

Scotch College

Future Pathways

News

July 15, 2024

Course, Careers & Campus Information:



Melbourne Careers Expo

The Melbourne Career Expo is a comprehensive and exciting careers event, and this *free* expo encompasses all career opportunities from employment to education and training in the trades, corporate and professional sectors.

Dates: Friday 26 July, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday 27 July and Sunday 28 July, from 10:00am – 4:00pm

Find out more and register for the *free ticket* at [Home | Melbourne Career Expo](#).



ACU Guarantee

Guarantee your place at ACU, even before your Year 12 exams. The ACU Guarantee program offers eligible Year 12 students a place at ACU based on your Year 11 results.

While successful applicants must still complete their Year 12 exams, they can do so secure in the knowledge that their marks from Year 11 meet the entry requirements. ACU assesses the Year 11 results submitted and give applicants a predicted selection rank and make an offer before the final VCE exams.

Applicants may also enhance their entry score by including short personal statements that give ACU an insight into their personal circumstances and motivation for university study.

Applications open on Monday 22 July and close on Monday 16 September 2024. Rolling offers will be made from 6 September to 4 October 2024, and these will be conditional to the applicant meeting the VCE prerequisites subjects for the course they have applied for.

Students are encouraged to browse [ACU Guarantee](#) and watch a useful video, read through the FAQs, determine which courses are not participating and, importantly, have a good read over the suggestions on how to write the personal statements.



Are you a leader in the community, good at problem-solving, a creative thinker or perhaps good at communicating? With an RMIT Early Offer your skills can count towards your dream course, allowing you to be accepted on a lower ATAR and receive a conditional offer before your final exams.

Australian and Permanent Resident students can apply for one course and must apply at the following RMIT link - [Early Offer Program](#). The eligible courses and expected ATAR are also found at this link.

The application process requires students to -

1. Choose one of the following categories:
 - Analytical and Critical Thinking
 - Leadership
 - Communication
 - Creative Thinking and Innovation
2. Write a 200-word statement of their experience for their chosen category
3. Supply supporting documentation verifying their involvement in the category they have written about.

Applications have opened and close on 15 September 2024. The outcome of the application will be released 26 September 2024. The conditional offer will become unconditional should students complete Year 12, meet the course prerequisites, and attain the Early Offer ATAR required.

Visit [Early Offer Program](#) to find out more.

Marcus Oldham | Open Day 2024

July 21, 2024

Join us for our Open Day on July 21st 2024, either online or in-person, and discover the world of opportunities in the agriculture, agribusiness and equine industries.

Explore the campus, learn all about the courses we offer, tap into free career advice and meet staff and students.

[Find out more](#)

Swinburne | Open Day 2024

July 28, 2024

Open Day is your chance to see what's possible at Swinburne and find where you fit in. Hear success stories from real Swinburne students. Discover a range of courses that combine your passion with a purpose. Learn about the research and tech that are changing the world – and meet the people behind it all. Expand your knowledge, and your horizons.

[Find out more](#)

Monash | Opens Day 2024

Caulfield: August 3, 2024

Peninsula: August 3, 2024

Clayton: August 4, 2024

Parkville: August 18, 2024

Get ready to discover more at Monash Open Day! This is your chance to learn more about your future at Monash. With more activities repeated throughout the day, you can explore Open Day at your own pace and access key information at any time. You may even discover things you hadn't previously considered.

Visit a study area zone to hear from the course experts, tour facilities, chat with students, and take part in interactive and fun activities. Plus, get all your questions answered about our support services and how you can get involved in campus life as a student. Don't forget to explore the campus and enjoy the food, giveaways and entertainment too!

[Find out more](#)

RMIT | Open Days 2024

Bundoora: August 4, 2024

Brunswick: August 11, 2024

City: August 11, 2024

Explore your future university at RMIT Open Day.

- Take a tour of our campuses, you'll see everything from inspiring labs to tech-integrated learning spaces
- Catch a glimpse of what student life is like at RMIT
- Attend presentations, Q&As and more where you'll learn what it's like to study your dream course
- Meet your future employers, lecturers and current RMIT students

[Find out more](#)

Deakin | Open Days 2024, Warrnambool

Warrnambool: August 4, 2024

Geelong: August 18, 2024

We're opening our campuses in August and can't wait to see you there. Get course information, chat with your future teachers and current students, and enjoy fun entertainment.

[Find out more](#)

La Trobe | Open Days 2024

Melbourne: August 4, 2024

Albury-Wodonga: August 11, 2024

Mildura: August 14, 2024

Shepparton: August 24, 2024

Bendigo: August 25, 2024

Why attend Open Day at La Trobe?

- Chat with current students, alumni and teachers to get first-hand advice about your dream course, or just about the best places to eat on campus.
- Explore the campus by yourself or join a guided tour. See our world-class health facilities, leading IT and science labs, business trading room, accommodation and much more.
- Discover your options for placements, internships and work-based learning, and get all your questions answered about your dream course.
- Get a taste of what it's really like to be at uni. Join events and activities or kick back and enjoy the campus – Open Day is the place to see it all.

[Find out more](#)

Torrens | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 8, 2024

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

[Find out more](#)

Fed Uni | Open Days 2024

Gippsland: August 11, 2024

Berwick: August 18, 2024

Mt Helen, Camp St & SMB: August 25, 2024

Open Day is your opportunity to explore all that Federation University and Federation TAFE has to offer you in your education journey, from extracurriculars to industry placements and everything in between.

Experience our stunning campuses and awesome facilities, join a campus tour and get the full student experience from our current students and staff.

[Find out more](#)

AIE | Open Day

August 11, 2024

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day. This event will be held at AIE Campuses in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, and Adelaide from 10am to 3pm.

