

# Scotch College

## Future Pathways

### News

November 11, 2024

# Course, Careers & Campus Information:



#### Dates to Diarise in Term 4

- Year 12 VTAC very late applications – 1 November to 6 December



#### Reminder: VTAC 2025 Upcoming Key Dates



<b>VTAC Personal Statement</b>	Friday 6 December 2024
<b>ATARs Released</b>	Thursday 12 December 2024
<b>Change of Preference (CoP) closes</b>	Saturday 14 December 2024
<b>December Round Offers</b>	Monday 23 December 2024
<b>January Round International Offers</b>	Monday 6 January 2025
<b>January Round Domestic Offers</b>	Friday 10 January 2025
<b>February Offer Rounds</b>	Tuesday 4 February 2025 onwards

For a full list of cancelled, amended, and new courses, visit [VTAC Course Updates](#).

The VTAC website is [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)

## VCE RESULTS & ATAR

### **Accessing VCE Results 2024**

VCE study scores, ATAR and VTAC Scaled Study Scores will be available to students via the Results and ATAR website and the Results and ATAR app on **Thursday 12 December 2024 at 7.00am**. Students will receive a statement of VCE study scores from the VCAA, and those who applied for courses through VTAC this year and have paid their VTAC processing fees, will be sent an ATAR statement in the mail.

**Students who wish to receive their results online, will need to register at [Results and ATAR](#) before results are released.**

**Registrations are already open, and students are encouraged to register soon.**

**Note: To register, students need their VCAA student number and will be requested to choose a secure password on registering.**

### **Chisholm Sports Academy 2025 – Discovery Day, Casey Stadium**

November 16, 2024

Learn more about what it's like to be a student-athlete at the Chisholm Academy and train under the expert eye of Chisholm Sports Academy's coaches.

If you're an aspiring athlete passionate about sport and studying Year 11 or 12 in 2024, or you're currently completing your senior secondary program and looking to complete a Fitness industry qualification or Diploma of Sport (course code SIS50321), our Academy might just be for you!

Come along to our discovery day which combines both practical skills training with our coaching team as well as information about what it is like being a student athlete.

[Find out more](#)

### **AIE Open Day, Melbourne**

November 16, 2024

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day.

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](#)

## **AIT Melbourne Info Night**

November 28, 2024

Exclusive invite to AIT's Melbourne Info Night on 28 November.

You'll hear from our inspiring Academic Director and meet our very talented current students talk about what it's like to study at AIT. You will have the opportunity to speak to our friendly course advisor crew one-on-one and learn about the flexible learning options and pathways available, career outcomes, and more. You'll get to meet the Admissions Team to discuss the admissions process or even better - apply on the spot to save your seat in the next Intake!

[Find out more](#)

## **Getting your results – What happens next?**

December 10, 2024

Finishing year 12 this year? It's an exciting time as you wait for your results and figure out what the future holds for you.

Join the VTAC team for a live webinar which will cover what happens when you receive your results and ATAR, how change of preference and course offers works, and some really key things you should be thinking about now to ensure you get the best outcome.

You'll have the opportunity to ask questions throughout, so join us to find out everything you need to know about getting to uni, TAFE, or college next year!

[Find out more](#)

## **Monash Change Day**

December 13, 2024

Once you're on the other side of exams and receive your results, you may have lots of questions, and our Monash Change Day expo is the place to get all the answers.

From finding out how to change your VTAC course preferences to exploring study options based on your ATAR score, our course advisers will be on-hand to help you with your questions.

You'll have the chance to explore our ten study areas, attend information sessions, plus discover our range of pathway options and student support services, so you'll have all the answers you need to plan your future – all under the one roof.

[Find out more](#)

## **Deakin Change of Preference Advice**

December 13, 2024

Whether you need general uni information, pathway options or reassurance about your course choices, don't miss the opportunity to get personalised advice at our Change of Preference events.

- Get personalised one-on-one study, course and pathway advice
- Chat with expert Deakin staff and current students
- Discover course and pathway options at the course information expo
- Join a student-led campus and accommodation tour

- Explore our world-class facilities and learning spaces
- Learn about student support and life at Deakin

[Find out more](#)

## **RMIT Change of Preference**

December 13, 2024

You've got the dreams, RMIT's got your back. We're here to help and answer your questions about what's next.

The Change of Preference event is your chance to get help with your preferences and learn more about what RMIT life is like.

Discover the various pathways into university and get guidance from staff to find the right option for you.

Whether you're a Year 12 student or the parent of a Year 12 student, this is your chance to ease your worries. You can have a 1-on-1 chat with RMIT staff about preferences and course advice.

The event will have free food, games, giveaways, crafts and campus tours hosted by current RMIT students.

[Find out more](#)

## **Swinburne Change of Preference Expo 2024**

December 13, 2024

Change of Preference Expo is your chance to explore your options, get personalised advice from course experts, and arrange your VTAC preferences to maximise your ATAR – and your chances of an offer.

Join us on campus for one-on-one guidance tailored to your Year 12 results and adjust your VTAC preferences before the Change of Preference window closes.

[Find out more](#)

## **Accepting Your ANU Offer – What's Next?**

December 20, 2024

Have you received an offer to study a degree at ANU but unsure of your next steps?

