It’s never too early to start considering your future career directions. Making decisions about what you would like to study after school can be both stressful and exciting. Many students often feel lost about what they would like to study and many feel like they don’t know where to start!

There are so many things to consider—
- Complete Year 12 or leave early?
- TAFE or university?
- Have a gap year or go straight into further study?
- Can I afford to move away if I can’t study locally?

For students and their families who haven’t been to a university or TAFE information session, there are even more questions—
- Where can I study the course I am interested in?
- How do I choose between several courses across several institutions?
- How much will my course cost?
- How do I find out about scholarships?
- What if I don’t get the ATAR I need?
- What is university and TAFE actually like?

These decisions can be difficult to make, and then you have the added pressure of focusing on your studies and other commitments like sport and employment.

Not only can it be tough for students, but also for parents!
- Where do we access information?
- How do we best support our child?
- How can we afford the costs associated with further study?
- Will Youth Allowance and HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP, VET FEE-HELP be available?

Apart from meeting with your career adviser early in the year, it is a great idea to attend information sessions run by tertiary institutions. Many run focus days and information seminars throughout the year, and all run Open Days in August.

By attending information sessions— you and your family will be able to do the following:
- Speak directly to current students and lecturers and hear from them about the courses you are interested in
- Look around the campus and get a feel for the culture of the institution (i.e., does it have a modern or traditional feel? Do you think it would be easy to meet people? Would you prefer to study at a small or a large campus?)
- Learn about scholarships, course costs, government fee assistance, global exchange and accommodation options
- Ask about alternative pathway programs available as a back up in case you don’t get the ATAR you need for your course
- Attend workshops and sessions on the courses you are interested in and compare facilities and students services between institutions.

Attending information sessions will assist you in setting new career goals or firming up ideas you already have. Having a course or courses in mind can also assist you in feeling more motivated to work hard at school.
Information sessions are usually free and you may have to register. Start to map out session dates on a calendar and pick the ones you will be able to attend. Here are some tertiary information programs to get you started:

**University of Melbourne- ‘Meet Melbourne’:** Sessions will be held in various locations across Victoria between March and August. To find out when the closest Meet Melbourne seminar is being run and to register, [http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/](http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/)

**University of Melbourne- ‘A Day at Melbourne’:** The first session will be held Friday 11 April at the Parkville Campus for students in Years 10 – 12 and their families. For more information, [http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/](http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/events/victoria_and_interstate/victoria/)

**Charles Sturt University- ‘MyDay’ CSU:** The events will showcase over 40 courses. February events include oral health and radiography, and exercise science. For more information and to register, [http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday](http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday)

**La Trobe University- ‘Experience La Trobe’:** will be held Friday 11 April during the school holidays. You can participate in hands on workshops in three areas of interest. For more information, [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events)

**RMIT- ‘Get Real Experience’ School Holiday Programs:** These hands on workshops cover a wide range of course areas and are for students in Years 10–12. The sessions run during school holidays. To find out what workshops are running and when, [http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays](http://www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays)

**Monash University- ‘At Monash Seminar Series’:** showcases different faculties within the University. The seminars run over several months and students have to book in advance. You will be able to attend seminars in areas such as engineering, arts, sport, education, health, design etc. For dates, [www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/](http://www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/)

**Deakin University- ‘Discover Deakin’:** Events run at different campuses during school holidays. Dates for 2014 have not been released yet. More information will be released in a future newsletter, or you can request to be emailed information [http://www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/campus-tours/discover.php](http://www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/campus-tours/discover.php)

**Changes to Physiotherapy selection criteria at Monash University:** The UMAT for domestic students and ISAT (for international students) will no longer be required for the Bachelor of Physiotherapy for entry in 2015 and beyond. An interview will still be required. For more information, go to [www.med.monash.edu/physio/index.html](http://www.med.monash.edu/physio/index.html)

**Short Courses in Arts at RMIT:** RMIT offers an array of short and single courses taught by experienced lecturers and established artists. Courses include photography, drawing, lithography, sculpture, jewellery, casting, and molding etc. RMIT also offer folio preparation courses for VCE students. For more information, go to [www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/page/high_school_students](http://www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/page/high_school_students)

**Victorian Skills Gateway:** This site is for students and their parents who are interested in apprenticeships, traineeships and vocational study in Victoria. For information, go to [www.education.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway)

**Pre Apprenticeships:** If you are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship pathway and are unsure about continuing on at school this year, you may want to enroll in a pre apprenticeship. Contact your local TAFE institution to ask about the programs they have available. You can undertake pre apprenticeships in areas such as bricklaying, building, plumbing, electrical, automotive, community services, beauty etc.

**What is studying at Deakin University like?** The faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment have just released a series of YouTube clips from the student perspective of what it is like to study courses just such as science, engineering, IT, environment, architecture etc. To access the clips, go to [http://www.youtube.com/user/deakinuniversity](http://www.youtube.com/user/deakinuniversity)
MONASH UNIVERSITY - WEBSITE JUST FOR PARENTS:
Monash has a dedicated site for parents who would like to help their children in the transition from school to university. This website helps to provide a good idea of what students are going through, from choosing the right course to adjusting to university life.
www.monash.edu/study/options/parents

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERESTED IN ENGINEERING? The Engineers Australia Careers Expo will be held Wednesday 26 March, 12pm – 5pm at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. You will be able to participate in interactive workshops, talk to over 70 exhibitors from engineering, science and technological industries and attend inspirational engineering presentations. For more information, go to www.engineeringexpo.org.au

CONSIDERED PURSUITING A CAREER AS A VETERINARIAN? The University of Melbourne are hosting their annual Veterinary Science Open Day on Sunday 16 March at University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee, Victoria. You will be able to
- Encounter all kinds of exciting animals
- Go behind the scenes of a world class Veterinary Hospital
- Attend public lectures, interactive displays and demonstrations
- Talk to veterinarians at the forefront of science
- Discover how to become a veterinarian

The day provides prospective students and their families the opportunity to learn about pathways into the Doctor of Veterinary Science program. Register your attendance at www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday/

FEBRUARY EVENTS


CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY MYDAY EVENTS

- 28: Oral Health & Radiography, Wagga Wagga
- 28: Exercise & Sports Sciences, Bathurst

For more information and to register, go to http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday

MARCH EVENTS

- 26: Engineers Australia Careers Expo, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, www.engineeringexpo.org.au

AT MONASH SEMINAR SERIES: Dates for March are as follows
- 4: Business & Economics
- 6: Nursing, Midwifery & Emergency Health
- 12: Business & Economics
- 13: Science
- 18: Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy
- 19: Information Technology
- 20: Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
- 25: Arts (Social Sciences and Humanities)
- 26: Design & Fine Art
- 27: Teaching, Sport & Outdoor Recreation

For more information and to register, go to www.monash.edu/seminars

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY MYDAY EVENTS

- 14: Accounting, Business & IT, Albury-Wodonga
- 18: Nursing & Paramedics, Bathurst
- 21: Arts, Psychology & Social Work, Wagga Wagga

For more information and to register, go to http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday