrier, without changing what's being assessed.

What counts as a reasonable adjustment

A reasonable adjustment is a change to teaching, learning, or assessment that lets a student with disability or a learning difficulty take part on the same basis as everyone else. Schools and universities are required to provide them under national disability discrimination law, including the [Disability Standards for Education](#), which applies to every education provider in the country. The purpose is to remove a barrier related to the disability, not to change what's being tested. Reasonable adjustments are usually set up in advance, based on an ongoing need, and stay in place across a term, semester, or course. That's different to special consideration, which covers a one-off request made after something unexpected, like an illness or a family emergency, affects a specific assessment. If that's closer to your situation, our guide to [applying for special consideration](#) covers that process instead.

How it works at school

At school, the first step is usually a conversation with a classroom teacher, learning support coordinator, or year level coordinator. Schools are required to look at each student's individual needs and work out which adjustments would help them access the curriculum and show what

they know, using evidence such as an educational assessment, a diagnosis, or documented observations from teachers over time.

Common adjustments at school level include:

- Extra time to complete an exam or assessment task
- A separate, quieter room to reduce distractions
- Use of a computer, word processor, or speech to text software
- A reader to read questions aloud, or a scribe to write down answers
- Modified exam papers, such as larger text or simplified wording
- Rest breaks during longer assessments

Raising this early, ideally at the start of a school year or term, gives schools time to put adjustments in place, particularly ahead of major exams.

How it works at university

University adds an extra step. Rather than a teacher arranging things directly, students usually need to register with the university's disability or equity support service themselves, often before their course starts or early in first semester. A staff member in that service, sometimes called a disability advisor or disability practitioner, helps the student set up what's usually called a [learning access plan](#), setting out the adjustments that apply to their study.

From there, it's the student's responsibility to share that plan with each lecturer or unit coordinator, usually at the start of every semester or whenever they start a new subject. One arrangement at school often covers every class a student takes. At university, it has to be actioned subject by subject, and the plan can be reviewed and updated as those subjects change, since a prac-based unit might need different adjustments to one assessed purely by exam.

Any information a student shares about their disability is treated as confidential, and support services generally can't pass it on to lecturers or other students without the student's consent.

If you don't have formal documentation

Formal adjustments usually rely on some form of documentation, but that's not the only way to get support. Speaking up clearly about what's making an assessment harder, sometimes called self-advocacy, can lead to informal adjustments from a teacher or lecturer without needing to disclose a diagnosis at all. This might look like asking for feedback on a draft before it's submitted, checking you've understood a task correctly, or requesting a quieter spot to sit an in-class test.

Raising it early and being specific about what would help makes it easier for a teacher or lecturer to say yes. It also doesn't rule out applying for formal adjustments later, if that becomes the right option.

Preparing for exam day

Whatever adjustments are in place, general exam preparation still matters. Getting familiar with the format in advance and practising under similar time pressure both help. A calm, distraction-free study space also makes a real difference, and our guide on [building a study environment that actually helps you focus](#) covers how to set one up. Tools like flashcards or a simple summary sheet can make information easier to recall under pressure, and reading through the whole paper before you start writing helps you plan your time instead of running out of it on the first section. For a full breakdown of how to prepare in the weeks and days before a big exam, see our guide on [what to do in the last few weeks before a big exam](#).

Support is there to be used

Reasonable adjustments exist because a standard exam format doesn't suit every student, and schools and universities are required to provide them where they're needed. The process looks different at each stage, more arranged for you at school, more self-directed at university, but the same principle carries through: the adjustment removes a barrier, it doesn't change what's being assessed.

Note: information is accurate as of September 2026, but schools, universities, and government departments regularly update these processes, so check directly with your institution for the specifics.

If you'd like to read more on this topic, our [resources for students with disability](#) cover a wider range of support options. We also have [heaps more study tips](#) and [resources for students with disability](#) on our website.

First Jobs

What you're entitled to when you leave a job

Every job ends differently. You might resign and move on to something else, your employer might decide your role isn't continuing, or a casual role might simply stop being rostered without either side making it official. Which of these applies to you determines what you need to do first, starting with notice.

