



Weekly Careers News for WA

Weekly Careers News

For Western Australia

Monday 25 March, 2024

What's On

Upcoming Events

UniMelb 101: A webinar for Western Australia students

March 27, 2024

Always wondered what it's like to study at the University of Melbourne? Excited to live and learn in Australia's cultural capital?

If you're from Western Australia, this is your chance to learn what life is like at UniMelb and how to navigate the move from interstate. In this specially designed information session we'll cover:

- How our Melbourne curriculum supports you to explore your passions, follow your curiosity and find your path through our wide range of majors and breadth subjects
- Our Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) Access Melbourne which takes into consideration your personal circumstances in your application – you may even be eligible for guaranteed entry
- The new Narm Scholarship Program for eligible Access Melbourne recipients which offers a relocation allowance and tailored enrichment program to help you with the cost of moving and to build your connections and make the most of your time at Melbourne
- Our University Accommodation options and student life initiatives to support you in making Melbourne your new home and feeling welcomed by our community
- How you can take advantage of opportunities in and out of the classroom, such as concurrent diplomas, work-integrated learning and internships, exchange programs, and peer mentoring.

You'll also hear from some of our current students who have made the move from Western Australia, and be able to ask them questions about their experience.

[Find out more](#)

CPSN OASIS Young Leaders Program 2024

April 2 to April 12, 2024

Cerebral Palsy Support Network (CPSN) is running a Young Leaders program as part of its 'OASIS' youth program. It is a free online program for young people with cerebral palsy (CP) aged between 14 and 21 (inclusive). It was originally made by the Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS).

These workshops develop your advocacy, communication, teamwork, project and leadership skills. The workshop series will take place online via Zoom video calls.

Applications are open until 10am Thursday March 29 2024.

[Find out more](#)

Murdoch | Year 11 & 12 Exploration Day

April 3, 2024

Not sure if University is for you? Join us to explore all Murdoch has to offer.

Immerse yourself on our campus and meet our friendly staff and current students, while taking part in interactive workshops specific to your area of interest and explore our unique facilities!

[Find out more](#)

Notre Dame | Bachelor of Biomedical Science and Doctor of Medicine – Assured Pathway Webinar

April 3, 2024

Do you aspire to be a doctor? Join our School of Medicine to learn everything you need to know about our Assured Pathway to Medicine. The session is designed for year 11 and year 12 students from all around the world.

[Find out more](#)

NIE | Simulated UCAT Day Workshop, Online

April 6, 2024

If you are in Years 10, 11, 12, or you may be older and considering sitting the UCAT in the future, then this program is for you. The Simulated UCAT Workshop program is ideal and often a necessary step towards effective and efficient preparation for the UCAT. The workshop is primarily designed to cover fundamental techniques in navigating all five sections of the UCAT test and also for participants to gain a better understanding of their own level of preparedness for the test.

[Find out more](#)

Important Future Events

NYSF STEM Hub, Perth

April 8 to April 12, 2024

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) STEM Hubs are designed to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to encourage continued studies in these fields.

A STEM Hub is a non-residential STEM experience where you can connect with STEM pathways and careers around Australia. You'll join exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences typically inaccessible to the public and connect with STEM professionals—a crucial networking opportunity for your future.

Whether you're passionate about robotics, biomedicine, astronomy, biology, or anything in between, there's a STEM Hub waiting to show you what a STEM career is really like!

If you are a current Year 12 student in Australia with an interest in STEM, we welcome you to the NYSF STEM Hubs!

[Find out more](#)

ECU | Open Days 2024

April 14 to April 28, 2024

At our 2024 Open Days you'll get advice on courses and careers, can watch exhibitions and tour a campus, be fed by food trucks, enjoy entertainment and maybe win a great prize! It's a day you don't want to miss.

- Joondalup Campus: 14 April
- South West Campus: 21 April
- Mount Lawley Campus: 28 April

[Find out more](#)

UN Youth | WA State Conference 2024

April 19 to April 21, 2024

UN Youth WA State Conference is a three-day event for passionate young people to gather from all across Western Australia!

Engage with the most important issues facing our global community and develop a greater understanding of the role you can play in shaping our global future.

Join us for a weekend of leadership, diplomacy, and advocacy!

[Find out more](#)

Perth Careers Expo 2024

May 16 to May 19, 2024

The only careers event in WA that brings together over 120 organisations. It attracts local and national universities, various vocational and professional training providers, industry associations and employers. This event is for students, graduates and job seekers. It's perfect for anyone pondering their future, seeking personal development and training opportunities.