Join us for a step-by-step guide on the deferral process, how to accept your offer and enrol in your program. We'll also discuss the many support services available to ANU students and key dates. The webinar will finish with a live Q&A session where you can get all your questions answered.

This event is suitable for domestic students who have received an offer at ANU.

[Find out more](#)

## **2025 Collarts High School Summer Holiday Workshops**

January 22 to January 23, 2025

Collarts are opening their doors to Victorian High School students going into years 10, 11 and 12 in 2025, and those that finished year 12 in 2024, to participate in a series of practical, hands-on workshops.

Experience what it's like to live a day in the life of a Collarts student. With 13 workshops to choose from across 2 days, check out the Collarts website to see what's on.

[Find out more](#)



## **Important Changes to Bachelor Degrees from 2025**

*William Angliss Institute has made a difficult decision to remove some of the degree program offerings for 2025.*

**Students who have one of the impacted courses as preferences on VTAC will have received a message from VTAC indicating that their preferred course has been cancelled.**

William Angliss remains committed to its specialist areas of *foods, tourism, hospitality and events* and are confident that the alternative courses on offer will suit the needs of students and industry.

For any students affected by this change, below is a list of recommended alternatives for the courses that have been removed from offer:

Specialty area	Course no longer offered	Alternative course recommendations
<b>Foods</b>	Bachelor of Food Studies	Bachelor of Culinary Management
<b>Tourism</b>	Associate Degree in Tourism; Bachelor of Tourism; Bachelor of Tourism (Marketing); Bachelor of Tourism (Ecotourism); Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management (International Practice)	Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management; Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management; Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management (Professional Practice)
<b>Hospitality</b>	Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management (International Practice)	Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management; Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management (Professional Practice)
<b>Events</b>	Associate Degree in Event Management; Bachelor of Event Management	Diploma of Events; Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management

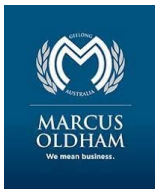
Browse [TAFE Courses & Degrees | William Angliss Institute](#)



## **Pathways for Unscored Students at Deakin College**

*Deakin College offers pathway options for unscored students, VCE VM students and students who receive a low ATAR score.*

These students are eligible to enrol in one of a number of [diploma](#) programs. Upon successful completion, they can seamlessly progress into the second year of a related bachelor's degree at Deakin University, ensuring no time is lost in their academic journey.



## **Snapshot of Marcus Oldham College in 2024**

- Since 1962, Marcus Oldham, has built an enviable reputation both nationally and internationally for preparing business leaders who pursue successful careers in *agriculture, agribusiness, and equine management*.
- Students of Marcus Oldham are all encouraged to have a number of years working in industry before attending the College. This exposure to industry results in a more mature student, committed to achieving better learning outcomes.
- As Australia's only independent agricultural and equine business management college, Marcus Oldham offers students a unique educational experience.
- The [courses](#) delivered are practical action-orientated programs that prepare students with the knowledge, business skills and confidence to specialise in the agriculture agribusiness equine industries.
- The Marcus Oldham [Scholarship Program](#) provides financial assistance towards the tuition or residential fee and is generally available for the first year of study and, in some cases, subsequent years.
- Most students who study full-time at Marcus Oldham live on campus in student residences – browse [Accommodation](#) to find out more.
- The popular [Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program](#), supported by NAB Agribusiness, is an intensive five-day workshop open to leaders and emerging leaders from across rural Australia.



# Jobs & Skills for Work:

## How to become a Power Systems Engineer

Power systems engineers specialise in creating efficient power generation, transmission, and distribution networks. They are responsible for developing and installing technology integration and carrying out maintenance schedules. They are also in charge of monitoring and diagnosing issues, then fixing them to prevent downtime or reduced capacity.

If you have a knack for solving problems and love to work with your hands, this job could be perfect for you.

### **What skills do I need as a power systems engineer?**

- Detail-oriented
- Great problem-solver
- Hands-on worker
- Good communicator
- Works well in teams
- Organised & adaptable
- Safety-minded
- Excellent maths skills

### **What does the job involve?**

- Designing power systems & networks
- Monitoring systems for issues
- Installing, testing & maintaining equipment
- Upgrading existing systems & networks
- Preparing drawings & plans
- Ensuring compliance with standards
- Optimising systems & processes
- Collaborating with other power workers

### **What industries do power systems engineers typically work in?**

- Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste
- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
- Manufacturing

### **What Career Cluster do power systems engineers belong to?**

Power systems engineers work with technology and need strong problem-solving skills, so they are usually Innovators. It's also an attractive career for Makers, who enjoy using specialised equipment and love hands-on work.

### **What kind of lifestyle can I expect?**

As a power systems engineer, your work will be split across both time in the office and site visits. While there is some physical work involved, you'll also be expected to do desk work and communicate with clients, customers, and other power workers.

You can expect to earn an above average salary throughout your career.



Most power systems engineers work full-time, usually during normal business hours. But emergency maintenance may require you to work nights, weekends, or even holidays.

### **How to become a power systems engineer**

You will typically need a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, specialising in Electrical, Networks, or another similar field, to work as a power systems engineer. Internships and practical work experience are a common part of your education, and are a great way to gain experience and make connections.

