



# Weekly Careers News for WA

## Weekly Careers News

For Western Australia

Monday 29 April, 2024

### What's On

#### Upcoming Events

##### **Curtin | Application Support Webinar**

May 1, 2024

If you're looking to study an undergraduate degree at Curtin and need some help with your application, this webinar is for you. Join us online to get all the information you need to study at Curtin in 2025. The webinar is split into two parts so that you can join the session that is best for you. If you have any questions that need answering along the way, we can help you during or after the session via the live chat function.

[Find out more](#)

##### **Notre Dame | Fremantle Open Day 2024**

May 4, 2024

This is your opportunity to get a taste of life as a Notre Dame University student, chat one-on-one with academics, alumni and current students and have your study/career questions answered by the experts. You'll also be able to tour our charming town campus, attend information sessions, join interactive workshops, enjoy live entertainment, freebies and much more!

[Find out more](#)

##### **AFP | Protective Service Officer online information session**

May 7, 2024

Join us for an online information session on Wednesday 8 May at 6pm (AEST) where you will hear the lived experience of our PSOs and learn about the process to join.

You'll also have an opportunity to ask the panel questions.

[Find out more](#)

##### **ACU | Talk with Physiotherapists, Exercise Scientists and High Performance Sport Professionals**

May 7, 2024

Join us online to hear from ACU alumni about life after university. Take part in a Q&A session with our graduates and get an insider's perspective on working in physiotherapy, exercise science and high performance sport.

[Find out more](#)

## **NIE | Pathways into Medicine and Dentistry Live Webinar**

May 8, 2024

This forum is an excellent opportunity for teachers, students and their parents to find out about the UCAT, pathways into medicine, and have all questions answered by an expert teacher who has been working in the field since 1999.

The session is packed with invaluable information during which we will be covering the following topics, and more:

- What is UCAT? UCAT scores? UCAT Sub-tests?
- Year 10, 11 and 12 – things to consider now.
- The Undergraduate Selection Criteria
- Application process into universities for medicine and dentistry
- When and who can sit the UCAT
- GAMSAT
- Can you prepare for the UCAT?
- Undergraduate interview process
- What, how and why about Gap Year?
- Alternative degrees and career choices
- Work experience advice
- Q & A

[Find out more](#)

## **RMIT | New Career Ahead: Explore the Possibilities Series 1/3**

May 8, 2024

Join us for the first instalment in an immersive workshop series where we unlock the power of self-reflection and guide you through navigating your career journey with confidence.

Dive deep into the key aspects of self-reflection to make informed decisions about your career path.

Explore your values, strengths, and aspirations, aligning them with your professional goals.

During this session, we'll provide a practical application focused on understanding your personality using the RIASEC code. Learn how this code can illuminate your preferences and guide your career choices.

Gain insights into how your personality traits influence your career decisions and discover actionable steps to leverage this knowledge effectively.

You can either opt to attend this session online or in person at RMIT University Melbourne City Campus.

The general public and RMIT students are welcome to attend.

[Find out more](#)

## **Notre Dame | Doctor of Medicine Information Session**

May 9, 2024

Join us for an online information session designed to provide you with crucial insights into Notre Dame's Doctor of Medicine program. This webinar offers a unique opportunity to delve into the program's structure, entry pathways, and exciting new developments.

[Find out more](#)

## ECU | Year 11 and 12 Parent Information Session

May 9, 2024

For parents of students in year 11 and 12, navigating the conversations about life after high school can be daunting. ECU's online information session is designed to alleviate your concerns and provide all the information you need to guide them through Year 11 and 12 and beyond.

Join the Future Student Engagements Team at our online Year 11 and 12 Parent Information Evening and we will cover:

- ECU Course options
- Entry Pathway options
- Application Processes
- Fees and Scholarships
- Support Services

[Find out more](#)

## Important Future Events

### 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](#)

### Indigenous Australian Engineering School - July 2024

July 8 to July 14, 2024

The Indigenous Australian Engineering School (IAES) is a week-long residential camp introducing students to engineering studies and careers. Students will do site visits, meet industry representatives and participate in educational activities. The program targets Indigenous students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 with an interest and aptitude towards engineering, science and mathematics.