[Find out more](#)

YES (Young Entrepreneur Summit) Perth

June 19, 2024

Led by young leaders, for young leaders, YES (Young Entrepreneur Summit) is Australia's Premier Youth Leadership Day. It's a one-day, interactive summit designed to inspire and empower a generation of brave, creative and entrepreneurial young leaders.

YES is a super high energy, action-packed event for Primary School and Secondary School students that features keynote presentations, panel discussions and interactive group workshops on a whole range of 'adulting skills' such as leadership, public speaking, financial literacy, ideation, collaboration and team work.

[Find out more](#)

Free Money

Scholarships

NIDA Open First Nations Subsidy

Opens: January 1, 2024

Closes: December 20, 2024

The NIDA Open First Nations Subsidy offers subsidised tuition to help young First Nations people who are experiencing financial or other disadvantage to achieve their full creative potential.

[Find out more](#)

Youth Off the Streets National Scholarship Program

Opens: March 1, 2024

Closes: May 17, 2024

The National Scholarship Program celebrates the talents of young people who show extraordinary promise and would benefit from additional support to reach their full potential.

[Find out more](#)

Study

Subject Selection

[7 tips to help with subject selection](#)

Year 10 is an exciting time, but with it comes some big decisions. If you're staying on to complete your high school certificate, you'll have the freedom to choose which subjects to study in Years 11 and 12. And while the idea of finally only doing your favourite subjects is great, the pressure can also feel huge. First, take a breath – it's OK if you don't know what career you want yet. You still have plenty of time to decide and plan for your post-school options and pathways. But if you're looking for a bit of extra advice, we've put together some tips to help you with your Year 10 subject selection. Let's dive in.

Before we start

Remember, you're not alone in this. Your teachers and careers advisors can guide you through the process and give you great advice. You might also like to speak to your parents, siblings, or friends and hear their thoughts. Just don't forget that the decision is ultimately yours.

Our top tips to help with subject selection

Ready to take the plunge? Here are some of our top tips to help you get the most out of your subject selection and senior years at high school.

Build solid foundations

What do we mean by this? Well, no matter what you do after high school, there are some [fundamental skills](#) you're going to need, like communication, adaptability, resilience, critical thinking, and problem-solving (just to name a few).

Choosing a variety of subjects will broaden your exposure to different points of view and ways of thinking – and this can ensure you'll have better developed skills across the board when you graduate.

English is important

If you'd like to be a teacher, writer, or journalist, you probably already know you'll need to build strong language and communication skills. But in reality, the skills and knowledge you learn through English are vital no matter what you want to do in the future.

Your ability to communicate can impact on every part of your life. Every single job requires some sort of communication, whether it's face-to-face, over the phone, or written in an application, email, or letter. So the better your grasp of the English language, the easier your path to success could be.

So is maths

There's a thought that goes through every student's head at some point when they're in maths class: *when on Earth am I ever going to need to use this once I leave school?*

Sure, science and finance jobs are clearly going to require maths, but the reality is, strong numeracy will benefit you in almost any career. Cashiers need to be able to calculate change amounts in their head on the fly; artists need to know exact amount of pigments to mix to get just the right colour; athletes need to keep meticulous track of their performance stats and metrics.

Maths also helps you develop logical reasoning, analytical, and interpretive skills. Whether you realise it or not, we use maths in lots of different ways in our everyday lives, from cooking to saving for holidays.

Create opportunities

If you love science and you only choose science-related courses in Year 11 and 12, you might be narrowing down your options for courses you can take at university. Which isn't necessarily a bad thing...unless you have a change of heart about your career prospects. Choosing a broad range of subjects gives you more options to pursue at the end of school.

Scared you'll miss out on taking a prerequisite subject? It's not the end of the world. Most universities offer [bridging courses](#) to help cover that essential knowledge if you didn't cover it in high school.

Find out what you're capable of

Sometimes students pick subjects because they think they're "easy" – whether that's because they have the least number of exams and assignments, require less thinking, or it might boost their ATAR. But there are some compelling reasons not to do this:

- For a start, there's **no guarantee** that you'll actually get a better ATAR. Subjects are generally [scaled](#) based on their difficulty or competitiveness, so, for example, an A in visual arts might not necessarily be "better" than a B in chemistry.
- You'll be limiting yourself, both in the courses you'll be eligible to apply for after high school and in what you think you're capable of achieving.
- You won't develop those useful skills we mentioned earlier if you always take the easiest route, like problem-solving, critical thinking, and resilience.
- If you're not challenging yourself, you'll be bored and your motivation levels will be low – so ultimately, you might even end up achieving less.