There are usually also other licenses and qualifications you must obtain as well, depending on regulations in your state or country, and whether or not you'd like to advance into more senior roles.

### **What can I do right now to work towards this career?**

If you're in high school and interested in becoming a power systems engineer, here are some steps you can take:

- Focus on science subjects at school, especially physics and engineering. Along with maths, they are often prerequisites to many engineering courses.
- Find work experience or internship opportunities to gain exposure to the industry.
- Participate in STEM clubs, groups, workshops, or competitions to start building your skills while you're still at school.
- Start researching graduate programs and pathways to future job opportunities.

### **Where can I find more information?**

You can learn more about careers in power systems engineering through these organisations:

- [The Australian Power Institute](#)
- [Electricity Engineers' Association NZ](#)
- [UK Power Networks Careers](#)
- [United States Energy Association](#)
- [Careers in Energy Canada](#)

### **Similar careers to power systems engineer**

- Maintenance Technician
- Civil Engineer
- Systems Analyst
- Grid Connection Engineer
- Operations Coordinator
- Software Developer
- Environmental Engineer
- Project Manager

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



## **5 out-of-this-world space careers**

Ever dreamed of working in the space industry but thought you'd need to be an astronaut? The modern space sector is booming with opportunities that are way more diverse than you might imagine. And with [a value of USD \\$630 billion and growing](#), it's a growth industry that's looking for people with a 'make-it-happen' attitude. From launching rockets to designing space hotels, here are five incredible careers that could blast your future into orbit.

### **Propulsion engineer**

Want to literally make rockets go boom? Propulsion engineers are the masterminds behind rocket engines, and they're in huge demand right now. At companies like [SpaceX](#) and [RocketLab](#), these engineers design and test the engines that power spacecraft into orbit. What makes this cool? You could work on anything from [the massive Raptor engines that will take humans to Mars](#), to smaller engines for satellite launches. Plus, you get to witness actual rocket engine tests – imagine telling your friends that making controlled explosions is part of your job description!

**What you'll need:** A degree in aerospace, mechanical, or chemical engineering, and a love for both the big picture and tiny details. Maths and physics are your best friends here.

### **Space habitat designer**

Think interior design is just for houses? Think bigger – like designing entire living spaces for astronauts. With companies like [Axiom Space](#) building the first commercial space station and plans for lunar bases in the works, space habitat designers are creating the homes of the future. And that's not even considering Mars.

You'll tackle unique challenges like: How do you make a comfortable bedroom in zero gravity? What's the best way to design a space kitchen? How do you create spaces that keep astronauts both physically and mentally healthy during long missions?

**What you'll need:** Architecture or industrial design background, with a solid understanding of human factors engineering. Creativity is key – you're literally designing something that's never existed before.

### **Satellite operations manager**

Ever wondered who's in charge of controlling the thousands of satellites orbiting Earth? Satellite operations managers are like space traffic controllers, keeping track of everything from communication satellites to Earth observation systems.

At companies like [Planet Labs](#) or [Starlink](#), you might manage a constellation of satellites, planning their orbits, monitoring their health, and making sure they're doing their jobs properly. When something goes wrong, you're the person who figures out how to fix a machine that's traveling at over 25,000 km per hour.

**What you'll need:** A background in aerospace engineering, computer science, or physics, plus excellent problem-solving skills. Being cool under pressure is essential, as satellites wait for no one.

### **Space manufacturing engineer**

Here's something mind-blowing: we're starting to make things in space. Space manufacturing engineers are pioneering ways to produce materials that are impossible to create on Earth due to gravity. Companies like [Redwire Space](#) are already 3D printing tools on the International Space Station, and that's just the beginning.

Imagine designing processes to make perfect crystals for medical research, or super-strong fiber optic cables, all in zero gravity. You could be part of creating an entire new industrial revolution – in space.

**What you'll need:** A degree in materials science, manufacturing engineering, or a related field. Innovation is crucial because you're literally writing the handbook for how to make things in space.

### **Commercial space operations coordinator**

Welcome to the business side of space. As private space travel becomes reality, companies like [Virgin Galactic](#) and [Blue Origin](#) need people to coordinate commercial space flights. You'll work with everyone from engineers to customers, making sure space tourism and commercial missions run smoothly.

Your day might involve planning launch schedules, coordinating with clients who want to send experiments to space, or helping organize training for space tourists. It's like being an event planner, but your venue is space itself.

**What you'll need:** A business or management degree is great, but what's most important is excellent organizational skills and the ability to juggle multiple priorities. Knowledge of the space industry is crucial, and being able to speak "both languages" – technical and business – is a huge plus.

### **The future is limitless**

The space industry isn't just growing – it's exploding (pardon the pun) with career opportunities. The best part? These jobs are available right now, not in some distant future. Companies are actively hiring for these positions as the commercial space race heats up. Whether you're more interested in the technical side, the creative aspects, or the business angle, there's a place for you in the space industry.

