



Weekly Careers News for WA

June 29, 2026

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This Week's Events

ECU Year 12 Parent & Carers Information Session

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Online

Date: June 30, 2026

Whether your Year 12 son or daughter is the first in the family likely to go to university or you've been here before, this online session will help you understand some of the mysteries of higher education.

We'll cover a range of topics that we hope will answer any concerns you have about:

- Can my teen actually get into university?
- What are their options, especially if their ATAR is too low or they don't have an ATAR?
- What if they don't yet have a career in mind or a selected university course?
- How do they apply for a course?
- Where will they study?
- What support can they expect from staff at university?
- What should you look for in a university?

[Find out more](#)

School Summit 2026 – Inspiring Future Careers

Organisation: Adjuvant Event Services

Location: Murdoch University, Perth Campus

Date: June 30, 2026

How do you prepare for a job that might not even exist yet? And, how can parents and teachers guide students when the world of work looks completely different from just five years ago?

That's the challenge School Summit was created to address.

School Summit is an event for high school students, parents and teachers that explores emerging industries like AI, cybersecurity, the energy transition, sustainability, modern media, purpose-led careers and more. It gives young professionals from Perth's business and innovation community the stage to share with students what they do, how they got to where they are, and the skills needed to thrive in modern careers.

For high school students:

- Hear real stories from young people in exciting, unexpected careers
- Discover future-focused opportunities beyond "traditional" pathways
- Understand how AI is changing jobs, creating both challenges and new possibilities
- Start building confidence, connections and career curiosity

For parents:

- Make sense of emerging industries and fast-moving technologies like AI
- Have better, more informed career conversations with your kids
- Shift the focus from "subjects" to skills, strengths and adaptability

For teachers:

- Gain insights from Perth's business and innovation community
- Connect classroom learning to modern careers
- Contribute to Continued Professional Development through industry engagement

[Find out more](#)

Fry Hard Cooking Club Dordaak Kepup, WA (Grades 7 to 12)

Location: Dordaak Kepup - Library and Youth Innovation Hub

Date: July 1, 2026

Hosted by Youth Services, join the youth club for cooking and life skills activities. Suitable for young people in high school or equivalent

Fancy yourself a chef or looking to learn your first recipe?

Join us on Wednesdays from 4pm for a weekly cooking activity learning basic food handling skills.

Then (hopefully) celebrate a meal together and eat what you've made.
All equipment and resources are included.
Youth Club for young people in high school or equivalent.
For more information contact Dordaak.Kepup@wanneroo.wa.gov.au or 9407 1666
[Find out more](#)

Next Week's Events

Squadrone Holiday Programs

Organisation: Squadrone

Date: July 6 to July 17, 2026

At Squadrone we use drones and mini-drone light shows for STEM engagement and entertainment, teaching skills in coding, AI, and geospatial science.

Choose from:

- Drone Coding Fundamentals (Murdoch and UWA)
- Build your Drone (Murdoch and UWA)
- Python Drone Coding (Murdoch and UWA)
- Arduino Robotics & Programming Workshop (UWA)

See the website for event details, locations, prices, and availability.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Cracking codes: An Intro to Cryptography Workshop for high schoolers

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus, School of Science, Building 18, Level 1 Computer Labs (18.103) - located on the ground floor

Date: July 6, 2026

ECU School of Science: Computing and Security is proud to provide this full day workshop on cryptography. Learn about cryptography, why and how we encrypt, vulnerabilities and the underlying math. We'll explore the escalating tension between the ability to safeguard using encryption versus a cyber attacker's ability to defeat encryption. Learn tools that you can use to encrypt your own data at home. End with a game of sending and breaking encrypted messages between you and your peers.

Themes: cryptography, mathematics, cyber security, encryption, critical thinking

[Find out more](#)

Robotics and Coding Workshop with Curtin University for ages 7-14

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Victoria Park Community Centre

Date: July 6, 2026

Join us these school holidays at Victoria Park Community Centre for an exciting hands-on workshop!

Kids aged 7–14 years will discover the world of robotics with an introduction to coding. Beginners are welcome, and those with some experience can step up to a new challenge.

[Find out more](#)

Resources & Engineering – Youth Career Series

Organisation: Shire of Chittering

Location: Chandala Processing Plant

Date: July 7, 2026

This Career Series youth event with Tronox offers students a valuable opportunity to explore real careers in the resources and engineering sectors. Hosted at the Muchea site, the experience is engaging, informative and approachable, helping young people imagine what a future in industry could look like.

Students gain a behind-the-scenes look at site operations while meeting employees across a range of roles, from engineering and trades to environmental and business support. Staff share their personal career journeys in a relaxed, relatable way, giving insight into different pathways and how to get started. The event is designed to spark curiosity, build confidence and break down barriers to entry. By connecting young people with real people and real workplaces, the Career Series makes career pathways feel more visible, accessible and achievable, supporting informed decisions about their future.

[Find out more](#)

LIVE Online Information Session High School Exchange Programs

Location: Online

Date: July 7, 2026

Join our live online information session to learn how a high school exchange program works, what daily life looks like for students overseas and how our team supports every step from preparation to return.