Do what you love

We know we just spent the last few points talking about how important skill building and challenge are, but it's also just as important that you enjoy school. So pursue your hobbies – who's to say you won't go on to have a career in those areas? And even if you don't, we all need a good balance of work and fun in our lives.

Take subject selection seriously, but don't discount art, music, or sport because you think you should be doing something that others might consider "more valuable".

Keep an open mind

For most of us it's hard to predict what we'll be doing in 12 months, let alone 5 or 10 years from now. So if you try new things, apply yourself, and keep an open mind, you could be rewarded with more choice and greater opportunities down the track.

Most importantly, don't forget that there will always be different pathways to get where you want to be. By broadening your horizons now, you never know what you might discover along the way. You might find a passion for a subject you'd never even considered before.

Need more help with subject selection?

Keep an eye out for our updated Subject Selection Guide, coming very soon. It's packed with tips and information to help you go over all your options and link your subject selections to your interests and future pathways.

In the meantime, you might like to browse other resources on study on our website [here](#).

University

[Early entry – Quick facts](#)

If you're in Year 12 this year, you've probably already started thinking about university. But you don't need to wait until the end of the year – you can secure your place at university before you sit your end of year exams. Read on to learn some interesting facts about early entry.

What is early entry?

Early entry gives you the chance to receive an offer to university before you've finished your exams. This can give you peace of mind and help you be more relaxed during what can be a stressful time.

One important thing to note is that most early offers are conditional – this means you need to meet one or more 'conditions' before your offer becomes final. Common conditions include things like completing Year 12, achieving a minimum ATAR, or completing prerequisite subjects.

How do I apply for early entry?

Most universities manage their own early entry programs, so you'll be applying directly instead of through a Tertiary Admission Centre (though some of them have early entry programs too). Unfortunately, this means they all have different application processes and dates.

But don't worry. Each year, we compile a guide with key information on every early entry program available in Australia, making it easy to find the information you need. We're still working on this year's edition, but keep an eye out for it soon.

Quick facts about early entry

Curious to learn more? We've put together some interesting facts about early entry over the last year, and what you might be able to expect this year.

Download as a PDF [here](#).

Want to find out more?

Have more questions? We've provided the answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about early entry – you can read them [here](#).

Or you can read heaps of other blogs on early entry, university pathways, and more about study on our website [here](#).

Work

Job Spotlight

[How to become an Engineer](#)

Engineers are professionals who invent, design, analyse, build, and test machines, systems, structures, data systems, and materials to fulfil a variety of objectives. You could be finding solutions to problems, developing new products, or building and fixing things.

If you are great at seeing the bigger picture, curious, and love the challenges of solving problems, then this could be the field for you.

What skills do I need as an engineer?

- Strong maths skills
- Good communicator
- Inquisitive & practical
- Analytical & methodical
- Creative thinker
- Can prioritise & manage time
- Adaptable & flexible
- Great team worker

What tasks can I expect to do?

- Meet with clients
- Prepare proposals
- Work on designs
- Prepare estimates & budgets
- Experiment & write reports
- Present detailed instructions
- Oversee & direct workers on site
- Meet deadlines & deliver solutions

What industries do engineers typically work in?

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

- Manufacturing

What kind of lifestyle can I expect?

Most engineers work full-time. Your job might require you to travel or work overtime or outside of normal business hours. There are also opportunities for remote work.

There are lots of different areas you could specialise in, including civil, mechanical, chemical, medical, electrical, biological, geospatial, telecommunications, maritime, industrial, and more.

Most engineers earn an above average wage. They're typically found in the [Innovator Cluster](#).

How to become an engineer

You must typically earn a bachelor's degree in engineering or a related field, complete relevant work experience, and pass other additional testing and licensing requirements. Additionally, many engineers pursue a master's degree or other advanced training to specialise in a particular area.

Ongoing professional development and continuing education are also important for staying up-to-date with the latest advancements in the industry.

If you're in high school now and are thinking of this career in the future, here are some steps you could take:

- Consider taking workshops or short courses for coding or other important skills, or volunteer or try to get work experience within the industry.
- Research different disciplines, narrow down your area of interest, and take subjects at school that will get you into your preferred degree.
- Engage your problem-solving skills and find a solution for a problem around your home, school, or community.