Want to explore other potential future careers? [There's heaps more to see on our website.](#)

## **5 signs you'll be okay with work travel**

Travelling for work is a reality for many careers, but not everyone finds it appealing. Before deciding if it's for you, it's important to understand what it really involves. From how often people travel to the rise of "[bleisure](#)" trips, this article will break down some of the key facts about work travel. You'll also find tips to help you decide if it's something you'd enjoy, plus a look at the types of jobs that often require regular travel.

### **Work travel trends**

Work travel isn't the ho-hum parade of boring hotels that it used to be. In the past few years, work travel has evolved, and we're seeing some great shifts in a positive direction.

### **Most of us need to do some work travel**

[Around 46% of workers planned to travel for work in 2024](#), making it an integral part of many jobs. This might mean attending meetings, visiting clients, or even relocating temporarily for a project.

On average, [professionals take 6-7 business trips each year](#), although some roles require travel much more frequently, with the top 10% of business travellers spending around 88 nights away from home annually. Whether you're working in sales, consulting, or management, you're likely to need to travel at some point in your career.

### **Bleisure is becoming more popular**

A growing number of professionals are extending work trips to explore the destination or simply to unwind. [Around 60% of work trips now have a leisure component](#), where employees add personal days to relax or see local attractions. For many young professionals,

combining work and leisure is seen as a major perk, because it gives you the opportunity to see new places while someone else picks up the tab.

### **Hybrid meetings and travel are the new norm**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings have become the go-to option for many businesses, reducing the need for frequent trips, which makes sense; why pay to fly around the world when you can get a good chunk of the work done via Zoom?

However, in-person meetings are still essential for building relationships, closing deals, or managing projects. As a result, hybrid models are now the norm, with employees often alternating between online meetings and occasional business trips. This combination is expected to continue growing, particularly as companies seek to balance travel needs with sustainability goals.

### **5 signs you'll be okay with work travel**

Not everyone enjoys frequent travel, so here are five signs that can help you decide if you'd be ok with it:

#### **You enjoy trying new things**

If you're the kind of person who's excited to try a new café, visit a new place in your city, or explore a new hobby, you might find the adventure of work travel appealing. People who enjoy change and new experiences often see travel as an opportunity, not a challenge.

#### **You adapt well to change**

Work travel rarely goes exactly to plan – flights get delayed, meetings change, and things don't always go smoothly. If you're the type to 'roll with it' when plans change or when things go wrong, you'll probably handle the unpredictability of work travel better than most.

#### **You don't mind being away from home**

Think about how you feel when you're away from home – maybe at a camp, a friend's house, or even on holiday. If you enjoy the change of scenery and don't feel homesick easily, you're likely to cope well with regular work travel.

#### **You're good at staying organised**

Do you plan ahead for school projects or keep your backpack tidy? If you're naturally organised, you'll probably find it easier to manage the logistics of work travel. This can include packing efficiently, keeping track of tickets, or managing your time between meetings.

#### **You're happy meeting new people in unfamiliar places**

If you're confident starting conversations with new people, whether it's at a social event or in a group activity, you might enjoy the networking aspect of work travel. Building professional relationships is a big part of many jobs, and work trips often offer chances to meet new colleagues, clients, or partners in different settings.

### **Jobs that require frequent travel**

When it comes to jobs that require frequent travel, some are pretty obvious – think pilots, diplomats, or sales reps. However, there are many other roles that involve regular travel, even if they're not as widely recognised for it.

Let's look at both the more expected roles and some that might surprise you. Understanding these can help you consider whether frequent travel could be part of your own career plans.

### **Frequent travellers in well-known roles**

While some careers practically define work travel, it's still worth highlighting them, as they often set the standard for what frequent travel looks like:

#### **Sales representatives**

Often spending weeks on the road, sales reps regularly travel to meet clients, attend industry events, and close deals in person. This role involves managing schedules, travel arrangements, and working across different time zones to stay productive and effective.

#### **Flight attendants and pilots**

As the ultimate travelling roles, these professionals are constantly moving between cities, states, and even countries. The job involves a fast-paced lifestyle, varying shift patterns, and the need to adjust quickly to new environments.

#### **Politicians and diplomats**

National and international travel is a core part of these roles, with trips ranging from meetings with officials to attending international summits. Time away from home can be frequent, and the schedule is often determined at short notice.

#### **Journalists and reporters**

Whether covering breaking news or reporting on events from the field, journalists frequently travel to conduct interviews and gather first-hand stories. This kind of travel can be unpredictable, with trips sometimes lasting for extended periods.

#### **Consultants**

Often working across various industries, consultants travel regularly to client sites. This can mean flying between cities or countries to provide strategic advice, conduct training sessions, or support project implementations.

### **Roles with unexpected travel demands**

Not all jobs that require travel are immediately obvious. Some roles involve a lot of travel, even though it might not be the first thing that comes to mind:

#### **Project managers**

While many assume project managers work mostly in offices, those in construction or engineering often need to visit multiple project sites. This can involve travel across cities, states, or even internationally to supervise progress, meet with teams, and ensure work aligns with project plans. These trips can last from a few days to several weeks, depending on project needs.

## **Researchers**

Researchers – whether in science, academia, or business – often travel to share their findings at conferences, seminars, or workshops. These events allow them to present their work, network with peers, and collaborate on new projects. Depending on the field, researchers might also conduct fieldwork in diverse locations, adding more travel to their schedules.