The session covers destinations, program options, eligibility, safety and wellbeing, scholarships, discounts and the application process. Parents gain clarity and reassurance. Students gain inspiration and a real sense of what an exchange experience can offer.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Website Development Workshop for high schoolers

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus, School of Science, Building 18, Level 1 Computer Labs (18.103) - located on the ground floor

Date: July 7, 2026

ECU's School of Science is proud to offer this workshop for high school students and teachers interested in learning more about computing and coding. Join us and learn how to build your own website using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, as well as how to integrate AI in web development for improved productivity. During the day, students will begin by writing a basic webpage, then applying a coat of style to personalise it, and later completing it with custom JavaScript programming. Please note that this workshop is a repeat of our January 2026 offering.

Bring a USB stick with you if you'd like to take home a copy of your work.

Themes: website development, coding, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, AI tools

[Find out more](#)

Curtin Year 12 ATAR Economics Conference

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Curtin University, Perth Campus

Date: July 7, 2026

Get ready for our annual ATAR economics conference designed to elevate your revision game and prepare year 12 students for success! We're bringing together industry leaders to share their expert insights and knowledge with you.

We have an exciting line-up of speakers, including renowned economist Paul Bloxham (Chief Economist HSBC) and Steven Kemp (Chief WACE marker and author of your textbook).

The conference will cover strategies for success, data interpretation, balance of payments, tactics for section 2 of the exam, and how to master those tricky multiple-choice questions. Alongside captivating speakers and interactive workshops, your ticket includes morning tea, light lunch, snacks, merchandise, and car parking.

Registrations close at 8:00am on Monday, 6 July. We recommend securing your ticket early, as registrations may close sooner if sold out.

If cost is a concern, please feel free to reach out to Curtin via email to discuss options.

[Find out more](#)

Curtin Explore STEM – Code & Create Program for Girls in Years 6-8

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Curtin University, Kalgoorlie Campus

Date: July 7 to July 9, 2026

Explore STEM is a holiday program for girls in Years 6-8 who want to discover the creative and innovative world of coding and technology.

During the three-day program, students will:

- Learn coding basics through fun, hands-on activities
- Create their own projects with programmable Micro:bits
- Connect with like-minded peers and STEM role models
- Build confidence and skills in technology and coding in a supportive environment

Discounts are available for students from schools with a low Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) or those located within a regional or remote area, thanks to program sponsor, the Sir William Tyree Foundation. Please get in touch with Curtin for more information.

[Find out more](#)

WAM Junior Naturalist (Art) Workshop for Ages 8-14

Organisation: Western Australian Museum

Location: Museum of the Great Southern

Date: July 7, 2026

Young artists will observe, sketch, and paint marine life and coastal landscapes, drawing inspiration from the detailed styles of early naturalists. Through guided creative practice, participants will learn to look closely at the natural world and translate their observations into artwork. Each child will take home their own journal and watercolour set to continue exploring and creating long after the workshop ends.

Please note, parental supervision is essential for children under 12 years of age.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Open Source Intelligence Workshop for high schoolers

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus, School of Science, Building 18, Level 1 Computer Labs (18.103) - located on the ground floor

Date: July 8, 2026

In an age where technology, digital information and social media is everywhere, open source intelligence (OSINT) gathering can be a very useful skill! In this workshop by ECU School of Science, we will cover how to use different tools, search for and scrutinise information that is openly accessible online. Through critical thinking, research and teamwork, you will learn how to extract information from emails and accounts, analyse photos and how this is useful in investigations. No prior knowledge is required, just your thinking caps and a keen eye!

Themes: OSINT, intelligence gathering, analysis, internet

[Find out more](#)

Future Events

Binar X School Holiday Program for Years 5-6 in Kalgoorlie, WA

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Curtin University, Kalgoorlie Campus

Date: July 13 to July 18, 2026

This exciting hands-on program with the BinarX team will guide you to design, construct, and launch your very own space-themed electronics project (payload) in a 3D-printed payload bay within your own personalised model rocket.

Entering its 3rd year in 2026, we are excited to announce that the program this year has been adapted for year 5-6 students (school year in 2026) and has moved to a shorter 6-day program. Immerse yourself in hands-on tinkering with electronics, data, design and laboratory-grade testing equipment, as you build critical thinking, creative and communication skills that will serve you far beyond the school holiday program. Full Scholarships Available – Indicate when applying via the online form.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Exploring Network Security with micro:bits for secondary students

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus, School of Science, Building 18, Level 1 Computer Labs (18.103) - located on the ground floor

Date: July 13, 2026

ECU's School of Science invites you to explore network vulnerabilities and network security. This workshop for high school students and teachers will look at the vulnerability in digital and communication networks encountered in everyday life through a micro:bit environment. There will be challenges which require you to figure out ways to keep your micro:bits protected from threats.

Themes: network security, cyber security, coding, micro:bit technology

[Find out more](#)

Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research – Immersion Program for Year 10-12 Students

Organisation: Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

Location: Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (North)

Date: July 14 to July 16, 2026

Enrol in this exciting 3-day immersive laboratory experience at Perth's world-class Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. You will work beside scientists, gaining experience in how research is conducted on a day-to-day basis.