Students will have an experience they will never forget, make connections with industry engineers for the future and forge relationships with other like-minded students from across Australia to become part of the IAES community.

The camp is free with all travel, meals and accommodation provided. The Indigenous Australian Engineering School (IAES) is an annual event hosted in Perth by Curtin's Faculty of Engineering and Science, on behalf of [Engineering Aid Australia](#). Students are supervised by Indigenous university students.

If you are selected to attend the IAES, you will also qualify for an Engineering Aid Australia Continuing School scholarship. This is to help with some of your education expenses in year 10, 11, and 12. Later, if you get a place at any university in Australia in an engineering or related degree, you will be eligible for an Engineering Aid Australia Tertiary Education scholarship.

**Applications will close on 10th May, and applicants will be informed of the decision in early June 2024.**

[Find out more](#)

## Perth Skillswest Careers & Employment Expo 2024

July 25 to July 27, 2024

Western Australia's largest Careers & Employment Event is open from July 25 to 27, 2024 at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre. The Expo will host over 160 organisations and employers with career opportunities for all ages. Entry is free

The event is for school students, parents, teachers, graduates, job seekers, people looking for courses and workers seeking new opportunities.

[Find out more](#)

## Study

### University

#### On campus or online study – What's right for you?

The past few years have seen a [huge uptake in universities moving their learning online](#), and it's an option that's more popular and accessible than ever. But for some people, it's not quite the same as being able to attend classes on campus. So what's the best option for you if you're looking to start studying at university soon – on campus or online?

There are both advantages and disadvantages to both, and at the end of the day the decision comes down to what will best suit you. Let's take a look at some of the pros and cons to help you make up your mind.

#### **On campus – Benefits**

First, let's take a look at the upsides of study on campus.

#### **It's easy to meet new friends**

Studying on campus means you will have to meet a whole bunch of new people – whether you want to or not! But it's also a great opportunity to make new friends, build important connections, or start a study group. It's always nice to have people to talk to and study with to make life that little bit easier.

#### **Easy access to resources**

Being on campus gives you easy access to all of the resources the university has to offer: libraries, student support services, computer labs, study spaces, and even things like cafes and gym facilities. Everything you could possibly need is right there at your fingertips.

#### **The schedule is done for you**

It doesn't matter if you don't have the best time management skills, because your class times are all set for you. All you have to do is show up!

#### **On campus – Downsides**

Now that we've looked at some of the positives, let's cover some of the reasons on campus study might not suit you.

**The cost**

Depending on how far away you live from your nearest campus, you might find yourself spending a lot of time (and money) commuting back and forth. Some universities have on-campus accommodation, but this can also be costly. And if there is no university near you, you'll have to spend a lot of money moving away from home.

**The time commitment**

Studying full-time on campus means that you will be spending most of your time at university. This doesn't leave much time for other things like work. If you need to rely on your income, this might not be the best option.

**The rigidity**

Having your schedule set for you can be good, but you might find that certain classes can conflict with other activities you have planned, such as sports and social time. And in most circumstances, going to class will be the option that wins. Sometimes you might even have two classes that clash, meaning you will need to choose between one or the other.

**Online – Benefits**

Thinking of studying online? Here are some of the reasons it could be right for you.

**The flexibility**

When you study online, you can generally set your own pace. You can take as long – or as little – as you need on a certain topic. You can also choose when to study. If you're an early riser, you can study in the morning, and if you're more of a night owl, then you can study at night instead. It also gives you the flexibility to fit your study around other commitments, such as work.

**Minimal disruption**

Even if there is no university campus nearby, studying online means you don't have to move away to access top-notch education. This could save you heaps of money in travel expenses and accommodation (and you don't have to shift your whole life half way across the country).

**Meet people from all over**

Studying online isn't necessarily lonely – you will often be able to chat to your other classmates and lecturers virtually, either by video or text. You can meet people from all over the country and even overseas, giving you a broader perspective during your studies.

**Online – Downsides**

Finally, let's cover some of the not-so-good things about online study.

**Requires serious time management skills and discipline**

Studying at your own pace can be a blessing – or it can be a curse. If you're the kind of person who's more likely to stay in bed and get distracted scrolling through TikTok or Instagram, online study might not be the best option.