AIE's Open Day is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, staff and students. The day will cover everything you need to know about the:

- careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- studios and industries that we work with;
- courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- the software, skills and knowledge we teach.

AIE's Open Day will also include presentations on entry requirements and how to apply. Find out how AIE can get you into a creative career.

[Find out more](#)

ACU | Open Days 2024

Melbourne: August 11, 2024

Ballarat: August 25, 2024

Open Day is your chance to find out everything you need to know about studying at ACU before you enrol. You'll be able to check out the campus, meet staff and students, discuss entry pathways, and talk to experts about your study options and career goals.

[Find out more](#)

Charles Sturt | Open Day 2024, Albury-Wodonga

August 11, 2024

What is Open Day? It's your opportunity to discover what life at Charles Sturt is all about.

Open Day isn't just for students – parents and carers are welcome too!

Be inspired by our academics, explore our facilities and chat to current students about what studying with us is really like. From information sessions and campus tours to free food, entertainment and giveaways – there's something for everyone.

[Find out more](#)

Whitehouse Institute of Design | Open House 2024, Melbourne

August 17, 2024

Are you excited by design and dreaming of a creative career? Whitehouse Institute of Design, Australia invites you to Open House, a day where you can explore our courses and the endless possibilities within the world of design.

Explore your study options, meet our incredible team, and tour Whitehouse's unique facilities. Whether you're interested in Fashion Design, Interior Design or Creative Direction and Styling, this is your chance to see what makes Whitehouse has to offer.

[Find out more](#)

VU | Open Days 2024

Footscray Park: August 18, 2024

Sunshine: August 18, 2024

City: August 25, 2024

We can't wait to see you at one (or more) of our three exciting Open Day events!

Whether it's meeting our students and staff, finding the perfect course for you, or exploring one of our campuses, bring your whole self to VU – starting at our Open Day.

[Find out more](#)

University of Melbourne | Open Day 2024

August 18, 2024

Save the date for Open Day 2024, where you can experience university life for yourself through an exciting program of information sessions, interactive workshops and tours.

What's on at Open Day:

- Chat to our academics, Future Student teams and current students to learn more about your study options and the exciting careers they could lead to
- Get a feel for campus life by exploring the spaces you'll be learning in, including our labs, libraries, galleries and other specialist facilities
- Learn how our curriculum works, including how you can combine your passions and strengths to set yourself apart for whichever career you choose
- Explore our range of student accommodation facilities and the social activities and study support on offer.

[Find out more](#)

ACAP | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 24, 2024

Open Day is your chance to experience the ACAP difference, and find your path in the applied professions. Whether you're interested in Counselling, Psychology, Social Work, Criminology, Law, or Business, ACAP is your pathway to making a difference.

Be part of a workshop, meet our industry-renowned facilitators, and hear all about life as an ACAP student. Join us for a day of exploration and inspiration!

[Find out more](#)

SAE Institute | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 24, 2024

Come along to SAE's Open Day and find your future in creative media!

Open Day is your ticket to everything SAE – get a taste of our courses in workshops, explore activations on campus and get some hands-on experience with our state of the art facilities.

[Find out more](#)

AIM | Open Day 2024, Melbourne

August 31, 2024

Join us for Open Day, and experience everything AIM has to offer!

See our campus, get course advice, experience live performances, meet our teachers and students, and take part in activities that will give you a taste of student life here at AIM.

Whether you're ready to study now, or in five years' time, Open Day is open to all and a fantastic opportunity to discover how the Australian Institute of Music can help turn your passion for music into a career.

[Find out more](#)

Collarts | Open Day 2024

August 31, 2024

At Collarts, our Open Day is all about making this process simple and hands-on. Information sessions, workshops and the chance to chat with students, teachers and leaders are an important part of learning more about what sets us apart from the rest.

We invite you to come and experience life at Collarts: from our passion for creativity, close community, state-of-the-art facilities, expert faculty, and more.

[Find out more](#)

NIE | Future Doctors Australia, Melbourne

September 27 to September 30, 2024

Gaining medical work experience is essential for young people considering a career in medicine. It provides insight into the field, helps develop skills and attributes, and provides networking opportunities. However, obtaining medical work experience can be challenging due to various restrictions such as limited opportunities, safety concerns, and confidentiality issues.

That's why NIE has developed the "Future Doctors Australia" program. It is an engaging and high-impact 4-day program that provides young people with a unique opportunity to gain medical work experience in a safe and structured environment. Participants will have the opportunity to spend time with current junior and senior medical students. They will also have the rare opportunity to spend time with more senior clinicians and various medical specialists. You will get to learn about clinical specialist's relevant fields of work, ask them questions, and learn some hands-on skills from them.

- Over 15 hours of face-to-face interaction with leading specialists and clinicians
- Meet current medical students
- Develop advanced communication and team working skills
- Create new friendships with like-minded, highly driven young individuals
- Learn about the admission process into various medical universities in Australia
- Morning tea and lunch included

[Find out more](#)



News from Bond University

➤ **Bond University Scholarships – 2025**

Bond University provides a range of awards including full-fee scholarships awarding from \$102,240 - \$204,480 in value, and part-fee scholarships awarding from \$25,560 - \$102,240 in value. Most scholarships close towards the end of August, but the four scholarships listed below close on 1 August 2024. These four will pay up to 100% tuition remission.

- [Vice Chancellor's Elite Scholarship](#)
- [ADCO Sports Excellence Scholarship](#)
- [John Eales Rugby Excellence Scholarship](#)
- [Riewoldt Family AFL Excellence Scholarship](#)

Details of all scholarships on offer can be found at [Scholarships at Bond University](#).