Aspects of the program change but may include:

- training for PC2 Laboratory operations
- techniques of microbiology and cell culturing techniques
- use of fluorescent microscopes
- genetic manipulation techniques
- tours of various centres within the grounds of the QEII medical complex

The Immersion Program is for students in Years 10-12 and is run in the last week of every school holidays (including summer holidays).

Selection is by application. After reviewing all applications, five participants are selected to attend the next program. Outcomes will be determined two-weeks prior to the commencement of the program.

[Find out more](#)

Confident Public Speaking for Teens (Ages 12–18) – School Holiday Workshop

Organisation: Adrian Alaberg

Location: State Library of Western Australia

Date: July 14, 2026

Build confidence, overcome nerves and learn powerful public speaking skills in this interactive workshop designed for high school students.

Today's high school students are bright, capable, and full of ideas. But in a world dominated by screens many struggle to express themselves confidently face-to-face.

Finding Your Voice has been delivered in high schools across Perth since 2022, helping thousands of students overcome public speaking nerves and develop powerful communication skills.

In this high-energy, interactive school holiday workshop, students learn practical techniques to build confidence and speak clearly in presentations, assemblies, debates and oral exams.

The workshop is led each school holidays by secondary teacher, professional emcee and former Channel 9 News presenter **Adrian Alaberg**, who combines professional speaking experience with engaging, practical strategies to help students communicate with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Licence to Skill: A Security and Intelligence Workshop for high school students

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus, School of Science, Building 18, Level 1 Computer Labs (18.103) - located on the ground floor

Date: July 14, 2026

This ECU School of Science workshop offers a hands-on opportunity to step into the world of security and intelligence. From analysing the environment in which threats emerge to thinking like an intelligence analyst, discover how much skill, strategy and critical thinking goes into keeping places and people safe. Through a series of interactive activities, you'll be introduced to foundational concepts, including security risk context, intelligence analysis, threat assessment, physical security vulnerabilities and access control.

Themes: Security risk, intelligence, analysis, threat assessment, physical security

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Portfolio Entry Information Session, Online

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: Online

Date: July 15, 2026

At UNSW, we know you're more than just a number. That's why we've created the UNSW Portfolio Entry Early Conditional Offer Scheme—a pathway to university that recognises your unique talents and ambitions.

Hear directly from UNSW academics and students about crafting a compelling portfolio for degrees within the Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture and the Faculty of Engineering in 2026. We'll guide you through what to include, how to apply, and tips to help you succeed. Plus, you'll have the chance to ask questions and get clarity on anything you're unsure about.

Why choose this scheme?

- Early Conditional Offers: Get an offer with a reduced ATAR requirement—up to 10 points below the standard selection rank for your chosen degree.
- Showcase your talent: Stand out by highlighting your unique skills, potential, and passion.

[Find out more](#)

Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10-12 Students and Parents

Organisation: Claire Pech Careers

Location: Online

Date: July 16, 2026

This webinar is for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 with ADHD (and the parents trying to help). We'll cover why ADHD brains procrastinate, what actually helps, and the skills that often work even when nothing else does.

Hosted by [Claire Pech](#), CICA-Accredited Careers Practitioner, and [Amanda Krulis](#), endorsed Organisational Psychologist.

View the [full series of webinars](#) for the ADHD community on all things careers, schooling and the workforce.

[Find out more](#)

Curtin Uni STEM Careers: Energy – for Years 9-11

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Curtin University, Bentley

Date: July 16, 2026

Have you ever wondered where a STEM pathway could lead?

Explore the growing job opportunities as Australia moves towards energy security and renewables at this engaging one day event hosted at Curtin University, in collaboration with the Curtin Institute for Energy Transition and the GreenTech Hub.

Throughout the day, students will connect with industry experts, participate in hands-on workshops and learn about how their subject choices can connect to real, future focused opportunities.

*Discounted price available (eligibility criteria apply - get in touch to find out more).

[Find out more](#)

WAM Nearer to Nature: Pathways to Conservation workshop for ages 14-25

Organisation: Western Australian Museum

Location: WA Maritime Museum

Date: July 16, 2026

Meet some of DBCA's Parks and Wildlife staff to get a real behind-the-scenes look at their jobs.

Are you passionate about nature and curious about what a career protecting wildlife and the environment could look like? Come along and meet some of DBCA's Parks and Wildlife staff to get the low-down from them on working in the conservation and natural sciences sector.

In this session, you'll hear from the River Guardians science communicator, a marine ranger, and wetland and estuarine scientist. They'll share their stories, how they got started, and the pathways that led them to where they are today. You'll also learn about the skills, experiences, and opportunities, like DBCA's graduate program that can help you follow a similar path. If you love nature and want to explore future career possibilities, join us at the WA Maritime Museum ... you might just discover your dream job!