**Less access to resources**

Depending on where you live, you might not have access to a library in town. Or perhaps you still live at home with younger siblings and your house is often crowded and noisy, making it difficult to study. At times like these, it's nice to have certain facilities on-hand at campus.

### **No face-to-face contact**

Even though you will still chat regularly with your lecturers and other students, it can still be lonely for some people without proper face-to-face time with friends. Be careful not to get sucked into the trap of never leaving your house either! Having support and connections through other means (family, other friends, etc) is still important.

### **The final verdict**

At the end of the day, which study option is best for you is a personal decision. There are a lot of things you need to take into consideration, and what's right for one person might not be right for you. But here's something else to consider: a lot of universities also offer flexible or blended study modes. This means you can combine both on campus and online study to suit your needs. And there's nothing from stopping you trying one out – you can do your first semester online, and if you find it isn't quite working for you then you can swap to on campus for the second, or vice versa. Whatever path you choose, have fun with your studies and remember that you always have options. You can read more about university on our website [here](#).

## **Study Tips**

### **9 motivational tips for remote learners**

Studying from home might seem like a holiday...or maybe it's a bit daunting. Either way, if you need some tips to help keep you motivated each day and stay on track with your studies, we have some ideas that could help. Here are our top motivational tips for remote learners.

#### **Set up your study space**

Firstly, you're going to need a space in the house where you can really knuckle down, focus, and get your work done. It's best if it's located in a quiet area that allows you to concentrate on your tasks without distraction. You'll also need a device with access to the internet and a word processing app (such as Word or Google Docs).

Don't forget to make it comfy too! A good chair, the right lighting, and an [ergonomic desk](#) can really make all the difference.

#### **Connect with other students**

Even though you're studying from home, you don't have to be alone. Join any groups that your teacher or lecturer has set up and stay in touch with your classmates. You can ask them for ideas or help, share your accomplishments, or just make some new friends.

#### **Be patient**

You're learning something new, just like all the other students in your class. And if you've never engaged in remote learning before, this means you're technically learning another new thing too. But that's totally OK, and your teachers or lecturers completely understand.

Remember, other students are learning and adapting too, so you may not get answers as quickly as you would like. In the meantime, try asking your parents, searching online, or asking members of your study groups if they can help.

### **Reward yourself**

A little treat can be a great incentive to get your work done. It doesn't have to be anything big – once you've achieved your goals for the day, you could:

- Watch a bit of your favourite show
- Treat yourself to a movie
- Enjoy some food that you've been craving
- Get outside for some fresh air and exercise
- Organise a phone or video call with a friend or family member
- Spend a bit of time on your favourite hobby
- Read a great book
- Soak in a bubble bath

### **Conquer procrastination**

Are you actively choosing to do something other than work you've scheduled? Sideline the subjects or assignments you don't want to tackle and only taking the easier options? Spending longer than you should on other tasks so you'll run out of time to do the thing you're avoiding? Taking unscheduled breaks because you just *need* that drink so much right now?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then you're probably procrastinating. But what can you do about it? Well, you could:

- Tackle the work you'd least like to do first thing and get it out of the way. This method is the most tricky, but also the most effective.
- Assign a monitor and ask someone to check up on you. It could be a parent or carer, sibling, or friend. Tell them what you need to get done and give them permission to keep you on track – even if they have to nag you.
- Keep a daily 'to-do' list and check off each item as you go. This can serve as a visual reminder of how much you've achieved and what you still have to accomplish.
- Break down tasks. When something seems too big or challenging, split it into chunks that seem less daunting, then set deadlines for each.
- Be realistic. Don't try to achieve too much in one day or place too much pressure on yourself – just do your best.

### **Build a great relationship with your teachers**

Your teachers or lecturers want you to succeed and are happy to help you out, so don't be afraid to ask them when you need help or advice, and let them know if you are struggling. Even if they can't help, they might still be able to point you in the direction of student support services or suggest other places you can find help.

### **Work with your energy levels**

When you're scheduling your work, set your hours according to your energy levels. We're all different; some of us work better in the mornings, some later in the day. Some of us need a big break early in the day, and some of us prefer a longer lunch.

This is one of the benefits of remote learning: your schedule is flexible and you can adjust it to suit your habits and preferences (just as long as you don't treat every day like a holiday, that is).

