

BGGGS Careers Newsletter

Issue 11

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Introduction

Term 3 has been busy for all of us in Tertiary Pathways. Year 12 tertiary application meetings are well underway, and with QTAC and other tertiary application centres opening applications for Year 12 applicants this week, students are busy preparing and submitting their applications. The Term 3 calendar also features Open Days, so many families have been attending these in an endeavour to have the information they need to make future career decisions.

The MedPrep Evening for families in Year 10 and 11 was a great success, with 3 alumnae representing medicine and dentistry to impart their knowledge and experience to help inform current students aspiring to these careers.

- Jamila Cox (2015) is a Brisbane-based dentist
- Abi Ashford (2017) is a current Doctor of Medicine student at Griffith University, set to graduate in 2026
- Dr Emma Walters (1998) is an Obstetric Anaesthetist with many years of experience to share with our aspiring doctors.

All panellists shared their career journey, providing valuable insights for current students seeking to enter these professions. The slides and recording from the evening can be accessed on [Minerva](#).

Events

15 August: Study in the UK: Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge Information Session

Organisation: University of Queensland

Location: ViewPoint Function Space (Building 33), UQ St Lucia

Date: August 15, 2026

Join representatives from two of the world's leading universities—Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge—for an insightful information session designed to help you explore your future in UK higher education.

Hear directly from Nathan Lamb (Regional Manager for North America and Australasia, University of Cambridge) and Chloe McClean (Senior International Officer for South East Asia and Australasia, Imperial College London) as they share expert guidance on:

- Making a competitive application to top UK universities
- Study Abroad and Exchange
- What it's like to study in the UK
- Life as a student at Imperial or Cambridge

[Find out more](#)

15 August: ADFA Open Day 2026

Organisation: Australian Defence Force Academy

Location: ADFA Canberra Campus & Online

Date: August 15, 2026

ADFA Open Day is run each year in August. Join us online or in person to:

- Explore world-class UNSW degrees, with information sessions about Business, Arts, Science, Engineering, Computing and Cyber Security.
- Learn about military training, studying and life on campus from current ADFA Trainee Officers.
- Watch a variety of exciting displays, take a virtual tour, and much more

[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](#)

18 August: QUT Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting) Webinar

Organisation: Queensland University of Technology

Location: Online

Date: August 18, 2026

Join Dr Andrea Moor for a webinar covering key information for Semester 1, 2027 entry to the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting). Learn about the audition process, course structure and what to expect when studying acting at QUT.

[Find out more](#)

26 August: Study medicine at Sydney

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: August 26, 2026

Join us ahead of Open Day to discover what it's like to study medicine at the University of Sydney and learn how we prepare future doctors to make a meaningful impact in Australia and around the world. Through a live Q&A with our specialist staff you'll have your questions answered ahead of Open Day, so you can arrive informed, have meaningful conversations with our team, and make the most of your time exploring our learning facilities.

[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](#)

1 September: Monash Information Evening – Webinar

Organisation: Monash University

Location: Online

Date: September 1, 2026

Choosing a university is a big decision.

Join our Monash webinar to have your questions answered and get the key details you need to plan your next step.

You'll discover what it's like to study at Monash, and hear about our courses, accommodation, scholarships, support services and campus life. You'll also gain insights about moving to Monash and settling in.

This session is ideal if you're:

- Considering moving from interstate, or
- From regional or rural Victoria, or
- Live in Melbourne and are keen to know more about Monash.

Register now to secure your place.

[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](#)

Study Tips

How to build a study environment that actually helps you focus

Most people, when they're struggling to study, assume the problem is motivation or discipline. Sometimes that's true, but often the environment itself is making things harder than they need to be. Where you study, how the space is set up, and what's competing for your attention all have a real effect on how well you can concentrate, and on how long that concentration lasts.

Not everyone has the same options when it comes to study spaces. Some people have a dedicated desk in their own room; others are working from a kitchen table or a shared bedroom. The principles are the same either way, even if the execution looks different.