## **IT specialists**

While IT roles are often seen as desk-based, specialists working in on-site support regularly travel to troubleshoot issues, install systems, or train staff at client locations. Travel can range from day trips to lengthy assignments where specialists may need to set up and manage large-scale technology implementations.

## **Environmental consultants**

Environmental consultants often need to travel to various sites to conduct assessments, collect data, or advise on sustainability projects. These trips can involve visiting remote natural areas, urban development sites, or government offices, with travel plans changing based on the project's requirements.

## **Recruiters**

Recruiters, particularly those in large organisations or recruitment agencies, travel to meet candidates at universities, job fairs, or professional events. This kind of work travel is focused on building relationships with potential hires and scouting talent, with trips varying from local visits to interstate events.

## **Could you see yourself travelling for work?**

Work travel can be exciting, offering new experiences, career growth, and the chance to build professional networks. However, it also comes with its challenges – time away from home, long hours on the road, and the need to adapt quickly to new environments.

As you think about your future career, consider whether the idea of frequent travel energises you or whether it feels like it might be a challenge. Whether you love the adventure or prefer the stability of staying put, there are plenty of roles that can suit your personal style.

If you want to find out more, [we have lots of other blogs on the world of work for you to read](#).

## **[Tips for writing a thank you letter after receiving a scholarship](#)**

Receiving a scholarship is exciting, but sometimes there's one important task to do: writing a thank you letter to your donor. So if you need (or want) to write a thank you letter after receiving a scholarship, we have some tips to help.

### **Why write a thank you letter?**

Writing a thank you letter isn't just about being polite – it's a chance to show your appreciation and practice professional communication. Sometimes it's a part of your scholarship conditions; but even if it's not, it's a thoughtful gesture that might encourage the donor to support more students in the future.

### **The basic structure**

Let's go through some examples to help you write your scholarship thank you letter.

### **The greeting**

Your greeting sets the tone for your entire letter, so it's important to start off professionally. Start with "Dear [Donor's Name]". If you don't know their name, "Dear Scholarship Donor" is perfectly acceptable.

### **Your introduction**

The introduction is your chance to help the donor get to know you. Keep it brief but personal, including your name, study plans, and something interesting about yourself that relates to your chosen field.

**Example:** "My name is Sarah Chen, and I'm a Year 12 student at Riverside High School. I'm planning to study Biomedical Engineering next year, and I'm particularly passionate about developing medical devices that can help people with disabilities."

### **Show your appreciation**

This is the heart of your letter – where you express your gratitude. Make sure to name the specific scholarship and explain why receiving it means so much to you.

**Example:** "I am writing to express my sincere thanks for selecting me as a recipient of the Artistic Excellence Scholarship. This support means so much to me and will help make my dream of becoming a visual artist a reality."

### **Tell them how it will help**

Donors want to know their support makes a real difference. Explain specifically how the scholarship will impact your education, whether it's covering textbooks, accommodation costs, or allowing you to focus more on your studies instead of working part-time.

**Example:** "This scholarship will cover my first-year accommodation costs, allowing me to live on campus. Being able to live at university means I can fully participate in study groups and access the library late at night, which will be especially important during exam periods. Without this support, I would have needed to spend over two hours commuting each day."

### **Share your plans**

This section helps donors understand the long-term impact of their support. Talk about your goals and how this scholarship is helping you work toward them.

**Example:** "After completing my degree, I plan to work in rural healthcare, specifically focusing on bringing medical services to remote communities. The experience and knowledge I'll gain through this degree will be crucial in helping me achieve my goals and making a real difference to people in rural areas."

### **Wrap it up**

End your letter professionally with another thank you and a formal sign-off. This is your last chance to leave a good impression, so don't waste it!

**Example:** "Thank you once again for your generous support. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and am committed to making the most of it. Sincerely, Jayden Thompson."

### **Extra tips for success**

Writing a thank you letter doesn't have to be complicated, but there are some important things to keep in mind:

- Keep it to one page
- Check your spelling and grammar – then check it again

- Be genuine – donors can tell when you’re just copying a template (including this one!)
- Write it within a week of receiving the scholarship (or whatever time frame is specified)
- Keep a copy for yourself to refer back to

### **Common mistakes to avoid**

Even the best writers can make mistakes, so watch out for these common pitfalls:

- Being too casual (e.g. “Hey there!” or using slang)
- Writing a generic letter that could apply to any scholarship
- Making it too long
- Forgetting to proofread
- Not following any specific instructions provided by your institution

### **Find out more**

Remember, a well-written scholarship thank you letter isn’t just about being polite – it’s about showing donors that their support really matters and is going to someone who appreciates it. So take your time, be genuine, and let your personality shine through. You can [explore more future study options and pathways on our website](#). Or if you’re ready to apply, you might like to [search our Scholarship Database for opportunities](#).

## **[How to use the school holidays for skill building](#)**

School holidays are the perfect time to relax and recharge, but they’re also a great opportunity to build new skills that could help you in the future. Whether you’re thinking about university applications, preparing for work, or just want to try something new, here’s how you can make the most of your break without overwhelming yourself.