### **Stay positive**

Just like going to class, there will be days you won't be looking forward to, whether it's because you're not interested in the content or you just don't feel like studying. Acknowledge that studying is hard work or that you feel fed up, but don't let those temporary negative thoughts become your permanent identity. Remind yourself that you **can** do this and that you **will** do this. Ask for help or let someone know you're in a funk – a pep talk might be all you need to turn your mood around.

### **Have a little brag**

Had a great day? Really challenged yourself? Got a big project done? Give yourself a pat on the back and enjoy your reward!

Also consider sharing your sense of achievement and pride. Tell family, friends, or your teacher or lecturer; let them celebrate with you and boost your sense of pride in what you've accomplished.

### **Find out more**

Need more motivational tips for remote learners, or just want some handy study advice? You can read heaps more blogs on our website [here](#).

## **Work**

### **Job Spotlight**

#### **How to become a Zookeeper**

Zookeepers care for animals living in captivity and on display to the public for the purposes of conservation and education. They carry out the jobs associated with the animals' daily care, including feeding, training, and cleaning. They're also responsible for keeping animals stimulated, supporting breeding programs, providing information to visitors, and assisting with any necessary vet work.

If you'd like to be a zookeeper, just loving animals isn't really enough – you'll need to be dedicated to caring for their every need and prepared to be very hands-on. If you're practical, adaptable, and able to maintain high standards of safety and care, then a career as a zookeeper could be worth exploring.

#### **What skills do I need as a zookeeper?**

- Caring & dedicated
- Great team player
- Excellent communicator
- Hard worker
- Physically fit
- Adaptable & resilient
- Excellent problem-solver
- Level-headed & decisive

#### **What tasks can I expect to do?**

- Routinely check on animals & observe them
- Prepare diets to strict guidelines



- Clean & disinfect indoor & outdoor enclosures
- Ensure water & other essentials are supplied
- Provide training, enrichment & exercise
- Chat to zoo visitors & perform public talks
- Ensure animals are secure at all times
- Respond to & help with emergency situations

### **What industries do zookeepers typically work in?**

- Arts and Recreation Services
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Other Services

### **What Career Cluster do zookeepers belong to?**

Because their job involves lots of hands-on work and they need to be adaptable and reliable, most Zookeepers fit in the [Maker Cluster](#).

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

As a zookeeper you'll need to work outside typical business hours, including on weekends and holidays, as the animals need to be cared for every single day. It can be physically demanding work, which must be done on site and in all weather conditions.

Most zookeepers earn an average salary throughout their career.

Zookeepers are limited as to where they can work – you need to live near to a zoo and be prepared to compete for a job, as they are very highly sought after. Because of the hands-on nature of the job, remote work and working from home isn't possible.

### **How to become a zookeeper**

To become a zookeeper, you need to complete a relevant vocational training program – this can usually be done as part of an apprenticeship. Your training will involve learning about animal behaviour, nutrition, health, and welfare, as well as practical skills such as handling, grooming, and training.

Ongoing professional development and education throughout your career is also necessary to stay up-to-date with the latest techniques and best practices in animal care and training.

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

- Find work experience or volunteer at a vet clinic, wildlife park, animal welfare organisation, wildlife rescue agency, pet shop, or animal grooming business.
- Practise your public speaking – most zookeepers are expected to interact with visitors and do presentations and performances.
- Get fit! You'll need to be physically capable of doing the work and it is very hands-on.

Find out more here:

- [World Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#)
- [Australasian Society of Zookeeping](#)
- [Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia](#)
- [Association of British and Irish Wild Animal Keepers](#)
- [American Association of Zoo Keepers](#)

### **Similar careers to zookeeper**

- Veterinarian

- Conservationist
- Wildlife Photographer
- Dog Groomer
- Animal Trainer
- Marine Biologist
- Park Ranger
- Field Researcher

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

## Skills for Work

### Critical thinking – Why is it vital in the workplace?

Lots of careers list critical thinking as a core skill that's required in order to be successful. But what exactly is it, and how will you use it in your future career? In this blog, you'll find out if you are a critical thinker, see examples of why you might need this skill in the workplace, and get tips on how to develop your critical thinking skills.