[Find out more](#)

WAM Junior Naturalist (Art) Workshop for Ages 8-14

Organisation: Western Australian Museum

Location: Museum of the Great Southern

Date: July 16, 2026

Young artists will observe, sketch, and paint marine life and coastal landscapes, drawing inspiration from the detailed styles of early naturalists. Through guided creative practice, participants will learn to look closely at the natural world and translate their observations into artwork. Each child will take home their own journal and watercolour set to continue exploring and creating long after the workshop ends.

Please note, parental supervision is essential for children under 12 years of age.

[Find out more](#)

Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research – Cells & Proteins Holiday Workshop for Students Aged 10-14

Organisation: Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

Location: Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (North)

Date: July 17, 2026

Inspire curiosity in the newest generation of medical researchers aged 10-14 by using our purpose-built BioDiscovery Laboratory to investigate a range of cutting edge biomedical science topics and techniques.

- Magnify the microscopic world of the human body!
- Investigate how your cells function using micropipettes, microscopes and other cool equipment used by medical research scientists.
- Discover how scientists use cells in research.

This workshop will be run twice on the day, from 10 am – 12 pm or 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. You can only choose one timeslot to attend.

[Find out more](#)

School Holidays: Intro to Game Design Workshop for ages 8-13

Organisation: City of Belmont

Location: Innovation Lab, Ruth Faulkner Library

Date: July 17, 2026

Join EdgyX this school holidays for a hands-on game-making workshop where children will design, build, and play their own digital games. Through fun challenges and guided activities, they'll develop their problem-solving skills and creative thinking.

No experience is required, participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops, however laptops can be provided to those who don't have one.

Snacks will be available, please alert staff to any dietary requirements.

Registration is required for this event. If you cannot register online, please contact the library on 9477 7150.

[Find out more](#)

Perth Skillswest Careers & Employment Expo 2026

Organisation: Kym Jones Exhibitions

Location: Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Date: July 23 to July 25, 2026

Western Australia's largest Careers and Employment Event is open from July 23 to 25, 2026 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Expo will host over 150 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.

The Expo is packed with free advice, where you can:

- Talk with over 160 educators, course providers and employers
- Gain free career advice
- Discover jobs of the future
- Experience the free career seminars
- Learn how to write a winning resume
- Enjoy the WorldSkills "Try a Skill" Zones
- Talk with key organisations at the CTF Construction Hub
- Find your ideal role at the Australian Defence Force display

If you're looking for a job, career change, or course, or you're a school student looking for a career path, you can't afford to miss the Expo.

[Find out more](#)

Murdoch Year 12 University Application Support Session

Organisation: Murdoch University

Location: Murdoch University, Perth Campus & Online

Date: July 28, 2026

Join the Murdoch University Future Students Team as we walk you through the university application process step-by-step.

What is the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC)?

As a year 12 student, or their parent or guardian, you'll hear the term TISC frequently as you navigate the final year of secondary schooling, so what is TISC?

TISC provides the following services for prospective students including:

- Processing of applications for admission to undergraduate courses at Western Australian Universities
- Conducting the Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).
- Administering the Western Australian Universities Foundation Program (WAUFP).
- Publishing periodic School Circulars.
- Scaling WACE results and calculating ATARs for students in Western Australia.

In 2026, Year 12s will submit their application through the Online TISC Portal, which we will walk you through as part of this session, including helpful tips and how tos.

Following the TISC session the Murdoch Future Students Team will provide all the information you need to transition through the remainder of Year 12 and beyond.

We'll cover:

- Course options
- Understanding ATAR outcomes
- Using alternative pathways & Cert IV
- Key dates
- Fees & scholarships
- Orientation
- Much more!

Not able to attend in-person? This event is also being offered online.

[Find out more](#)

Becoming a Protective Service Officer with the AFP – Online Information Session

Organisation: Australian Federal Police

Location: Online

Date: July 28, 2026

Gain insights into the role of a protective service officer (PSO), hear first-hand experiences, and discover what it means to do legendary work in the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

[Find out more](#)

ATAR, Bonus Points, & Uni Entry Explained with ADHD – Webinar for Year 12 Students & Parents

Organisation: Claire Pech Careers

Location: Online

Date: July 30, 2026

Join our webinar designed for Yr 12 students and parents, navigating university admissions with ADHD, which can impact these processes.

We'll cover:

- The ATAR - explained
- What the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) is and who qualifies
- How to apply for EAS and what you will need
- Other bonus points (adjustment factors) on offer
- Important dates and deadlines
- University preference strategies that work
- Early entry options and their benefits

Hosted by [Claire Pech](#), CICA-Accredited Careers Practitioner, and [Amanda Krulis](#), endorsed Organisational Psychologist.

View the [full series of webinars](#) for the ADHD community on all things careers, schooling and the workforce.

[Find out more](#)

Notre Dame Open Day 2026, Broome

Organisation: University of Notre Dame Australia

Location: University of Notre Dame Australia, Broome Campus

Date: July 30, 2026

Chat one-on-one with academics, staff and current students about study options and what life is like here at Notre Dame Uni.

You'll also be able to tour our unique campus and attend information sessions and workshops to find out more about the programs we have on offer.