➤ **Applying for 2025 Entry**

At Bond, we do things a bit differently to other universities — and that philosophy extends to our application and entry processes. If you are completing Year 12 in Australia this year, apply with your Year 11 and Year 12 Semester 1 results. Offers for current Year 12 students will be made from early September.

Applying is done in three easy steps, and applications are made directly to Bond! Details of how to apply can be found [here](#) and browsing the [application tips](#) will assist students make informed decisions.



Science Degrees in Victoria in 2024

The Bachelor of Science is offered at the following Victorian universities and students are encouraged to visit [VTAC](https://www.vtac.edu.au) for more information on these and other science-related courses.

UNIVERSITY	VCE PREREQUISITES	ATAR 2024
DEAKIN M – Melbourne campus G – Waurn Ponds campus	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 25 in English (EAL) or at least 20 in English other than EAL.	62.05 (M) 60.20 (G)
FEDERATION <u>Science</u> <u>Science (Advanced)</u> B - Berwick Gi – Gippsland campus Mt H – Mt Helen campus	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 20 in any English; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 20 in one of any Mathematics or any Science.	60.70 (B) n/p (Gi) 57.35 (Mt H)
	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in any English; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in two units (any study combination) of Maths: Mathematical Methods or Maths: Specialist Mathematics or at least 30 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Physics or Psychology.	n/p (B) n/p (Gi) n/p (Mt H)
LA TROBE M – Melbourne campus B – Bendigo campus	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 25 in English (EAL) or at least 20 in English other than EAL; and a study score of at least 20 in any Mathematics.	65.55 (M) 70.50 (B)
MONASH <u>Science</u> <u>Science Advanced Global</u> <u>Science Adv. Research</u> C – Clayton campus R.C. – Range of Criteria	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 27 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 25 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Maths: Mathematical Methods, Maths: Specialist Mathematics, Physics or Psychology.	82.00 (C)
	<u>Science Advanced – Global Challenges:</u> Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 35 in English (EAL) or at least 30 in English other than EAL; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in one of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Maths: Mathematical Methods, Maths: Specialist Mathematics, Physics or Psychology.	R.C. (C)
	<u>Science Advanced – Research:</u> Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 35 in English (EAL) or at least 30 in English other than EAL; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in Maths: Mathematical Methods; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in two of Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Maths: Specialist Mathematics, Physics or Psychology.	93.15 (C)
RMIT C – City campus	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; Units 3 and 4: Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 20 in one of Maths: General Mathematics, Maths: Mathematical Methods or Maths: Specialist Mathematics.	70.05 (C)
SWINBURNE H – Hawthorn campus ** Professional degree	Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; and a study score of at least 20 in any Mathematics.	57.35 (H) 75.35 H) **
UNI MELBOURNE ** <i>New from 2024 with the same VCE prerequisites as the B Science</i> P – Parkville campus	<u>Science:</u> Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; and a study score of at least 25 in one of Maths: Mathematical Methods or Maths: Specialist Mathematics; and a study score of at least 25 in one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics. --OR-- Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; and a study score of at least 25 in both of Maths: Mathematical Methods and Maths: Specialist Mathematics. ** <u>Bachelor of Science (Nuclear-Powered Submarine Student Pathways)</u> <u>Nuclear-Powered Submarine Student Pathways</u>	87.00 (P) 89.80 (P) **
VICTORIA FP – Footscray Park campus *Not Foundation Maths	<u>Science - Biotechnology, or Ecology and Environmental Management:</u> Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 25 in English (EAL) or at least 20 in English other than EAL; Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 20 in any Mathematics*.	n/p (FP)

Snapshot of Monash University in 2024

- Named after engineer, military leader and public administrator Sir John Monash, Monash University was established in 1958.
- Monash University became a founding member of the Group of Eight universities in 1999.
- Monash ranks in the top 1% of world university rankings and ranks #42 in the 2024 QS World Rankings - [Rankings](#). Notably, Pharmacy at Monash is ranked #2 in the [QS World Subject Rankings](#) in 2024, with Harvard at #1.
- Monash has over 77,000 students, with an international presence in [Malaysia](#), [Indonesia](#), [China](#), [India \(a research partnership\)](#), and [Italy](#), besides its campuses in Australia - [locations](#).
- Monash University is the only Victorian university to offer a Direct Entry medical program for students completing Year 12 as well as a Graduate Entry program leading to the same degree – [Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine \(MD\)](#).
- There are ten [Monash Faculties](#) offering hundreds of [courses](#), be they single or double undergraduate degrees, or graduate qualifications up to a PhD.
- Monash has a number of student-run clubs and associations - a great way to get involved and meet people - [Monash Clubs and Associations](#).
- [Career Connect](#) is the Career Centre available to all Monash students. Students can access the many services offered – be it for volunteering, part-time jobs, assistance with applying for work on graduation, etc.
- The Monash [Study Abroad](#) program assists students in studying overseas as part of their course. Monash has exchange agreements with more than [160 universities across 35 countries](#).
- Monash offers more than 200 different scholarships for new and current students, from course fee subsidies to travel allowances, and payments for accommodation costs - [Scholarships](#).
- [The Monash Guarantee](#) is an alternative entry scheme for students to get into a Monash course even they do not reach the course's clearly-in ATAR. Students may be eligible for the Monash Guarantee if they:
 - ✓ have experienced financial disadvantage
 - ✓ live in a low socio-economic area
 - ✓ are an Indigenous Australian
 - ✓ attend a Monash under-represented school
- [Monash Residential Services](#) assists students in finding accommodation on campus, and off campus.