Find your spot

Before you think about setting anything up, it's worth being deliberate about where you're actually going to study. The best spot in your home is usually one that's away from high-traffic areas, has reasonable light, and isn't somewhere you associate strongly with relaxing. Studying

on your bed, for example, tends to be less effective than it feels, partly because your brain connects that space with sleep and rest rather than focus.

If you don't have a dedicated room or desk, look for a corner of the house that's relatively quiet at the times you usually study. A spot at the kitchen table works fine if the house is quiet enough and you can claim it consistently. The goal is somewhere you can return to regularly, because familiarity with a space helps your brain shift into study mode more quickly over time.

Set it up for focus

Once you've chosen your spot, think about the physical setup. Good lighting matters more than most people realise. Natural light is ideal, but if that's not an option, a decent desk lamp positioned to avoid glare on your screen or page makes a noticeable difference to eye strain over a long session.

Seating is worth considering too. Studying slumped on a couch for two hours is going to catch up with you physically, and discomfort is a reliable distraction. If you're at a desk, your chair should let you sit upright without effort.

Keep the surface clear of things that aren't relevant to what you're working on. Visual clutter competes for your attention even when you're not consciously looking at it. You don't need a minimalist setup, but having only what you need for the current session in front of you helps keep your focus where it should be.

Control what you can hear

Noise is one of the most common focus killers, but the solution isn't always silence. Some people concentrate better with a degree of background sound, while others need quiet to think clearly. Neither is wrong, but it's worth figuring out which camp you're in rather than just defaulting to whatever's happening around you.

If your home is noisy and you can't control it, a pair of headphones is one of the most practical tools available. Noise-cancelling headphones block out background sound entirely; regular headphones with music or ambient sound can create enough of an audio barrier to reduce distraction. If you use music, instrumental tends to be less disruptive than music with lyrics, which can interfere with reading and writing tasks specifically.

If you genuinely study better in silence, it's worth having a direct conversation with the people you live with about keeping noise down during your study sessions. Most people are more accommodating than you'd expect if you ask clearly rather than just hoping for the best.

Get your digital environment right

Your phone is probably the single biggest source of distraction in your study space, and the easiest fix is also the most obvious: put it somewhere you can't see or reach it easily. Out of sight genuinely helps. Leaving it face-down on the desk still means every vibration pulls your attention.

On your computer, close tabs and apps that aren't related to what you're working on. If you find yourself drifting to social media or other sites during study sessions, browser extensions that block specific sites for set periods are worth trying. They remove the need for willpower by making the distraction less accessible in the first place.

Notifications on both your phone and computer are worth turning off during study blocks. Even a notification you choose not to act on breaks your concentration, and getting back to the same level of focus after an interruption takes longer than most people expect.

Build a routine around the space

A well-set-up space works better when it's used consistently. Over time, returning to the same spot and going through the same small rituals before you start, whether that's making a drink, putting your headphones in, or clearing your desk, starts to act as a cue that tells your brain it's time to focus. This isn't about being rigid; it's about making the transition into study mode easier and faster each time.

It also helps to keep your study space associated with study rather than other activities. If you use the same spot for gaming, watching videos, or scrolling, the space loses some of its focus signal. Where possible, try to keep leisure and study in different physical locations, even if that just means moving to a different chair.

Knowing when you're going to stop is just as useful as knowing when you're going to start. Open-ended study sessions tend to drag and lose focus towards the end. Setting a clear finishing time, and sticking to it, makes it easier to stay sharp while you're working.

If home isn't working, find somewhere that does

Some home environments are genuinely difficult to study in, whether it's noise you can't control, not enough space, or just too many distractions pulling at you. If you've tried to set things up and it's still not working, it's worth looking for somewhere else rather than grinding through it.

Public libraries are the most obvious option and a good one. They're quiet, free, and specifically designed for focused work. Many have study areas, reliable wi-fi, and enough of an anonymous atmosphere that you're less likely to get distracted by the people around you.

Cafes can work for some people, particularly for lighter tasks like reading or planning, though they're generally noisier and less reliable for deep focus work. Some schools also have study spaces available outside of class hours, so it's worth checking what's accessible to you.

The goal isn't to find a perfect environment. It's to find one where you can actually get the work done. For more on study skills and making the most of your time, head to our study tips section.