Find out more here:

- [Engineers Australia](#)
- [Te Ao Rangahau | Engineering New Zealand](#)
- [Engineering Council UK](#)
- [Engineers Ireland](#)
- [National Society of Professional Engineers](#) (US)
- [Engineers Canada | Ingénieurs Canada](#)
- [The Institution of Engineers Singapore](#)

Similar careers and industries

If you're interested in technology or mechanical systems, there are lots of other job areas you might like to consider as well, such as:

- Robotics
- Transport
- Construction
- Architecture
- Aerospace
- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Automotive

Find out more about alternative [careers](#).

Jobs & Careers

11 jobs beyond the familiar

It's always interesting to learn about careers you've never thought about, and if you don't know they exist or what they're even called, you might miss out on the perfect job. Here are 11 jobs that might be a bit beyond what you're familiar with – could they be worth exploring in more depth? Let's take a look.

Stevedore

Stevedores are the people responsible for the loading and unloading of cargo on ships at ports and rivers. They're essential to maintain port productivity and play an important role keeping the international supply chain going. It can be hard work, but these days you'll also get to work with heaps of cool machinery to help you get the job done.

Urban bat tracker

Bats aren't exactly the most popular animals (especially in the last few years), but their populations are a good indicator of environmental health. So when they've been displaced from their natural habitats and end up in cities, there's a lot of information these species can provide. Usually with a background in biology, urban bat trackers map bat flight paths and behaviour, and contribute to research that's vital for urban ecosystem conservation.

Wigologist

Not just masters of making wigs, wigologists are specialists in the care and maintenance of all kinds of wigs. They carry out repairs, cleaning, colouring, and even creating new designs and styles using different techniques and materials. You might find yourself working on TV and film sets, as a costume maker for a theatre company, or even providing services through a hair salon.

Picture hanging specialist

These professionals spend their days hanging pictures, paintings, and other art objects in museums, galleries, hotels, corporate offices, and other venues. The work of these trained art handlers is very important when it comes to professional artwork installation, and their services are often in-demand. They might even work with architects and interior designers to complete smaller custom projects.

Hand pollinator and harvester

Certain types of plants (saffron, vanilla, or orchids, for example) have a small window of time for pollination and harvesting – sometimes as little as just a few days each year. So farmers need to employ specialists to control the pollination process, resulting in consistent blooms and higher yields. Hand pollinators and harvesters have to be fast, delicate, and highly trained.

Pine cone gatherers

Working in sustainable forestry, pine cone gatherers – you guessed it – collect pine cones. Why? They send them to tree planters to germinate and plant for the next generation of timber. Experienced gatherers can fill up to two and a half five gallon buckets per hour. Like any kind of fruit or veggie picking, you'll need to be hardy and prepared to get your hands dirty.

Caulker

A caulker is a skilled worker who seals joints or openings to make them water or airtight using caulking materials and other sealants. They can work in the construction and shipping industries, sealing up windows, doors, and roofs. So the next time you travel on a boat and it doesn't fill with water, make sure to thank a caulker.

Forensic odontologist

Because teeth often stay remarkably in-tact after death, forensic odontologists are most commonly need to help identify victims of crime or their perpetrators by comparing dental records with human remains and bite marks. You'll most likely be working with law enforcement, laboratory technicians, medical examiners, and other dental professionals. This job definitely isn't for the faint of heart.

Haberdasher

Here we're referring to the [British version](#) of a haberdasher. These merchants used to sell all the little bits and pieces for custom-made outfits – think things like buttons, pins, thread, ribbons, and zips. While they still exist today, they're certainly not as common, and they're often known by other names (like outfitter, tailor, modiste, stylist, or seamstress).

Flavourist

Flavourists (or flavour chemists) blend essential oils, botanical extracts, and essences to create natural flavourings. They also use chemistry to engineer artificial flavours for a variety of foods, beverages, and other products. You'll probably need an advanced degree in chemistry or biochemistry, and it can be competitive work, but if you have sublime taste, it could be perfect for you.

Interested in exploring other jobs?

If these more unusual jobs aren't quite for you, head to our [Job Spotlights](#) page to read more about heaps of other different careers in detail.

Health & Wellbeing

[3 tips to find life balance as a student](#)

Life is a balancing act, and students need to become master acrobats in order to navigate their menagerie of tasks and roles. Between school, study, work, chores, family, friends, and maintaining a social life, there's a lot to keep track of each week. If you're feeling like you don't have enough hours in the week to get things done, we have some tips for students to help them find life balance.

What happens when you're not in balance?