### **Why use your holidays for skill building?**

While it might seem tempting to spend your entire break watching Netflix or gaming (and there’s definitely a place for that!), setting aside some time for skill development can:

- Give you something interesting to add to your resume
- Help you figure out what you enjoy doing
- Build confidence in your abilities
- Make you more prepared for life after school
- Give structure to your holidays

### **Skills worth building over the holidays**

Not sure what skills to focus on? Here are some valuable options that could serve you well in the future:

#### **Digital skills**

We say it all the time, but tech skills really are more important than ever. Consider building some of these skills:



- Learn basic coding, which can be done through free platforms like [Codecademy](#). Even if you don't want to be a programmer, understanding how code works can help you in many future careers.
- Become familiar with common software like [Microsoft Office](#) or [Google Workspace](#). These are essential tools in most workplaces, and knowing how to use them early can give you an edge when applying for jobs.
- Take an online course in digital marketing or social media management. Lots of businesses have an online presence, so these skills are becoming more valuable.
- Learn about cybersecurity basics. Understanding how to protect yourself and others online, whether at work or at home, is really important.

### **Life skills**

No matter who you are or where your future might lead, these practical skills will always come in handy:

- Basic [budgeting and money management](#). Start by tracking your spending for a week, or learn how to create a simple budget using a spreadsheet.
- Cooking and meal planning – begin with simple recipes and gradually work your way up to more complex dishes. Trust us, you'll be thankful that you don't have to eat instant noodles every night!
- Time management is always important. Practice creating schedules and to-do lists, and experiment with different productivity techniques like the [Pomodoro method](#).
- Basic car maintenance. Learn how to change a tire, check oil levels, or jump-start a car. These skills can save you money (and stress) in the future
- First aid certification – many organisations offer holiday courses, and this looks great on your resume while potentially helping you save lives.

### **Creative skills**

If these technical and practical skills don't excite you, you might like to look into more creative skills instead, such as:

- Photography or video editing. You can start with your phone using free editing apps, then progress to more advanced equipment if you enjoy it.
- Graphic design – learn the basics of color theory and composition using free tools like [Canva](#) or [GIMP](#).
- Creative writing might be up your alley. Start a blog, write short stories, or try your hand at poetry. This will improve your communication skills while also letting you express yourself.
- Music production – jump on YouTube and follow a tutorial to learn a new instrument, or explore free software like [Audacity](#) or [GarageBand](#) to create your own tracks.
- Drawing, either traditional or digital – start with basic sketching techniques and branch out into different styles and mediums until you find one you like.

### **How to get started**

Now that you have a skill to aim for, all you need to do is start! But how? Here's some advice to help you make the most of your holiday time.

### **Set realistic goals**

Remember, you're on holiday – you don't need to become a master in the short time you have. Instead, pick one or two skills to focus on and set achievable goals. For example, instead of “become a professional photographer,” aim for “learn three new camera techniques.”

### **Create a flexible schedule**

Balance is key during your break. Try dedicating specific times of your day or week to skill building while leaving plenty of time for relaxation and fun. Even just 30 minutes a day can make a difference.

### **Find free resources**

You don't need to spend money to learn new skills. Take advantage of:

- [YouTube](#) tutorials – there are countless channels dedicated to teaching everything from coding to cooking.
- Free online courses – platforms like [Coursera](#) and [edX](#) offer free access to university-level content.
- Local library resources – many libraries now offer online courses and digital resources in addition to books.
- Community workshops – check your local council or community center for free holiday programs.
- School holiday programs – many organisations run free or low-cost workshops specifically for students.

### **Make it fun**

Learning new skills doesn't have to feel like work, especially not when you're meant to be enjoying some time off. Try:

- Learning with friends – create a study group or skill-sharing circle where everyone teaches something they're good at.
- Setting up friendly competitions – challenge each other to keep learning or create projects.
- Rewarding yourself for reaching milestones – set up a reward system for when you reach a milestone.
- Sharing your progress on social media – document your journey and connect with others learning similar skills.
- Teaching others what you've learned – explaining concepts to others helps reinforce your own learning.

### **Keep track of your progress**

Consider keeping a journal or digital portfolio of your skill-building journey. This can help you:

- See how far you've come
- Stay motivated when things get challenging
- Have something concrete to show future employers or educational institutions
- Identify areas where you might need more practice
- Feel proud of your achievements

## Final thoughts

Whether you're building your resume, preparing for further study, or just want to try something new, building skills during the school holidays can be both fun and rewarding. Just don't forget to leave plenty of time for rest and relaxation too!

Want to explore more ways to prepare for your future? [Check out our other blogs about building skills and planning for life after school.](#)

# Study & Other Opportunities:

## University rankings: What they mean and their value

You may have heard that the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#) have been recently updated for 2025, comparing over 2,000 universities worldwide across five key areas. Perhaps unsurprisingly, some familiar names crop up at the top of the list. But what exactly do these rankings mean, and how seriously should they be taken by prospective students? Let's take a look.

### How the universities are ranked

Before we take a look at the top ranked institutions, we first need to know how the ranks are decided. *THE* base their rankings on these five criteria:

- Teaching
- Research environment
- Research quality
- Industry engagement
- International outlook

Each of these criteria contributes a different amount to a university's overall ranking – we'll look at this in a little more detail later.

### The best universities?

*THE* ranked these universities as the top five in the world:

- University of Oxford
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Princeton University
- University of Cambridge

But things start to get interesting when you dive into the full scores. Oxford's place at the top is largely bolstered by the fact that it's ranked 1st for research environment. On the other hand, it was ranked 5th for teaching and 20th for international outlook.

So what does this tell us?

### What actually matters to students

What these lists seem to say is that things like research quality and performance should matter more to students than how satisfied they are with their experience, or whether or not the university can support them in finding work once they graduate.

Which in reality, seems kind of backwards. A student in high school probably isn't going to be involved with a university's research department for a few years – if ever, as most students only complete degrees by coursework. In 2023, [just under 220,000 Australian students graduated with an undergraduate degree](#), compared to around 11,000 graduating with a postgraduate research degree.

When sorting the rankings by industry, the list completely changes, with these five universities rated best:

- California Institute of Technology (7th overall)
- Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (=93rd overall)
- City University of Hong Kong (=80th overall)
- Delft University of Technology (=56th overall)
- Duke University (23rd overall)

Even when sorted by teaching quality, only 4 of the top 5 overall ranked universities make the list:

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2nd overall)
- Princeton University (4th overall)
- Stanford University (6th overall)
- Harvard University (3rd overall)
- University of Oxford (1st overall)

*THE* also has a separate [University Impact Rankings](#), which “identifies and celebrates universities that excel across multiple [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)“. Here are the top 5 universities on that list:

- Western Sydney University (301–350th overall)
- University of Manchester (=53rd overall)
- University of Tasmania (251–300th overall)
- Aalborg University (251–300th overall)
- RMIT University (251–300th overall)

So why do the rankings change so much? It's because they place more importance on research than any other factor.

### **Weighing up the rankings**

As we mentioned earlier, each of the five criteria used by *THE* is weighted differently. This means they contribute different amounts to the university's overall rank. Here's how much each criteria is worth:

- Research quality (30%)
- Teaching (29.5%)
- Research environment (29%)
- International outlook (7.5%)
- Industry (3%)

This means that **nearly 60%** of a university's overall ranking is based on their research alone.

Of course, a university's research output is incredibly important – it “[informs public debate, improves our health and wellbeing, and helps solve our most complex problems](#)“. The problem is tying research output so closely to a university's overall reputation.

Is research valuable, and should universities strive to produce quality research? Absolutely, yes. Is it a factor your average student should consider highly when choosing where to study? Probably not.

## Using rankings wisely

When a student is looking at this list – and certainly when other news outlets report on the results – it’s common for them to take the overall rankings as pure fact. This can lead to the perpetuation of biases about certain universities ([Kaidesoja, 2022](#)), and at worst, deepen educational inequalities ([Amsler, 2014](#)).

Put simply, once a university is deemed “best” or “worst”, rankings like this tend to only push that bias even further.

How students and teachers should come down to their own individual situations. And this can encompass a huge variety of factors: where you live, your background, what you want to study (and why), your goals beyond university, etc.

One important thing to note is that these rankings don’t take into account student satisfaction and equity at all. And there is still further to go; lots of other factors that can impact student satisfaction and success are still too difficult to measure and compare, according to [Professor Stephen Parker](#):

“Arguably a sixth dimension would be the staff one: what is it like to work there? No systematic and national data yet exists to provide a counterpart to the public data on student perspectives.

Possibly a seventh would be university engagement with communities, but again there is no available way to compare and contrast our universities validly on this dimension.

A still more elusive metric would be ‘value for money’.”

## Finding the right university

When it comes to study, there should be many different versions of “good”. What’s good for one student might not be good for another – and that’s OK.

You shouldn’t consider any of the universities on the list “bad”, no matter where they are ranked. Where a university excels in one area, it might falter in another. It’s about taking into account your own needs and preferences and weighing them up with what a university offers. Rather than looking up a ranking, we suggest you ask these questions to help you find the right university for you:

- What do I want to study, and where is it offered?
- Do I need to move away to study, and how far am I willing to go?
- What do other students say about their experience?
- What can I do with my qualification once I graduate?
- Does the university have support services I can access (study, social, health, and career)?
- What are the university’s policies around flexibility, online study, etc.?
- At the end of the day, what do I feel is the right choice for me?

And if you want to find out more, [you can read lots of other blogs about university and study on our website](#).

## [Apprenticeship and traineeship FAQs](#)

When thinking of your future career options, there’s usually more than one path to get you there. Apprenticeships and traineeships are a great option to consider, allowing you to not only gain valuable skills but also earn some money too. In this blog, we’ll explain some apprenticeship and traineeship basics and answer some frequently asked questions (FAQs).

## **What are apprenticeships and traineeships?**

Apprenticeships and traineeships are hands-on training programs that allow you to learn and earn at the same time. They're like a bridge between the classroom and the workplace. During an apprenticeship or traineeship, you'll work under the guidance of experienced professionals in your chosen field while also studying towards a nationally recognised qualification.