#### **What does critical thinking actually mean?**

Essentially, it means you can:

- learn to recognise or develop an argument,
- use evidence to support your argument,
- draw reasoned conclusions, and
- put your knowledge to use by using that information to solve problems.

#### **Why critical thinking in the workplace is important**

Employers want job candidates who can evaluate a situation using logical thought and offer the best solution. And if you have strong critical thinking skills, it's likely you can do these things.

Critical thinkers in the workplace are more likely to understand the meaning behind their role, which increases the chances of them engaging with the work. Plus, critical thinkers can reduce wastage and increase productivity by analysing processes and identifying areas for improvement, be trusted to make decisions independently, and won't need constant hand-holding.

#### **Examples of jobs that require critical thinking**

Wondering which careers you might need to flex your critical thinking skills in? There might be more than you think...

- **Nurses** working in emergency triage need to assess the cases waiting to be seen and decide who needs to be treated first.
- **Plumbers** need to evaluate what action needs to be taken, then decide on the best materials to do the job.
- **Lawyers** review evidence, refer to past rulings and laws, and come up with strategies to win a case or get the best outcome for their clients.
- When dealing with large quantities of goods and complex supply chains as a **logistics manager**, you'll need strong critical thinking skills.
- As an **accountant**, clients will appreciate your critical thinking skills when you help them save and use their money productively.

- **Managers** need review customer feedback and use it to make changes or improve on their services and/or products.
- **Software developers** need critical thinking to design complex but efficient code, making programs easier for people to use.
- Thinking of becoming a **doctor**? You'll need to use critical thinking skills to identify complex symptoms and ensure you're providing the best possible care.
- Safety is incredibly important, so being able to think critically and identify any problems is crucial for **occupational health and safety officers**.

### **How to develop your critical thinking skills**

Whenever you find yourself in a situation where you need to use your critical thinking skills, here are some steps you can take to practise:

#### **Pinpoint the issue**

What exactly is the problem that needs solving or the question that needs answering? By getting to the root of the problem, you can develop better and more thorough solutions.

#### **Collect information**

Next, do some research and collect data. Be sure to include sources that challenge your own opinions, and ensure you only use information from reliable sources.

#### **Evaluate**

Think about whether you've approached this exercise with an open mind, a willingness to learn, and done enough research. Then, reject any dodgy information, then make sure everything that's left is actually relevant to the original issue.

#### **Conclude and assess**

Based on your work, create a couple of conclusions. Then assess each one for weaknesses and decide which one is the most sound.

#### **Share your ideas**

Communicating your findings to other people is the last – but most important – part of critical thinking. If you can't effectively share your thinking or solutions, then you may have wasted your time.

#### **How else can you become a better critical thinker?**

One of the best ways to build your critical thinking skills is to actually work on your other core skills. In fact, you'll probably hone your critical thinking skills without even knowing! Here are some critical thinking-related skills that can boost your employability even more:

- **Observation** – taking notice of what's going on around you could help you to see opportunities and problems, as well as come up with solutions.
- **Analysis** – this could help you to gather the right information, understand it, and draw useful information from it.
- **Communication** – building active listening, teamwork, and presentations skills will ensure that you can share information in the best way.
- **Problem-solving** – learn to identify problems, find solutions and then, importantly, assess whether the solution is working or not
- **Objectivity** – this skill will allow you to really 'see' the information in front of you, rather than working from assumptions or your own personal bias.

Stepping outside your comfort zone, being inclusive, and saying yes to a variety of opportunities are all other great ways to help you build your critical thinking skills.

### **Find out more**

You can read more about the skills you need for work on our website [here](#).

## **Jobs & Careers**

### **The changing world of work**

The world of work is always changing. Not that long ago, you could have expected to walk away from school into a job in a factory or office and stay there for 45 years. These days, “job-hopping” is much more common – it’s predicted that Gen Z workers can expect have [up to 16 jobs across their lifetime](#). And many jobs that existed even just 30 or 40 years ago are no longer necessary thanks to new technology.

In fact, technology is now moving at such a pace that we can expect work to look different again in just 5 years – but we can predict (to some extent) what will happen. So why is it important to think about how the world of work is changing, and how might it affect your future career path?