Snapshot of Monash University – Peninsula in 2024

- Monash University's [Peninsula Campus](#) specialises in *nursing, physiotherapy, paramedicine, occupational therapy, education, and business administration* courses.
- There are approximately 4,500 students studying at the Peninsula Campus.
- The Peninsula campus has a very [vibrant campus life](#) and is connected to the Clayton Campus through shuttle buses that run between the campuses every day.
- There are three faculties offering courses at the Peninsula Campus: the *Business Faculty, Education Faculty, and the Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Faculty*.
- Courses offered at the Peninsula Campus include -

Business and Economics

[Bachelor of Business Administration](#)

Education

[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Early Childhood and Primary Education](#)

[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Primary Education](#)

[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Primary and Secondary Health and Physical Education](#)

[Bachelor of Education \(Honours\) in Secondary Health and Physical Education](#)

Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

[Bachelor of Nursing](#) *

[Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery \(Honours\)](#)

[Bachelor of Occupational Therapy \(Honours\)](#)

[Bachelor of Paramedicine](#)

[Bachelor of Physiotherapy \(Honours\)](#)

* Also offered at the Clayton Campus

Monash University offers an excellent [Diploma of Tertiary Studies](#) (DoTS) pathway program into a few of its undergraduate degrees. The pathway programs offered at the Peninsula Campus are:

Diploma of Tertiary Studies – Business: Upon successful completion of the DoTS - Business stream students can apply to enter into the second year of the Bachelor of Business Administration (Peninsula) OR the Bachelor of Business (Caulfield) depending upon their mathematics preparation, and their average marks in the DoTS program.

Diploma of Tertiary Studies – Education: Upon successful completion of the DoTS - Education stream students can apply to enter into the second year of the Bachelor of Education (Honours) in several specialisations.

Diploma of Tertiary Studies – Nursing: Upon successful completion of the DoTS - Nursing stream students can apply to enter into the second year of the Bachelor of Nursing at the Peninsula Campus.

Browse and learn more about studying at the [Monash University Peninsula Campus](#).

Jobs & Skills for Work:



Careers in Journalism

The Good Careers Guide* states that *journalists write and edit news reports, commentaries, feature articles and blogs for newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and websites, including online publications.*

[Good Careers Guide - Journalist*](#)

Successful journalists -

- Are able to write clear, concise, objective and accurate material quickly
- Have good general knowledge
- Are interested in current events
- Are able to speak clearly when working on radio and television

Journalists fulfill a range of duties including –

- Gathering news and information by interviewing people and attending events
- Undertaking research to provide background information for articles
- Assessing the suitability of reports and articles for publication or broadcasting, ensuring they are within an established style and format, and edit as necessary
- Writing articles that comment on or interpret news events, some of which may put forward a point of view on behalf of a publication
- Presenting news on air (television and radio)

Importantly, journalists are required to understand the laws of defamation, contempt, and copyright. They may have to work long and irregular hours and are often under pressure to meet deadlines. Journalists may work indoors and carry out interviews by telephone or may have to work outdoors in all kinds of weather, and travel is often required.

Although the [Britannica](#) website is an overseas one, it provides useful links regarding the various types of journalism. It states that journalism is the *collection, preparation, and distribution of news and related commentary and feature materials through such print and electronic media as [newspapers](#), [magazines](#), [books](#), [blogs](#), [webcasts](#), [podcasts](#), [social networking](#) and [social media](#) sites, and [e-mail](#) as well as through [radio](#), [motion pictures](#), and [television](#). Where journalism would once have been only related to newspapers, and news on television and radio, today we see news disseminated through many mediums.*

Study:

Gap years explained: structured vs unstructured

Are you dreaming of an adventure before diving into university or starting your career? A [gap year](#) might be just what you need. But what are the different types of gap years you can do, and how do you decide between a structured program or an unstructured journey? We're here to explore the benefits of each, helping you plan the perfect gap year to suit your goals and interests.

Structured gap years

You might be someone who needs to know exactly what they're doing, and exactly when they're doing it. If you're the friend who creates all the group chats, likes to make extensive to-do lists, or colour codes your notes, then a structured gap year might be perfect for you. You don't have to be super type-A to want a structured gap year though – some of us just like to know what the plan is and how to be prepared.

A structured gap year typically involves organised programs with set itineraries and schedules. These programs can offer a range of activities, such as [volunteering](#), [internships](#), or [language courses](#).

Benefits of a structured gap year

Guidance and support

Structured programs often come with support from experienced staff who can help you navigate your gap year, providing safety and security for those who might be a little nervous about embarking on this new journey.

Skill development

Many programs are designed to help you develop specific skills, whether they're related to career goals, language proficiency, or personal growth. As a bonus, skill development gained through these programs look really good on your [resume](#).

Networking opportunities

Participating in a structured program can help you build [connections](#) with other students, professionals, and organisations, potentially opening doors for future opportunities. If you choose this pathway, you might find it a little easier to meet new people that are keen to support a gap year -goer.

Clear objectives

We all know how hard it is to keep on track when we only have ourselves to answer to. With a structured gap year, you'll have clear goals and a sense of purpose, making it easier to stay motivated and focused.

Examples of structured gap years

Volunteer programs

Join an organisation that offers volunteer placements in areas like environmental conservation, community development, or education. Not only will this help you stand out amongst the crowd on applications and resumes, you'll also have an opportunity to meet new people and grow as a person.

Internships

By using your gap year to do an internship, you can gain work experience in your field of interest, enhancing your resume and building professional skills. Not only will you be miles ahead of everyone else before you even start uni, you can also confirm whether or not you actually enjoy the pathway you'll be embarking on in higher education.