Plus, you can enjoy live entertainment, tasty treats and much more!

[Find out more](#)

Murdoch Community STEM & Drone Discovery Day

Organisation: Murdoch University

Location: Murdoch University, Perth Campus

Date: August 1, 2026

Bring the whole family along and explore the fascinating worlds of drones, robotics, coding, artificial intelligence, and science through engaging activities designed for learners of all ages. Whether you're a curious beginner, future engineer, educator, or tech enthusiast, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

[Find out more](#)

Applying to the University of Melbourne through VTAC – Online Session for Future Students

Organisation: University of Melbourne

Location: Online

Date: August 5, 2026

Planning on applying to the University of Melbourne, but a little unsure of the steps involved through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)? Join us to discover everything you need to know about VTAC and answer all your application questions.

You'll be guided through the process by our Future Students team and a VTAC representative, so you can apply for your preferred Melbourne undergraduate course in 2026 with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Open Day 2026, Perth City

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, City Campus

Date: August 9, 2026

Join us at an Open Day and load up on inspiration. Explore the campus and talk to our people about how you could be studying with us.

[Find out more](#)

Murdoch University Study Skills Workshop, Busselton

Organisation: Murdoch University

Location: Meeting Room 2, Busselton Community Resource Centre

Date: August 10, 2026

If you're a secondary school student, join our interactive workshop for practical, evidence-based strategies to help with your schoolwork.

Want to study smarter, not harder? Join our interactive **Study Skills Workshop** and discover practical, evidence-based strategies to help you stay organised, focused, and confident with your schoolwork.

Learn how to strengthen your memory, and develop study habits that support long-term success. You'll leave with simple techniques you can start using straight away to feel more in control of your learning.

Perfect for students looking to boost their confidence, reduce study stress, and achieve their best.

[Find out more](#)

ECU South West Teacher Education Information Session

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Online

Date: August 11, 2026

Are you thinking of pursuing a career in Teacher Education? If so, our information evening is perfect for you! If you're passionate about making a positive impact on young people and shaping the next generation of exceptional teachers, our School of Education offers nationally accredited programs in early childhood, primary, and secondary education, all delivered by world leaders in teacher education. Our Information Session will cover course details, admission pathways, application processes, fees, scholarships, and flexible study options such as online or part-time learning.

[Find out more](#)

ACAP Open Day 2026, Perth

Organisation: ACAP University College

Location: ACAP University College, Perth Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Ready to turn your passion into a purpose-driven career? ACAP Open Day is your opportunity to discover how our practical, people-focused courses can help you make a real difference – in your community and your life. Join us on campus this August and experience what makes ACAP different. Whether you're considering counselling, psychology, social work, criminology, law or business, you'll get a firsthand look at the learning, support, and outcomes that set our students up for success.

From expert-led masterclasses and career panels to course advice and campus tours, Open Day is designed to give you the insight and inspiration to take the next step.

[Find out more](#)

SAE Open Day 2026, Perth

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Perth Campus

Date: August 15, 2026

Whether you're still exploring your study options or you're ready to apply, SAE Open Day is the perfect place to get inspired, get informed, and get hands-on with your creative future.

Join us on campus this August to tour our studios, meet your future mentors, and experience what it's like to study at SAE – the University College built for creators and tech innovators.

Explore your study and career pathways across animation, audio, design, film, games, music, VFX and more. Connect with current students, industry-experienced lecturers, and alumni who've turned their ideas into careers.

[Find out more](#)

ADFA Open Day 2026

Organisation: Australian Defence Force Academy

Location: ADFA Canberra Campus & Online

Date: August 15, 2026

ADFA Open Day is run each year in August. Join us online or in person to:

- Explore world-class UNSW degrees, with information sessions about Business, Arts, Science, Engineering, Computing and Cyber Security.
- Learn about military training, studying and life on campus from current ADFA Trainee Officers.
- Watch a variety of exciting displays, take a virtual tour, and much more

[Find out more](#)

STEM Career Speed Networking Years 10-12

Organisation: The Innovators' Tea Party

Location: City West Lotteries House

Date: August 15, 2026

A fast-paced networking event where Year 10–12 students meet women in STEM, share a cup of tea and explore real science and engineering jobs

STEM Speed Networking is a free careers event for students in years 10 – 12 who are interested in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Join us to meet a specially curated group of Women in STEM Mentors who are all passionate about their fields & sharing their career stories. Students will have ~10 minutes with each of our incredible Women in STEM mentors before moving on to the next station. Stations will also include an activity that links the science you learn at school to real life jobs! This is a great opportunity for students to learn about STEM careers and be mentored by industry professionals.

We aim to curate our mentor team from the widest range of professions possible so that students learn about roles they never new existed - check our website closer to the date for a list of professions covered:

[Find out more](#)

Music Careers Expo 2026, Perth

Organisation: The Push

Location: Rosemount Hotel

Date: August 18, 2026

The Music Careers Expo is for young people aged 15–25 who are curious about working in music — whether that's performing, producing, working behind the scenes or exploring other roles across the industry.