### **How is the world of work changing?**

Since the 1970s, changes in government policy and organisational structures have kept the unemployment rate in Australia at around 7% on average. This means employers have more power over employees who may struggle to find work if they lose their jobs, and is part of the reason why people are willing to accept less secure work with fewer benefits, like gig work.

Advances in technology also mean that lots of the menial, repetitive tasks which used to be done by people are now handled by ever-more intelligent computers. Take the touch-screen ordering system at many fast food restaurants, or the self-serve checkouts at the supermarket – not so long ago these places provided many low-skill, entry-level jobs which are now being done by technology.

It’s not just low-skill jobs that are being affected. Law firms no longer need teams of junior lawyers and legal secretaries to comb hardcopy legal documents; they have automated databases which can be searched by keyword. Librarians are being replaced by online search systems, and pharmacy assistants are being replaced by robotic dispensing machines.

### **You’ll need your human skills**

So if robots are taking over so many jobs, what’s left for us? Well, there are lots of things that robots simply can’t replicate (or at least not to a satisfactory standard) – these are jobs that require our human skills.

Human skills are skills that cannot be replaced by technology. Creativity, intuition, and innovation are human-specific, as are caring skills that help people feel comfortable. Mediators, teachers, nurses, and salespeople are just some examples of human-centric jobs that will always be needed in our workforce.

If you’re interested in learning a bit more about the future of work and the skills you’ll need, check out this [video](#).

### **It’s not all doom and gloom**

Sure, reading about this stuff can get a bit depressing, but it’s actually not a bad thing. As robots take over some of our duller jobs, that frees us up to work in more satisfying roles. People in jobs that have been taken over by technology, such as factory line workers, are being supported to up-skill and find new work in other areas that give them more variety and challenges.

The other thing to remember is that most of us pivot at one point or another anyway. For example, apprentices become employees who might go on to start their own business, or manage a team of tradespeople – which requires vastly different skills to those they learnt as an apprentice. And people change jobs all the time; sometimes because we have to, but often because we get bored and want to find a new challenge.

If you're interested in learning more about how often we change jobs, check out the [FYA New Work Order Series](#) for more details.

### **You don't want to be a robot**

It's easy for technology to replace the jobs with lots of repetitive, predictable tasks, which is why factories thankfully no longer employ armies of small children and now look like something from a science-fiction movie instead. Working 'like a machine' isn't a good thing – it's boring, tiring, and never gets any better, so if there's a robot that can do your job, it means you are free to move on to something else.

The loss of some jobs is being replaced by increased demand for human jobs at all skill levels – the huge outcry for more health and aged care workers is just one example. You can't automate caring for other people or mediating conflict; these things require humanity, and jobs that require these skills are often highly rewarding too.

### **How does this apply to my future?**

Not all of us will be negatively affected by the changes to the world of work. In fact, if you're aware of what's happening, you could use these changes to design a future that works for you – one where you don't work like a robot doing the same thing every day.

The place to start is with the possible futures you can identify for yourself. Take each one, then analyse it through the lens of "will robots take my job?" You don't need to guess – there [is literally a website when you can ask](#) this.

The safer your chosen job is, the less likely you'll find yourself needing to pivot into something else down the track. If your chosen job is at high risk of automation, ask yourself what appeals to you about the job, and see if you can find other roles in similar areas that are less likely to be impacted.

### **Learn more**

If you're keen to learn more about the future world of work, you can read heaps of other blogs on our website [here](#).

## **Grow**

### **Gap Years**

#### **[What a gap year really costs](#)**

Would you like to take a gap year, but are afraid you won't be able to afford the costs? Or perhaps you're really keen, but your parents are worried about the money and don't want you ending up in debt.

These are both valid and sensible concerns! But if a gap year is what you really want and you have a plan in mind, you might be pleasantly surprised about how affordable some options are. Let's take a look.

#### **The nuts and bolts of gap year costs**

Even if you're already working and plan to live at home rent-free for the next 12 months, you'll need a financial plan. Without one, you could fritter away all your hard-earned salary and not may not be able to achieve your goals at the end of your gap year. Unfortunately, the reality is travel, study, and gap year programs almost always have costs associated with them.