Study abroad

If you choose to study abroad, you could be placed in a program that allows you to take courses at a foreign university while immersing yourself in a new culture. You could gain new language skills, make friends overseas, and even scope out whether you might want to live in that country someday.

Think of it as an extended holiday, but with the opportunity to further your education and experience life as a local.

Adventure travel

Want to use your gap year to travel, but prefer to leave the planning up to the professionals? By participating in a structured program that combines travel with activities like trekking, diving, or cultural exploration, you could take the guesswork out of preparation, and sit back and enjoy the ride.

Unstructured gap years

Maybe you're more the type who likes to go with the flow, decide what you want to do on the day, or doesn't like to be constrained. If that's the case, you might be someone who prefers an unstructured gap year. Unstructured gap years are more flexible and allow you to design your own experience, exactly how you like it, and exactly when you want to do it.

By choosing this type of gap year, you can mix-and-match activities based on your interests and goals, creating a personalised adventure.

Benefits of an unstructured gap year

Flexibility

You'll have the freedom to change your plans as you go, allowing you to seize new opportunities and follow your passions. This is the perfect choice for someone who considers themselves the spontaneous type – there'll be no restrictions to hold you back.

Independence

Planning and executing your own gap year can foster a sense of independence and self-reliance, preparing you for future challenges. Nothing says independence more than embarking on your own unstructured gap year – it's a very brave and exhilarating experience.

Personalised experience

By choosing an unstructured gap year, you can tailor your gap year to suit your interests. Whether you prefer travelling, working, volunteering, or learning new skills, by planning your own year it's all up to you.

Cost control

You'll have the ability to manage your finances and choose cost-effective options, potentially making your gap year more affordable. Plus, it's great practice for budgeting – a skill you'll need for the rest of your life.

Examples of unstructured gap years

Backpacking

Travel independently, exploring new countries and cultures at your own pace – and for way cheaper than anything traditional travelling can offer.

Freelancing

Take on freelance work or start a small business to gain real-world experience and earn money. Who knows, you might even discover a life-long passion.

Casual work

Combine travel with casual jobs in different locations, gaining diverse experiences and saving money. Your resume will have never looked better, plus you could make loads of new friends on the job.

Personal projects

Take this opportunity to dedicate time to a personal passion, such as writing a book, creating art, or learning a new language.

Choosing the right gap year for you

When deciding between a structured and unstructured gap year, you might like to consider:

- **Goals:** What do you hope to achieve during your gap year? If you have specific objectives, a structured program might be best. If you're looking for exploration and personal growth, an unstructured approach could be ideal for you.
- **Budget:** Structured programs often have higher upfront costs but can include accommodation, meals, and activities. An unstructured gap year allows you to control expenses and find more budget-friendly options to suit your needs.
- **Comfort Level:** Are you comfortable planning and managing your own travel and activities, or do you prefer the security of a pre-arranged program?
- **Interests:** Reflect on what excites you. Do you want to immerse yourself in a new culture, gain work experience, or pursue a passion project?

A gap year is a unique opportunity to learn, grow, and explore the world. Whether you choose a structured program or an unstructured adventure, make sure it's a year filled with experiences that enrich your life and help you achieve your goals.

Want more? If you're looking for more information, we have heaps of other blogs you can read on our website [here](#).

[7 ideas for a working gap year \(overseas\)](#)

Thinking about taking a gap year after high school? Combining work and travel can be an incredible way to gain new experiences, make lifelong memories, and even save some money. Here are 7 fun ideas for a working gap year overseas.

1. Live-in pub gap year

Pubs are a quintessential part of culture in the UK. Rather than just drop in for a pint, what if you could live and work in a pub, and get paid to bartend? You'd get to mingle with the likes of university crowds around Manchester, Cambridge, Oxford, or wherever you choose to be based.

It's a great way to meet friends, make money, and experience a full immersion in a whole new culture. Plus, if you choose to be a part of a [placement program](#), you'll be fully supported by the working holiday team and your very own dedicated placement manager.

2. Horse ranch volunteer

Ever wanted to work on a farm? Or maybe you just love [horses](#) more than anything else. Either way, there are loads of opportunities around the world to live on a ranch or farm with free food and accommodation. All this is in exchange for your volunteer work helping around the property, which is a pretty great deal for those who want to experience that kind of lifestyle.

[This one](#) based in the USA only requires you to volunteer 30 hours of work a week, and you get heaps of free benefits like a private room, 3 meals a day, and horse-riding time.

Want a taste of what being a ranch hand could be like? Check out [this "day in the life"](#) to see if it's something that might be up your alley.

3. Au pair

Want to be a part of a family overseas? You might like being an au pair: a job where families overseas will host you for free in exchange for childcare and light housework duties. You could improve your language skills, immerse yourself in the culture, and best of all – there are usually almost no living expenses involved.

Living and working as an au pair usually includes meals, accommodation, and a weekly stipend. Some of the most popular places to be an au pair include France, Germany, and the USA, but [Global Work & Travel](#) have a database where you can browse tons of different opportunities and filter by location, age, and duration.

Curious about what a day as an au pair might look like? There are tons of videos online you can check out, like [this one](#) from an au pair in Germany.

4. Teach English abroad

Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) is a popular choice for gap year students, and countries all over the world are always on the lookout for native English speakers. If you've got a strong grasp of English and some teaching experience, you'll probably love this option – it's also a position known for giving a pretty decent salary.

You will most likely need some kind of certification to do this job, but [Go Overseas](#) have tons of online and in-person courses you can browse, or you can choose a certification + placement option.

5. Work on a cruise ship

Prefer the sea over land? Want to travel to a bunch of different places, and earn money on the way? You could be living your [Below Deck](#) dreams by using your gap year to work on a cruise ship.