Jobs & Careers

What's the difference between data science and data analytics?

Data science and data analytics are two of the most talked about careers in the tech world right now, and it's common for people to use the terms without really knowing what separates them.

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Both involve working with data to help people make better decisions, but the type of question each one is trying to answer, and how they go about answering it, isn't quite the same. Getting a clearer picture of each could make it easier to work out which direction, if either, suits you better.

What is data analytics?

Data analytics is about looking at information that already exists to answer a specific question. A Data Analyst might be asked to work out why sales dropped in a particular month, which pages on a website people spend the most time on, or how a change to one process affected everything downstream of it. The goal is to make sense of information that's already been collected and turn it into something someone can actually use.

Before any of that analysis can happen, the data usually needs cleaning up. Records might be incomplete, formatted differently across systems, or duplicated in ways that would throw off the results. Once it's in a usable state, analysts apply statistical methods to work out what's going on, then explain their findings clearly enough for someone without a data background to follow.

What is data science?

Data science starts from a similar place, but it usually goes a step further. Instead of only explaining what's already happened, a lot of data science work is focused on predicting what might happen next, or building something that can respond to new information without a person needing to step in each time. A Data Scientist blends statistics, programming, and elements of artificial intelligence to build models that learn from data and improve as more of it comes in.

The datasets involved also tend to be larger and messier, sometimes too complex to make sense of with simpler tools. A lot of the job is trial and error, testing different approaches until one actually holds up. An analytics project usually starts with a clear question that needs answering. A data science project can just as easily start with curiosity about what a dataset might reveal that no one thought to ask about yet.

What sets the two apart

There's plenty of common ground between the two. Both rely on statistics, both require patience working through messy information, and both only matter once the person doing the work can explain what they've found to someone else. That shared ground is part of why the two careers get mixed up so often.

The clearer difference is in the direction each one looks. Analytics tends to look backward, examining what's already happened to support a decision that needs to be made now. Data science tends to look forward, building something that can predict, adapt, or automate without someone checking every new piece of data that comes through. Building predictive models generally calls for a deeper background in programming and mathematics, while strong analytics work leans more on statistics and the ability to explain numbers in a way that makes sense to someone else.

What the daily work involves

Analysts typically spend their time in spreadsheets and database query tools, pulling, sorting, and summarising information, then building it into charts or dashboards that are easy to read at a glance. A typical day might involve digging into a dataset, checking it for errors, running a few calculations, and pulling together a report that answers whatever question a team or manager has asked.

Data Scientists lean more on programming languages built for handling large volumes of data, along with machine learning frameworks, tools that help build and test models capable of

learning from patterns. Their day might involve writing code to clean up a dataset, trying out different modelling approaches, and checking how well a model actually performs before it's trusted to run on its own.

Neither role works in isolation. A model or a report only has value once someone else understands what it means, so both jobs involve regularly explaining technical findings to people who might not have a technical background themselves.

Study pathways

Both careers are usually studied at university, often through degrees in mathematics, statistics, computer science, or a dedicated data science or analytics program. Some universities offer these as standalone degrees, while others fold them into a broader science or commerce qualification as a major.

Strong performance in maths at school helps with either pathway, and data science degrees in particular tend to expect a solid grounding in programming from early on. Vocational qualifications and short courses in data analysis or coding can also open a way into analytics roles, especially for anyone who wants to build practical skills before committing to a full degree.

Both fields keep evolving quickly, so a lot of people working in them keep adding new skills well after they finish studying, through extra courses, on the job learning, or simply keeping up with how the tools change.

Working out which one fits you

Data analytics could be a good fit if you:

- Like solving clear, well-defined problems using information that already exists
- Enjoy explaining findings to people without a technical background
- Are comfortable working with spreadsheets, dashboards & reports
- Prefer having a specific question to answer rather than an open brief

Data science could be a good fit if you:

- Enjoy open-ended problems & testing different approaches to solve them
- Are interested in programming & building things that improve over time
- Like working with especially large or complex datasets
- Are curious about what data can reveal beyond the original question

Plenty of people end up moving between the two over the course of their career. The overlap between them means the skills you build in one tend to carry across if you ever decide to head toward the other.