First, you need to figure out how much it's going to cost you overall, and don't forget to include the smallest details, because they all add up. Then, figure out how you're going to be able to afford *everything*, and then some – running out of money half way through your gap year isn't ideal.

If your parents or other family are helping you out, great! You still need to know what costs to expect, then plan a budget to make sure your money will last as long as it needs to. After all, their pockets are only so deep, so don't expect constant top-ups.

Our biggest tip? Try to avoid getting into debt for a gap year. Ending your gap year with a lot of money owing (and don't forget interest on top) could set your future plans back.

### **The three steps to gap year success**

Keen to take a gap year, but unsure where to start? Here are a few simple steps to follow.

#### **Plan**

Work out what you want to do and where you want to go. You need these details first so you can work out how much everything will cost.

#### **Budget**

Once you know how much you need, write a clear budget that lists *every* item. You'll need at least a fairly accurate estimate of your overall costs to ensure you save enough.

#### **Save**

Once you know how much you need, you can set some goals and start saving. Having a backup plan is usually also a good idea, just in case something unexpected happens or you change your mind.

#### **Your gap year options**

There are tonnes of different gap year options to choose from, and the costs vary between all of them. Even so, we've broken down a few different gap year options and the costs you can expect to be associated with each. Keep in mind these lists aren't comprehensive and there may be other costs we haven't included – at the end of the day, it's up to you to create a thorough budget and prepare accordingly.

#### **Travel**

If you want to explore the world and broaden your horizons, travel is the quintessential gap year choice. Think of a travel gap year like a really long holiday – most of the costs are the same, just stretched out over a longer period of time. Here are some of the things you'll need to include in your budget:

- Travel to, from, and between your destination/s
- Accommodation
- Food (and remember, you'll probably be doing a lot of dining out)
- Daily travel (bus or train fares, bike or car rental costs, etc.)
- Tours and experiences
- Souvenirs and gifts
- Emergency money
- Pre-travel costs (passport fees, medical checks, visa applications, etc.)

## Work

It might not seem like everyone's idea of fun, but sometimes the only way you can afford a gap year is to combine it with a job. On the bright side, you'll gain heaps of valuable skills, meet heaps of new people, and potentially end up with more money than you started with. It's pretty common to combine travel with work, so as well as the above costs, here are some other things you might need to consider:

- Uniform and/or tools
- Travel to and from work
- Applying for a working visa (if working overseas)
- Income tax

## Learn

A break from formal learning like school or university doesn't mean you need to totally switch your brain off. Lots of people use their gap year as an opportunity to follow their passion or learn something they've always wanted to. If this sounds like something you might like to do, here are some costs you might need to prepare for:

- Course or workshop fees
- Materials and/or tools
- Travel costs

## Specialised programs

There are heaps of providers out there that offer ready-to-go gap year packages, making the planning process a breeze – all you need to do is sign up, pay the fee, and get ready to go! The overall costs of these programs vary wildly depending on lots of factors, like what's involved, where you'll go, how long the program is, and even the provider themselves. Your upfront costs are usually high, but generally you don't need to worry about ongoing costs during the program, as things like accommodation, meals, and travel are covered. This makes them a great 'set-and-forget' option (if you can afford the initial fees). Your costs typically include:

- Program fees
- Connecting travel (e.g. from your hometown to the city the program departs from)
- Optional experiences not included in the program fees
- Souvenirs and gifts
- Emergency money
- Pre-travel costs (passport fees, medical checks, visas, etc.)

## Think outside the box

Need a bit of extra help meeting your savings goals? Apply for money towards your time out. There are [scholarships and grants](#) on offer through some providers or external organisations. If your application is successful, you could receive money to put towards your program fees, or receive a bit extra to use how you'd like.

It's always worth having a chat with government services too. They won't be dishing out money for nothing, but if you'll be volunteering or earning below a certain threshold during your gap year, there could be some financial assistance you're eligible for.

And if all these options still feel out of reach, there are lots of other ways to have a great gap year too. You could travel locally, find work experience or volunteer, or even just take some time out to relax, refresh, and do some self-improvement. Ultimately, the choice is yours.

## Want more?

If you want more information about opportunities or how to plan your gap year, head over to our [page](#), or grab a copy of our Gap Year Guide from the [bookshop](#).