You'll hear from people working across the industry (artists, managers, producers, engineers) and have the chance to sit down one-on-one with professionals and educators for advice on your next steps.

If you love Australian music and want to work in it, this is where you start!

Parents, teachers and friends are also welcome to attend.

[Find out more](#)

Curtin Uni Boordakan-Ak Djinanginy (Looking to the Future) Day for Years 7 & 8

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Curtin University, Bentley

Date: August 21, 2026

A STEM exploration day for years 7 and 8 First Nations students to learn more about the exciting world of science and engineering through fun hands-on workshops, inspiring speakers and an expo.

Participate in interactive STEM workshops with university and industry experts

Meet role models & learn about pathways into STEM

Hear from inspiring speakers about their own education journeys

We'll also share information about other STEM initiatives, programs and events your students can participate in. Teachers will need to register with groups of no more than 40 students.

[Find out more](#)

CQU Education Open Day Webinar

Organisation: CQUniversity

Location: Online

Date: August 24, 2026

With [courses](#) available across early childhood, primary and secondary teaching, our friendly education academics will explain what it's really like to study at CQU. You'll learn about our strong local networks, the [support services](#) that help you succeed, and how CQU prepares you for a rewarding career in the classroom.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Science and Mathematics Showcase Evening

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus

Date: August 25, 2026

Curious about where science and mathematics can take you? Join us at ECU for our Science and Mathematics Showcase Evening.

If you're passionate about Biological Sciences, Horticulture, Physics, Mathematics, Data Science, Chemistry, Sustainability, Conservation Biology, Environmental Management, or Marine and Freshwater Biology, this event is for you!

You will hear from academic staff, learn about course and entry pathways, and take a guided tour of our cutting-edge facilities.

[Find out more](#)

Curtin Kalgoorlie Open Day 2026

Organisation: Curtin University

Location: Curtin University, Kalgoorlie Campus

Date: August 27, 2026

Are you in high school and thinking about your pathway to university? Or perhaps you're already working and considering your next move. Whatever stage you're at, Kalgoorlie Open Day is your opportunity to explore a universe of possibilities and discover where a degree from Curtin can take you.

Come along and find your course, meet our staff and students, and get expert advice on careers, work opportunities, pathways, scholarships and student life – all in the unique and welcoming environment of our Kalgoorlie campus.

[Find out more](#)

RCSWA High School to Med School: Everything TISC Webinar

Organisation: University of Western Australia

Location: Online

Date: August 31, 2026

Applying to a medical school through the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) is a crucial step in a student's journey to medicine...

Chat to our experts and hear from current medical students about navigating the TISC application process. The Rural Clinical School of WA (RCSWA) is a partnership between UWA, Notre Dame Australia, and Curtin University medical schools.

Established in 2002, the school has supported hundreds of country students to enter medicine since. RCSWA also provides 12-month rural training placements across WA for penultimate and final year medical students with the aim of preparing them for future rural practice.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Computing and Security Degrees Information Evening

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus

Date: September 1, 2026

Curious about the exciting possibilities in Computing and Security? Join us for ECU's Computing and Security Showcase Evening and discover where a career in this fast-evolving field can take you.

Our Computing and Security programs include a broad choice of major subjects and cover dynamic areas such as computer science, cyber security, information technology, counter terrorism, security, intelligence, and software engineering.

On the night, you will hear from academic staff, learn about course and entry pathways, and take a guided tour of our cutting-edge facilities.

[Find out more](#)

ECU South West UniPrep Information Evening

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, South West (Bunbury) Campus

Date: September 1, 2026

ECU's University Preparation Course – or UniPrep – is a free program that gets you ready for university level study by teaching you the skills required for academic success – with an emphasis on becoming an independent learner.

UniPrep is open to any Australian Citizen or permanent resident who hasn't been at school for a while, to students who are currently completing high school and want to prepare for university, or to recent school leavers who didn't get the result they'd hoped for.

If you successfully complete UniPrep, you'll be eligible to start many of our undergraduate degree courses. This is also a great session for anyone who is thinking about applying for our UniPrep Summer program, a condensed on-campus version of the course available at the South West campus.

In this session, we'll cover:

- What subjects you can expect to study in UniPrep
- How to apply for UniPrep
- Flexible study options, including full or part-time, online and UniPrep Summer
- Career advice and course selection post-UniPrep

[Find out more](#)

Murdoch Open Night 2026

Organisation: Murdoch University

Location: Murdoch University, Perth Campus

Date: September 1, 2026

Discover how your passion can become a career by exploring the many course possibilities at Murdoch University. Join us for a night of curiosity, connection, innovation and opportunity, as we explore how Murdoch University equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to solve complex problems, think critically, and adapt to new challenges.

Experience our building, Boola Katitjin, as you visit exciting expo stalls from each of our course areas and engage with speakers throughout the evening by attending our TEDx style 10 minute information sessions. With over 280 courses, there is a degree for everyone at Murdoch University.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Nursing and Midwifery Degrees Showcase Evening

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus

Date: September 4, 2026

If the idea of a career in nursing and/or midwifery gets your pulse racing, look no further than ECU. ECU produces some of the highest quality nursing and midwifery graduates in Western Australia and is recognised as a top 75 nursing program worldwide.