Giving notice when you're resigning

If you're in a permanent role and decide to resign, the notice you need to give comes from whichever document sets out your pay and conditions, your award, enterprise agreement, or employment contract. If none of these mention notice, you're not legally required to give any, though it's considered good practice to give some so your employer has time to adjust.

You can give notice verbally, but it's worth putting it in writing too, including the date you intend to work until. This gives both you and your employer a clear record of when your employment ends.

If your employer ends your employment

If your employer is the one ending things, they generally need to give you [notice based on how long you've worked there](#):

- Less than 1 year: 1 week
- 1 to 3 years: 2 weeks
- 3 to 5 years: 3 weeks
- More than 5 years: 4 weeks

You could also be entitled to an extra week if you're over 45 and have worked there for at least two years. If your employer doesn't want you to work out this notice period, they can pay you instead of having you come in. This is known as payment in lieu of notice.

There are exceptions. Your employer doesn't need to give any notice if you're dismissed for serious misconduct. If your role is being made redundant because the business no longer needs it done, you may be entitled to separate [redundancy pay](#) on top of your notice. This doesn't apply to everyone. Casual employees, staff who've worked there for less than 12 months, and staff at small businesses with [fewer than 15 employees](#) generally aren't entitled to redundancy pay, even if the redundancy meets all the legal requirements.

Casual work and notice

A casual role doesn't come with the same notice requirements as a permanent one. Since there's no ongoing guarantee of shifts on either side, [a casual role can end](#) because you stop being available or because you're no longer being rostered on, without a formal resignation or

dismissal taking place. Neither side is usually required to give notice in this situation, though it's still worth letting your employer know your last day, or checking in if you're unsure whether you're still expected on the roster.

We've covered how casual work differs from part-time and full-time roles, including what that means for entitlements, in [our article on the difference between casual, part-time, and full-time work](#).

Your last day

On your last day, you should be paid for every hour you've worked, including any penalty rates (extra pay for things like weekend or public holiday shifts) or allowances owed. You may be asked to return anything belonging to the workplace, like uniforms or equipment, and some employers use the opportunity to ask for feedback on your way out. You'll usually get a final payslip covering the period between your last regular pay and your final day.

What your final pay includes

Your final pay is the last payment you receive after your employment ends. Along with pay for hours worked, [it should include](#):

- Any unused annual leave you've built up, plus leave loading if your job includes it, an extra percentage some workers are paid on top of their normal rate while on leave
- Payment in lieu of notice, if your employer chose not to have you work out your notice period
- Redundancy pay, if your role was made redundant & you meet the requirements
- Accrued long service leave, extra paid leave you may be entitled to after many years with the same employer

Not every item applies to every situation. A casual role ending, for example, usually won't involve any of these, since [casual employees don't build up annual leave](#) in the same way.

What doesn't get paid out

[Unused sick and carer's leave isn't paid out](#) when your employment ends, no matter how much you've built up. This is different to annual leave, which does get paid out. It's worth understanding the difference well before you leave a job, since it's an easy detail to miss if you've been saving personal leave rather than using it. We've covered this in more detail in [our article on sick leave vs personal leave](#).

When you should get paid

Most employers need to pay your final pay [within seven days of your last day](#), though the exact timing can depend on your award or employment contract. Superannuation, the retirement savings your employer contributes on your behalf, is a separate process. Since 1 July 2026, employers have needed to [pay super at the same time as wages](#) rather than once every three months, and it needs to reach your super fund within seven business days of payday. This applies to your final pay too.

What to do if something doesn't add up

If your final pay looks off, start by checking it against your payslips and the hours you've actually worked. It's reasonable to ask your employer or payroll to explain how it was worked out. If you've asked and things still don't line up, the Fair Work Ombudsman has free tools and guidance that can help you work out what you're owed.

Note: information is accurate as of September 2026, but workplace rules around pay and leave are reviewed regularly, so it's worth checking the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) directly if you want the specifics that apply to your situation.