There are loads of different jobs you could do on a cruise ship, from retail to hospitality – you could even apply to be a deck hand if you've got the experience. Most cruise ship vacancies are 4-6 months and have age requirements, but if you fit the specifications, this could be a once in a lifetime experience.

If you're interested in this kind of working gap year, there are some established agencies like [CTI](#) who can help with recruitment.

6. Ski instructor

If you love skiing, you might like to consider becoming a ski or snowboard instructor – you could do your passion all day long and get paid for it too. There are heaps of job openings for

ski instructor roles in countries like Canada, Austria, and Japan, and the seasonal nature of the job makes it perfect for a gap year traveller.

You'll need relevant certifications, but many programs offer training courses. There are even places that offer [in-country training](#), or some that partner with employers to provide [entry level roles worldwide](#).

7. Tour guide

Becoming a tour guide is a fun way to share your passion for a place while learning more about it yourself. There's nothing better than getting a tour given by someone who loves what they're talking about – and that person could be you. Many tour companies hire enthusiastic individuals to lead city tours, nature hikes, and historical tours in popular locations include Italy, Peru, and Vietnam.

You probably won't need any certifications for this job, but knowledge of the tour destination is essential – you could study up about it or take a tour yourself to get the hang of key information. After that, you'd be putting your people skills to good use.

To get the job, you'd most likely have to be brave and reach out to individual companies, but you can also take a look at the [World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations](#) – they offer training courses and internships too.

Want to keep reading?

If you'd like to read about some other gap year ideas, we have tons of advice, resources, and articles for you [here](#).

Paid Gap Year in Thailand

Organisation: Letz Live

Live & work as a paid gap assistant in a Thai international boarding school. Letz Live connects you to an international school where English is the native language, to ease your transition into the Thai professional and social environment.

Our Thailand paid gap year programs are designed for young people interested in the country's rich cultural heritage. The program is available for individuals between ages 17 and 25 who want to take a paid and organised break before entering university or the workforce.

A Gap Year programme in Thailand gives you time to explore and appreciate the stunning coastlines, excellent cuisine and opulent temples – plus, you'll have lots of support and a dedicated Programme Manager.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Gap Year

Organisation: ADF

Spend an exciting 12 months in the Navy, Army or Air Force, where you'll get paid for meaningful work while gaining skills for life and making lifelong friends.

If you're 17-24 years old and interested in experiencing the Navy, Army or Air Force without making a long-term commitment, an ADF Gap Year is a great option.

What an ADF Gap Year is like:

- start with Initial Military Training (IMT) where you learn the fundamentals
- complete training courses in your chosen role
- take part in a variety of domestic exercises and operations

- gain valuable work and life experience
- make friends to last a lifetime
- make a decision on your future in the ADF.

[Find out more](#)

[The 6 best apps for language learning](#)

Thinking of learning a new language, but struggling to find the time? Maybe you want to learn Japanese so you can watch anime, Korean so you can understand K-pop, or Spanish to prep for an upcoming exchange.

If you're a student, chances are you're extra busy lately, or maybe you just don't know where to get started if you're a beginner on your own. Luckily, there are plenty of language learning apps that make it easier and more fun to learn on the go.

We've rounded up 6 of the best language learning apps to help you master a new language efficiently and effectively.

1. Duolingo

[Duolingo](#) is one of the most popular language learning apps, and for good reason. Its game-like structure makes learning fun and engaging, with short, interactive lessons that feel more like playing than studying. The Duolingo owl might haunt your dreams with its lesson reminders, but trust us, it works. With over 30 languages to choose from, Duolingo offers a variety of activities to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The app also tracks your progress and rewards you with points and badges to keep you motivated – plus, it has its own TikTok account.

2. Babbel

[Babbel](#) is designed to get you speaking confidently in your new language from the get-go. Its lessons are based on real-life conversations and cover a wide range of topics, so if you'll be going to your target country anytime soon, they've got you covered. Babbel also offers speech recognition technology to help you perfect your pronunciation. With 14 languages available, Babbel's structured courses are ideal for high school students looking to build a solid foundation in their chosen language, or anyone who wants to speak like a native.

3. Rosetta Stone

[Rosetta Stone](#) has been a leader in language learning for decades – no, we're not talking about the [ancient artefact](#) that changed the course of civilisation, but we might as well be. The Rosetta Stone app uses an immersive approach, teaching you to think and speak in your new language through visual and audio cues rather than translations. With interactive lessons and real-time feedback on your pronunciation, Rosetta Stone helps you develop a deeper understanding of the language, so it's a great choice for students who want to achieve fluency.

4. Memrise

[Memrise](#) makes language learning memorable and enjoyable with its unique combination of flashcards and fun videos featuring native speakers. The app uses spaced repetition to help you retain vocabulary and phrases, and its interactive games make practicing feel less like a chore. With courses in over 20 languages, Memrise is perfect for visual learners who want to learn at their own pace.

5. Busuu

[Busuu](#) is more of a comprehensive language learning experience, with courses in 12 languages. The app's lessons cover all aspects of language learning, from vocabulary and grammar to speaking and writing. One of the standout features of Busuu is its community of native speakers who can provide feedback on your exercises, helping you improve your skills with real-world practice. Busuu also offers personalised study plans to fit your schedule and goals, which is perfect for students on the go.

6. HelloTalk

[HelloTalk](#) is an app that connects you with native speakers from around the world for language exchange from the comfort of your home. The app's chat feature allows you to practice your language skills in real-time, with tools like translation, pronunciation guides, and correction suggestions to help you along the way. HelloTalk also offers voice and video calls, so you can practice speaking and listening in a more immersive environment. It's a great way to make new friends and learn about different cultures while improving your language skills.