## **Benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships**

There are lots of benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships, including:

- **Practical experience:** Gain real-world skills that employers value.
- **Earn while you learn:** Receive a wage while you train, helping you become financially independent.
- **Industry connections:** Build a network of professionals who can support your career growth.
- **Nationally recognised qualifications:** You'll receive a qualification that you can use anywhere.
- **Clear career pathway:** Set yourself up for a successful and fulfilling career in your chosen field.

## **Types of apprenticeships and traineeships**

There are various types of apprenticeships and traineeships, catering to a wide range of interests and industries. Some popular categories include:

- Traditional trades (e.g., plumbing, carpentry, electrician)
- Healthcare and allied health (e.g., nursing, dental assisting, pathology)
- Business and administration (e.g., customer service, office administration)
- Information technology (e.g., software development, IT support)
- Hospitality and tourism (e.g., cookery, hotel management)

## **Apprenticeship and traineeship FAQs**

If you're interested in starting an apprenticeship or traineeship and want to know more, here are some answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) students often have.

### **Can I do an apprenticeship or traineeship straight out of high school?**

Yes. There are lots of apprenticeships and traineeships programs designed for high school graduates. In some cases, you can even start while you're still in school.

### **How long does an apprenticeship or traineeship typically last?**

The duration varies depending on the industry and qualification. They can range from anywhere between six months to four years. Apprenticeships are typically longer in duration than traineeships.

### **What is the difference between an apprenticeship and a traineeship?**

While both involve on-the-job training, apprenticeships typically focus on traditional trades and technical skills, whereas traineeships cover a broader range of industries and professions. [You can read more about the difference in our blog here.](#)

### **How do I find an apprenticeship or traineeship opportunity?**

There are several avenues to explore. You can start by checking job boards, company websites, and government apprenticeship portals. Additionally, career fairs and networking events can be great opportunities to connect with potential employers.

### **Do I need any qualifications to start an apprenticeship or traineeship?**

It depends. Some programs may require certain subjects or certifications from high school, while others may have additional prerequisites. It's always a good idea to check the specific entry requirements for the program you're interested in.

### **Can I switch industries or roles during my apprenticeship or traineeship?**

While it's generally possible to transition within the same industry, switching to a completely different field might require additional training or qualifications. It's important to communicate with your employer and training provider if you're considering a change.

### **What is the pay like for apprenticeships and traineeships?**

The pay for apprenticeships and traineeships varies depending on factors such as the industry, location, and level of qualification. It's important to research and compare wage rates within your chosen field to have a clear understanding of what to expect.

### **Are there opportunities for further education after completing an apprenticeship or traineeship?**

Absolutely! Many apprenticeships and traineeships offer pathways for further education and career advancement. You may have the opportunity to pursue higher-level qualifications or specialised certifications to enhance your skills and move up the career ladder.

### **Find out more**

Embarking on an apprenticeship or traineeship can be a game-changer for your future. It's an opportunity to learn, grow, and set yourself up for success in your chosen field.

To explore more about apprenticeships and traineeships, [head over to our website here](#).



### **Gallipoli Scholarship**

*Valued at \$6,000, the Gallipoli Scholarship is open to the direct descendants of any service man*

*or woman who has served in the Australian or New Zealand Defence Force in a conflict or peacekeeping operation, since the First World War to the present day.*

The Scholarship selection process is based 60% on necessitous circumstances, and 40% on academic merit.

### **Applications open on 1 January and close on 28 February each year.**

All applicants are notified of their selection, or otherwise, by the end of March each year.

Applications are submitted online via the website and require a number of documents to support the application.



Find out more at [Gallipoli Scholarship](#).



### **Doxa Cadetship Program**

*Our Cadetship program supports talented young people facing challenging life circumstances to complete university and gain the skills needed for an employable future.*

*The Cadetship program is open to Year 12 students transitioning to university and is a three to five-year program, dependent on the length of the degree and the sponsorship model.*

The Cadetship program is open to young people facing challenging life circumstances who have finished high school and are about to go to university. This may include, but is not restricted to:

- Experiencing financial hardship,
- Having an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage,
- Coming from a newly arrived migrant or refugee background,
- Having faced stressful life events,
- Coming from a rural or remote area and
- Being the first in their family to have the opportunity to study at university and pursue a professional career.

The cadetship programme provides young people with:

- Practical and personal support during their university course,
- The opportunity to connect with peers and industry professionals through work placement and social events and
- Personal development and training opportunities to enhance their employability.

For more information visit [Cadetship - Doxa Youth Foundation](#).



### **2025 VCE Summer School Programs**

#### **➤ Access Education Summer School**

Extensive, live, interactive and **ONLINE** 2-hour VCE preparation lectures.

**Dates:** Monday 20 January to Friday 24 January 2025

Visit [Summer School Bundle 2025](#) to find out more or to download a brochure for the 2025 program.

➤ **The School for Excellence Summer School**

Face-to-face, in person Head Start lectures. The dates and venue for 2025 have not yet been published but will soon be available at [TSFX Summer School](#).



**STEM Hub**

[Stem Hub](#) a digital platform connecting students and industry. This hub is open to all university students and graduates from any universities who have studies *science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics*. Students who sign up get access to leading industries and potential future employers.

Current senior students planning to study in one of these fields are encouraged to browse this link and flag this platform as a valuable resource once at university.