Want to learn more about your future career options? [Check out our other guides and resources here.](#)

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.

How to become a Surveyor

Precise spatial data underpins every construction, development, and infrastructure project ever built. Surveyors are the professionals who collect and interpret that data, working across urban and rural environments to establish the boundaries, measurements, and mapping that everything else depends on.

If you're precise and methodical, enjoy a mix of outdoor and office work, and like knowing that your data underpins everything that comes after, surveying could be a strong fit.

What skills do I need as a Surveyor?

- Precise & detail-oriented
- Methodical approach
- Spatial & mathematical ability
- Technical equipment operation
- Strong report writer
- Independent worker
- Problem-solving mindset
- Collaborative with project teams

What do Surveyors do?

A significant part of your work happens in the field. You'll travel to sites to collect spatial and geographic data using GPS equipment, total stations, drones, and other surveying instruments. Before heading out, you'll review existing records, plans, and titles to understand what you're working with, plan your approach, and make sure your equipment is calibrated and ready. Preparation matters in surveying because errors in the field create problems that can take considerable time to resolve.

Back in the office, you'll process the data you've collected, prepare survey plans and technical reports, and communicate your findings to the engineers, planners, architects, and legal professionals who depend on your work. Much of this involves specialist software, and accuracy at every stage is non-negotiable. You'll also liaise with clients and government land agencies to make sure your outputs meet the relevant standards and requirements. Over time, surveyors often develop expertise in particular areas of the field. Cadastral surveying focuses on land boundaries and titles. Engineering surveying supports construction and infrastructure projects. Hydrographic surveying maps underwater environments. Mining surveying supports resource extraction. Each area draws on the same core skills but applies them in different contexts and industries.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Surveyors work for private surveying firms, engineering and construction consultancies, government land agencies, and resource companies. Some are employed by large organisations with ongoing survey needs, while others work for smaller practices covering a wide range of project types. The mix of field and office work is a genuine feature of the role, and it varies depending on the type of surveying you specialise in.

Hours and schedules are generally average, though fieldwork can involve early starts and travel to remote or regional locations, particularly for mining or infrastructure projects. The balance between field and desk time shifts depending on project demands and your area of work. Some roles offer moderate flexibility for office-based tasks, while fieldwork days tend to be structured around daylight and site access.

The work involves moderate physical activity, including carrying equipment across varied terrain, and exposure to the elements is part of the job. Salaries are average, and the outlook for the profession is moderate, supported by ongoing demand from construction, infrastructure, and land development activity.

How to become a Surveyor

- **Complete a relevant degree:** A bachelor's degree in surveying, spatial science, or a related field is the standard route into the profession. Programs typically cover geodesy, mapping, spatial data, and field methods. Check that your chosen program is accredited by the relevant professional body, as this is important for registration later in your career.
- **Work under supervision as a graduate:** After graduating, you'll work under the supervision of a licensed or registered surveyor, building your practical field and office skills across real projects. This supervised period is a formal requirement for registration in most places, so it's a necessary step rather than an optional one.
- **Work toward registration:** Licensed or registered surveyor status is the professional benchmark in this field, particularly for cadastral work involving land boundaries and legal titles. The requirements vary by jurisdiction but generally involve a combination of qualifications, supervised experience, and an examination process.
- **Build technical proficiency:** Get comfortable with surveying software, GPS systems, and drone technology early. The tools of the trade continue to evolve, and surveyors who keep their technical skills current are well placed to take on more complex and varied work.

From here, you could progress to licensed surveyor status, take on project leadership or practice management roles, move into spatial data and GIS work, or develop deep expertise in a particular area of the field such as cadastral, engineering, or hydrographic surveying.

What can I do right now?

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

- Focus on mathematics and science subjects, particularly those involving measurement, geometry, and data, as these form the technical foundation of surveying work
- Explore mapping and spatial tools such as Google Earth, open-source GIS platforms, or drone photography to develop an early feel for how spatial data is collected and used
- Reach out to local surveying firms or government land agencies to ask about work experience, as seeing the role firsthand is one of the best ways to understand what the day-to-day actually involves

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