Want more?

These apps are just the beginning of your language learning journey. For more tips and ideas on how to enhance your studies, check out our blog [here](#). Whether you're looking to for info about [gap years](#) or need some last-minute convincing on why you should learn a [second language](#), we've got you covered.

[Tips for the ultimate study space setup](#)

You might be surprised to hear it, but *where* you study is just as important as *how* you study. If you've ever found yourself curled up with your laptop in bed and wondering why you can't seem to concentrate, or if your siblings keep distracting you when you're trying to study in the living room, this article is for you.

The environment you choose to study in plays a huge role when it comes to how productive and motivated you feel. If you've been struggling to focus and get things done, creating the perfect study space can seriously make all the difference.

To help you boost your concentration and productivity, we've come up with some effective tips for setting up a study space that works for you. With these ideas, you'll transform your study area into a place where you can thrive.

Choose the right location

The first step to creating an ideal study space is choosing the right location. Look for a spot that's quiet, well-lit, and free from distractions. This could be a corner of your bedroom, a dedicated study room, or even a cozy (and quiet) nook in your home.

- **Quiet:** Avoid high-traffic areas where you're likely to be interrupted.
- **Well-lit:** Natural light is best, but a good desk lamp can work wonders too.
- **Distraction-free:** Keep your study area away from TV, video games, and other distractions.

Organise your space

An organised space can help clear your mind and keep you focused. Make sure your study area is tidy and well-organised, with everything you need within easy reach.

- **Declutter:** Keep only the essentials on your desk – your computer, textbooks, and notebooks.
- **Storage:** Use shelves, drawers, or bins to store supplies and keep your space neat.
- **Personalise:** Add a few personal touches, like photos or motivational quotes, to make your space inviting and comfortable.

Why not give your desk a makeover to help get you in the groove? You can even follow along with [this video](#) for inspo.

Invest in comfortable furniture

There's nothing worse than getting a sore back from sitting hunched over at your desk all day. Comfort is key when it comes to studying for long periods, so invest in a good chair and desk that support good posture and reduce strain on your body.

- **Ergonomic chair:** A chair with good lumbar support can prevent back pain and improve focus.
- **Proper desk:** Your desk should be at a height that allows you to work comfortably without hunching over.
- **Footrest:** Consider a footrest if your feet don't touch the ground when seated.

Minimise digital distractions

While technology is a great tool, it can also be a major distraction, so be sure to take steps to minimise digital interruptions.

- **Phone-free zone:** Keep your phone out of reach or on silent mode while you study.
- **Website blockers:** Use apps or [browser extensions](#) to block distracting websites during study sessions.
- **Focus apps:** Consider [apps](#) that help you stay on track, like timers or productivity trackers.

Create a study routine

Establishing a study routine can help train your brain to be more focused and productive as you learn. If you're looking for something to spice up your study routine, why not try this article on [creative study hacks](#)? In the meantime, here's some ideas:

- **Set specific times:** Study at the same times each day to build a consistent routine.
- **Take breaks:** Incorporate short breaks to rest and recharge – we recommend the tried and tested [Pomodoro](#) method.
- **Plan your sessions:** Outline what you need to know and set goals for each session.

Incorporate relaxation elements

It's been [proven](#) that relaxing helps learning, so it makes sense that curating a relaxing atmosphere can improve your overall study experience and reduce stress. Here's some ideas:

- **Plants:** Greenery can improve air quality and create a calming atmosphere.
- **Aromatherapy:** Scents like lavender or peppermint can help you relax and stay alert.
- **Background music:** Soft instrumental music or nature sounds can enhance concentration for some students.

Creating a study space that enhances concentration and productivity doesn't have to be difficult. With these tips, you'll be on your way to academic success in no time.

Want more study tips?

We have loads of fun and creative study tips to help you make the most of school – check them out [here](#).

How to use social media for job hunting

Social media isn't just for keeping up with friends or sharing your latest foodie pics. It can also be a powerful tool to help you land your dream job or internship. With a few simple strategies, you can turn your social media accounts into a job-hunting powerhouse.

Ready to get started? Here's your foolproof guide to using social media for job hunting.

1. Clean up your profiles

First things first, make sure your social media profiles are professional and reflect the best version of yourself. Employers often look at candidates' online presence, so you want to make a good impression.

- **Privacy Settings:** Adjust your privacy settings to control what is public and what is private.
- **Profile Picture:** Use a professional-looking profile picture. No selfies or party pics, no matter how good you look.
- **Content:** Remove or hide any content that might be considered unprofessional or inappropriate. No-one needs to see that, least of all your potential employer.

2. Actually use your LinkedIn profile

You probably don't think about it much, but the fact is that LinkedIn is the go-to social media platform for professionals. Here's how to make your profile stand out:

- **Headline and Summary:** Craft a [compelling headline](#) and summary that highlight your skills, experience, and career aspirations. Keep it short and sweet but make it catchy enough to stand out.
- **Experience and Skills:** List your work experience and skills – think of it as a pseudo-resume, but make sure to only display what's relevant. Endorsements and recommendations can also boost your profile.
- **Connections:** Connect with classmates, teachers, and industry professionals to expand your network. The more connections you have, the more opportunities might come your way.

3. Follow companies

Don't just stay updated on the latest TikTok trends – if you're wanting to find a job through social media, it's best to stay updated on the latest industry trends and job opportunities. You can do this by following key industry leaders and companies in your field on platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

- **Twitter:** Follow hashtags related to your industry to join the conversation and learn about job openings.
- **LinkedIn:** LinkedIn isn't new to this whole job advertising thing – in fact, they have their own job search selection tool, so make sure to use it.
- **Instagram:** Follow companies to get a feel for their culture and see if they post job openings – you never know when you might strike gold.