ECU prepares more nursing and midwifery students for careers in health than any other university in WA. We also offer WA's only dual Nursing/Midwifery degree – and our facilities are hard to beat too!

At our Nursing and Midwifery Showcase Evening you will have the opportunity to explore our state-of-the-art facilities, learn about our courses and the excellent support services you can expect as a student. You can speak to our Future Student Engagements Team about admission pathways, how to apply, fees and scholarships and flexible study options like online or part-time.

[Find out more](#)

ECU Teacher Education Information Session, Perth

Organisation: Edith Cowan University

Location: Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus

Date: September 7, 2026

Are you thinking of pursuing a career in Teacher Education? If so, our information evening is perfect for you!

If you're passionate about making a positive impact on young people and shaping the next generation of exceptional teachers, our School of Education offers nationally accredited programs in early childhood, primary, and secondary education, all delivered by world leaders in teacher education. Our Information Session will cover course details, admission pathways, application processes, fees, scholarships, and flexible study options such as online or part-time learning.

[Find out more](#)

Inspiring Girls Careers Forum, Kalgoorlie

Organisation: Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA

Location: Kalgoorlie Overland Motel

Date: September 9, 2026

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA is excited to bring the Inspiring Girls Careers Forum to regional Western Australia again in 2026.

This unique event showcases the resources sector to female Year 6-8 students, helping discover the diverse range of roles and skills that can take them there.

What students will experience:

- Hear from an inspiring female industry guest speaker
- Take part in fun, hands-on STEM and team building activities
- Participate in a fast-paced speed-careering session
- Meet and interact with local resources representatives

By attending, students will:

- Learn about the broad pathways taken by representatives in the resources sector
- Understand the opportunities available for women working in the industry
- Gain inspiration to explore new subjects and future career options
- Build connections with local companies and professionals

[Find out more](#)

RCSWA High School to Med School: Interview Prep Workshop for Year 12s

Organisation: Bunbury (South West) Campus

Location: RCSWA Bunbury, ECU South West Campus

Date: September 12, 2026

Year 12 students applying for medical school can role-play interviews and get the best tips from our experts and current medical students

Learn all about the different formats and scoring of medical school entry interviews and how you can best prepare for success.

Meet our experienced university administrators and medical students who will role-play common interview questions with you and provide valuable feedback.

Lunch is provided. Please include the names of all parents/carers attending before completing your registration.

The Rural Clinical School of WA (RCSWA) is a partnership between UWA, Notre Dame Australia, and Curtin University medical schools. Since 2002, our school has supported hundreds of country students to gain entry to medicine. We also provide 12-month rural training placements to penultimate and final year medical students around WA with the aim of preparing them for internship and future rural practice.

[Find out more](#)

RCSWA High School to Med School: Online Interview Prep Workshop for Year 12s

Organisation: University of Western Australia

Location: Online

Date: September 12, 2026

Year 12 students applying for medical school can role-play interviews and get the best tips from our experts and current medical students

Learn all about the different formats and scoring of medical school entry interviews and how you can best prepare for success.

Meet our experienced university administrators and medical students who will role-play common interview questions with you and provide valuable feedback.

Lunch is provided. Please include the names of all parents/carers attending before completing your registration.

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[Find out more](#)

Inspiring Girls Careers Forum, Bunbury

Organisation: Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA

Location: Mantra Bunbury Lighthouse

Date: September 16, 2026

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA is excited to bring the Inspiring Girls Careers Forum to regional Western Australia again in 2026.

This unique event showcases the resources sector to female Year 6-8 students, helping discover the diverse range of roles and skills that can take them there.

What students will experience:

- Hear from an inspiring female industry guest speaker
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By attending, students will:

- Learn about the broad pathways taken by representatives in the resources sector
- Understand the opportunities available for women working in the industry
- Gain inspiration to explore new subjects and future career options
- Build connections with local companies and professionals

[Find out more](#)

It Takes a Spark STEM Conference for Year 4-10 Students and Teachers, Perth

Organisation: Intuyu Consulting Pty Ltd

Location: Frederick Irwin Anglican School, Meadow Springs Campus

Date: September 24, 2026

Most conferences currently being offered on STEM, STEAM and Entrepreneurship tend to be targeted towards teachers and involve a series of speakers and the occasional mini-workshops. This conference is designed to be different. This conference is designed by students and teachers for students and teachers.

The intent of the It Takes a Spark STEM Conference is to bring together Students (Year 4 to 10) and Teachers to connect with inspiring industry role models, share their current school based activities and projects using an authentic sharing and experiential model, create networks of teachers and student teams, and solve social justice design challenges.

The participation of the students is as important as teachers as our intent is to ignite, empower and nurture both to be leaders of STEM and Entrepreneurship within their schools. This is a conference designed and led by students and teachers for students and teachers.

Teachers will have both formal and informal opportunities to speak to other teachers who have enacted programs and activities in their schools and get their questions answered.