If you're new to working life and want to build a broader understanding of how jobs work, you can find more in our [Jobs & Careers section](#).

About Scholarships

Understanding different scholarship types

Most students apply to a handful of scholarships and never find out why they missed out, or realise they were never really in the running for that one to begin with. Knowing what a scholarship is checking for before you apply changes that.

Why scholarships are worth applying for

- Help cover education costs, including course fees, textbooks & everyday living expenses
- Strengthen a resume or university application
- Open doors to networks, mentoring & other opportunities beyond the funding itself
- Don't need to be paid back, unlike a student loan

What's the difference between a scholarship, bursary, grant, and prize?

These words get used almost interchangeably, but they're not quite the same thing. The University of Melbourne distinguishes scholarships (awarded based on merit or personal circumstances), prizes (awarded for a specific current achievement), bursaries (awarded for financial need), and grants (put toward education costs more broadly). The University of Sydney adds that bursaries specifically cover essential living and study costs, not things like tuition or travel.

In practice, the lines blur constantly. Some universities use "bursary" and "scholarship" as different words for the same thing, and a "prize" for a single outstanding piece of work can function exactly like a one-off scholarship.

Merit scholarships

Merit scholarships are awarded for what you've achieved. They can be based on:

- Academic achievement, usually strong results in senior secondary studies or in a university course already underway
- Sporting excellence, shown through competition results, representative honours, or a clear elite pathway
- Creative or artistic talent, demonstrated through a portfolio, audition, or recorded performance
- Leadership, built through student leadership, captaincy, or a track record of organising others toward a shared goal
- Community involvement, particularly sustained volunteering over time, more than a single one-off event

Most merit scholarships are offered directly by individual universities. There's no single centralised application, so eligibility and what counts as evidence changes from one institution to the next.

Equity scholarships

Equity scholarships work differently, responding to financial hardship or educational disadvantage instead of achievement. This can include:

- Financial hardship, often connected to a Centrelink payment like Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY
- First Nations students

- Students with disability
- Students from regional or remote areas
- Students who are the first in their family to attend university

You'll usually still need to meet the course's entry requirements, but your academic performance beyond that isn't the deciding factor. For more detail on two of these groups specifically, we've got separate guides on [scholarships for regional and rural students](#) and [scholarships for students with disabilities](#).

Subject-specific and industry scholarships

A third category doesn't sit neatly under either of the above, since it's built around funding source and field of study rather than achievement or circumstance. These come from employers, industry bodies, or professional associations wanting to attract people into a specific field, engineering, nursing, or teaching, for example.

They tend to split into two different arrangements. Some are tied to future employment: the sponsor covers your study costs, and in return you commit to working for them, or in that industry, for a set period after you finish. Others carry no such obligation, offered by a professional association or foundation simply to support people studying in that field.

Eligibility and structure vary widely by industry and sponsor, so this deserves its own read instead of a full summary here. Our guide on [industry-specific scholarships](#) goes into more detail.

One-off vs ongoing scholarships

Scholarships also differ in how long they last. Some pay out once, covering a single year, semester, or specific cost, and finish there. Others are ongoing, continuing for the length of a degree provided certain conditions keep being met, most often maintaining a minimum level of academic performance, staying enrolled full-time, or continuing to meet the circumstances the scholarship was originally awarded for. The University of Melbourne structures its coursework scholarships this way too, either as a one-off payment or a series of regular payments spread across the course.

This matters when comparing offers. Because ongoing scholarships pay out repeatedly, their total value across a degree depends on how long they run, not just the amount advertised up front, and losing eligibility partway through can mean losing the funding too. Whether an offer is one-off or ongoing, and what's required to keep it, is worth checking before accepting, not after.

Working out which category fits you

A single scholarship can sit in more than one category at once. An equity scholarship might still expect solid entry requirements, and a merit scholarship might specifically target students heading into a particular field. The title alone won't tell you this, so reading the full criteria is what shows what a scholarship is looking for, and whether it fits your situation.

Our [scholarships hub](#) has more on how to apply, current opportunities in our database, and support for specific circumstances.

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