4. Join professional groups

Engage with professional groups on LinkedIn and Facebook to connect with like-minded individuals and learn about job opportunities.

- **LinkedIn Groups:** Joining groups related to your industry and participate in discussion can help you gain visibility and connect with potential employers.
- **Facebook Groups:** Search for job hunting and career-focused groups where members share job postings and advice. It's nice to be part of a community with the same goals as you, and you might learn some new things or connect with key people.

5. Showcase your work

Use platforms like LinkedIn, Instagram, and even a personal blog to showcase your work that relates to the industry you want to be a part of. Share your projects, write about your experiences, and demonstrate your expertise.

- **Portfolio:** Create an online portfolio using platforms like [Behance](#) or [Wix](#) to showcase your work.
- **Content Sharing:** Regularly share content related to your field to demonstrate your passion and knowledge – not only could you find a shared community, but a potential employer could stumble across your page and like what they see.

6. Engage with employers

Speaking of employers, don't be afraid to interact with companies and recruiters online. Comment on their posts, share relevant content, and even send them direct messages to express your interest.

- **Twitter and LinkedIn:** Use these platforms to engage with employers by liking, commenting, and sharing their content.
- **Direct Messages:** Reach out directly to recruiters and hiring managers to introduce yourself and express your interest in potential opportunities.

7. Be professional

Maintain a professional tone in all your interactions. Your online presence should reflect your career aspirations and demonstrate your communication skills, so don't treat it like your close friends Instagram story.

- **Language and Tone:** Avoid slang and informal language – no text talk. Keep your posts and comments respectful and professional.
- **Consistency:** Ensure that your profiles and posts consistently reflect your personal brand and career goals. Remember, this could be your employers first impression of you, so make it a good one.

Tips for success

- **Consistency:** Regularly update your profiles and share relevant content – you never know what might gain the interest of a potential employer.
- **Networking:** Make sure you're actively engaging with your network and participating in industry discussions. It's also important to ensure you keep a balance between being professional and friendly in your connections.

- **Patience:** Building a strong online presence takes time, so be patient and persistent.

Mastering the art of using social media for job hunting can give you a significant edge in today's competitive job market. By following these guidelines, you'll not only make a positive impression, but also enhance your networking and job search skills.

Want more tips on career readiness and professional skills? We have heaps more insightful blogs and resources to help you succeed right [here](#).

Health & Well-Being:

Nature's benefits: why you should go outside more

Cooped up indoors all the time? Feeling frustrated trying to balance your studies and mental health? We get it- school can be tough. You've probably heard people joke about needing to touch grass, but it's true – spending time outdoors is a simple and enjoyable way to enhance your wellbeing and boost your academic performance.

We've gathered some amazing benefits of being in nature and how it can positively impact your life. With these insights, you might even be inspired to step outside and experience the wonders of nature for yourself.

Stress relief

One of the biggest benefits of spending time in nature is its ability to reduce stress. Studies have shown that being in natural environments [lowers levels of cortisol](#), the hormone associated with stress.

Whether it's a walk in the park, a hike in the woods, or just sitting under a tree, nature has a soothing effect that helps you relax and unwind. Why not grab a book and go sit outside for a quick study break – even if it's just for 10 minutes, you'll probably find yourself feeling calmer in no-time.

Improved concentration

Feeling distracted while studying? Nature can help with that too.

Research indicates that spending time outdoors can [improve your concentration and focus](#). The fresh air and natural surroundings can rejuvenate your mind, making it easier to tackle your schoolwork when you return.

Try studying outside or taking short nature breaks to boost your productivity.

Enhanced creativity

If you're in a bit of a creative slump, you might like to try taking yourself outside for a bit. Nature has a way of sparking creativity – the sights, sounds, and smells of the outdoors can stimulate your senses and provide a fresh perspective.

Whether you're brainstorming ideas or working on a creative assignment, spending time in nature can help you think outside the box.

Physical health benefits

Not only is spending time outdoors great for your mental health, but it also benefits your physical health. Outdoor activities like walking, hiking, and cycling can help you stay active and fit, which is incredibly important for your [wellbeing](#).

Plus, exposure to sunlight increases your Vitamin D levels, which is essential for bone health and immune function. So, next time you need a break from studying, consider going for a run or a bike ride. Or even better – [combine the two](#).

Social connection

Nature provides a perfect setting for social interaction. Whether you're playing sports, having a picnic, or simply hanging out with friends, being outdoors can strengthen your relationships. Social connections are crucial for your mental wellbeing and can make your high school experience more enjoyable.

Why not plan a picnic for the next fine day? Just lying in the sun with your friends can often spark joy in a healthy, fun way.

How to spend more time outdoors

Ready to reap the benefits of nature? Here are some easy ways to incorporate more outdoor time into your routine:

- **Study outside:** Take your books or laptop to a park or your backyard.
- **Outdoor workouts:** Swap the gym for a run in the park or a yoga session on the grass.
- **Nature walks:** Take short walks during study breaks to refresh your mind.
- **Join outdoor clubs:** Participate in school clubs that involve outdoor activities, like hiking or gardening.
- **Weekend adventures:** Plan weekend trips to explore nature trails, beaches, or mountains with family or friends.

With these easy ideas on how to get more nature into your day, you'll be surprised at how quickly the great outdoors has a positive impact on your wellbeing.

Want more?

Looking for more ways to improve your study habits and wellbeing? Check out our website for more tips and advice [here](#).