It's easy to fall out of balance – most working adults in only get [around 15 hours](#) of leisure (or non-work) time each day, including sleep. So once we take out the recommended 8 hours we should be snoozing each night, that only leaves 7 hours for everything else. If you want to see how you compare, [check out this article from the ABC](#).

Lots of people write-off life balance as a luxury or a made up fad. But having good balance in your life can not only make you happier and healthier, but also help you accomplish more in the long run. The impacts of lack of balance in your life could include:

- [Burnout](#)
- Loss of motivation
- Lack of ‘thinking’ time
- Mental health issues
- Physical health issues

Signs you could be out of balance

If you generally feel happy, healthy, and well-rested, then you’re probably already doing a pretty great job at the whole balance thing. Of course, there are always times when you don’t feel great, like when exams are coming up, you’re working extra shifts to earn more cash, or if you’re sick – that’s normal.

If you often feel tired, low, or that every day is a struggle, then it could be time to reassess your priorities and manage your time a bit better. If you don’t feel like the problem is going away, or if you have any concerns about your mental health, then please see a professional.

Here’s a few things to look out for:

- You wake up tired
- You find it hard to get to sleep
- You often get sick
- You’re missing your friends/family/hobbies
- You no longer enjoy school or study
- You often feel anxious, stressed, or miserable
- Boredom is an issue for you

Life balance tips for students

There’s no “one-size-fits-all” solution to finding balance in your life. The amount we need to work, rest, and play depends on how you operate – in other words, you need to find the right balance for *you*, not what you *think* you’re supposed to be doing.

If you’re not feeling in balance, here’s what we recommend you do:

Work out where you are

Make a list of what *needs* to get done (think school, sleep, or chores) and what you would *like* to get done (think playing games, exercise, or volunteering). For example, you might include:

- Sleep
- School
- Chores
- Homework and other study
- Work or volunteering
- Extra-curricular commitments
- Hobbies
- Social time
- Life admin
- Time spent on your phone or other device

You don’t have to go into that much detail, but the more you work out, the more wiggle room you might find. Then think about the number of hours you spend doing these things and jot them down.

Work out where you want to be

Once you've worked out how you're spending your time, the next step is to think about how you would like your week to look.

We all have 168 hours in a week. If you sleep the recommended 8 hours a day, go to school from 9am to 3pm 5 days a week, travel an hour for school (there and back), allow an hour for eating, and spend an hour for other life admin each day, that leaves you with **63 hours** a week to spare. This number is just an estimate – work out your number then use that for the rest of the calculations.

Now you need to work out what your priorities are. Go back to the list you made in step 1 and add up the things you both need and want to do each week. If you get to 63 (or your number of 'spare' hours) and there are still things on the list, then you'll need to think about what matters most – so work out which activities you don't need as much and work out a way to do less of them.

If you find you have loads of free time left – great! You don't have to fill every minute or schedule every hour. But if there's a club you've been itching to join, or a skill you've been wanting to learn, perhaps now is a good time to give it a go.

Build a plan to help you get there

Once you've reached this point, congrats! That's a huge hurdle out of the way. Now you have to make the changes in order to address the balance problems and lead the life you want.

Here are some tips that could help you to achieve your end goals:

- Use a planner, calendar, diary or app to write down your new timetable. This can help you stay in-check and create new habits instead of slipping back into your old routine.
- [Set goals](#) and then break them down into manageable milestones.
- Incorporate time limits into your schedule. If you want to play games or spend time social media, you don't need to cut them out completely – just set an alarm to remind you it's time to hop off. Got lots of study to do? Set a timer, and if you haven't finished in the allocated time, reassess your study patterns and habits, or consider asking for help.
- Speak to your family. If there's high expectations of you at home, working out exactly what needs to be done and figuring out a schedule could really help.
- Work out which activities on your list you can get rid of on a daily or weekly basis. If you volunteer but it's taking up too much time, ask if you can help out on a more casual basis. If you're doing lots of extra-curricular stuff, is it time to drop something for a bit?
- Be flexible – some days or weeks you might have less school work or other commitments, or some days you might just feel more exhausted, so it's always OK to change your schedule around.
- Take breaks when you need them. You should never feel guilty about resting and looking after your body.
- Unplug from social media and other screens from time to time (after a little while, you seriously won't miss it).
- Practice mindfulness, which includes being grateful, being present, helping out around home or with friends, or spend more time making better connections with people who make you feel good.
- Try to stay active. You don't need to take up marathon running, but even going for a quick walk each day can do a world of good for your health.
- Learn to say "no" (nicely).
- Ask for help if you need it.

Getting balance in your life is well worth it and is a great skill to use throughout life.