The Problem Solver design challenges are all hands-on so students and teachers will experience first-hand what it is like to be part of great STEM and entrepreneurial learning. This will spark new ideas about curriculum and pedagogy.

[Find out more](#)

School Holiday Aviation Program for Young People Aged 15+ in Perth

Organisation: Flight Standards

Location: Flight Standards, Jandakot Airport

Date: October 1 to October 3, 2026

This three-day program is a fantastic opportunity to learn many of the hands-on skills required to pilot an aeroplane in a fun and relaxed environment.

All practical and theory training is delivered by Flight Standards instructors, with each participant receiving pre- and post-flight briefings. Participants have the opportunity to go on a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the airfield, visit on-field aviation organisations, and visit the control tower (subject to operational requirements). Then to cap it all off, they will get to actually fly an aeroplane in two experience lessons, plus spend some time in the flight simulator.

The focus of the course is understanding what it takes to become a pilot, including the medical requirements, structure of a typical training day, knowledge and skills required to obtain your licence, and various training pathways for a career in aviation or becoming a recreational pilot.

While targeted at participants 15 years of age, participants over 13 years of age will be considered based on height and maturity.

[Find out more](#)

Events & Hospitality – Youth Career Series

Organisation: Shire of Chittering

Location: Sandalford Wines

Date: October 1, 2026

This Career Series youth event with Sandalford & Stringybark introduces students aged 13+ to the fast-paced, people-focused world of events, hospitality, and wine careers. Set across their unique venues, the experience gives young people a feel for what it takes to bring events to life, while also showcasing opportunities within the wine industry, from production through to customer experience.

During the visit, students meet team members from a variety of roles including event coordination, venue operations, food and beverage, and wine-related careers such as cellar door experiences, sales, and marketing. Staff share their career journeys in a friendly and down-to-earth way, helping students see how different skills and interests can lead to a place in the industry.

Overall, the event is designed to be hands-on, engaging, and inspiring. By exploring real venues and hearing directly from industry professionals, students gain a clearer understanding of the wide range of opportunities available and the pathways they can take to get there.

[Find out more](#)

Create for a Day at SAE Perth

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Perth Campus

Date: October 3, 2026

This October school holidays, SAE University College Perth is opening its doors for Create for a Day: a one-day, hands-on experience where you'll step into the studio, lab or production space and start creating.

Choose from:

- Animation
- Audio
- Computer Science
- Design
- Film
- Games
- Songwriting & Electronic Music Production

Create for a Day lets you skip the textbooks and jump straight into building, recording, designing, coding or filming, all guided by lecturers who work in the industry.

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with your own finished project and a certificate of participation, plus a clearer idea of what studying at SAE is really like and where your skills could take you in the future.

Open to students in Years 10-12 and young creatives up to age 21.

[Find out more](#)

Technology & Robotics – Youth Career Series

Organisation: Shire of Chittering

Location: Australian Automation and Robotics Precinct

Date: October 8, 2026

The Youth Career Series at the Australian Automation and Robotics Precinct (AARP) offers students aged 13+ a unique, hands-on introduction to the future of technology and innovation. During the visit, participants will tour the state-of-the-art facility, gaining insight into how robotics, automation, and autonomous systems are shaping modern industries.

Students will also meet Autonomo, a newly launched training academy focused on building practical skills in robotics and autonomous technologies, helping prepare the next generation for high-tech careers. In addition, they will engage with RS Components, a global distributor of industrial and electronic products, and tour their lab to see real-world applications of engineering and innovation in action.

This experience is designed to inspire young people by connecting them directly with industry leaders and emerging career pathways in advanced technologies.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

JMC Design Scholarship

Organisation: JMC Academy

Location: Australia

Value: 30% tuition fee reduction

Close Date: No closing date

[Find out more](#)

SCU Resilience Merit Scholarship

Organisation: Southern Cross University

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$36,000

Close Date: February 5, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Vice Chancellor's Elite Scholarship

Organisation: Bond University

Location: Australia

Value: 100% fee waiver

Open Date: May 1, 2026

Close Date: July 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

JMC Academy No Limits – National High School Creative Competition

Organisation: JMC Academy

Location: Australia

Value: Up to AU\$1,000

Close Date: August 31, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Australasian Schools Debate Championships

Organisation: Edudrift

Location: Australia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, People's Republic of China, Singapore, South Korea

Value: See details

Close Date: No closing date

[Find out more](#)

My First Speech Competition

Organisation: Department of the House of Representatives

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Close Date: July 20, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Turtle Publishing Short Story Competition

Organisation: Turtle Publishing

Location: All

Value: See details

Close Date: November 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Experiences

BAE What's My Discipline? Experience Program for Years 11 & 12

Organisation: BAE Systems

Location: Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Date: April 17, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Weekly Posts

University

What is orientation week and do you need to attend?

Starting university is a big shift. After years of following a timetable that was handed to you, suddenly you're expected to manage your own schedule, find your own way around a new campus, and figure out how everything works, often all at once. Orientation week is designed to make that transition a little easier. It usually takes place in the week before classes begin, and while it's not always compulsory, it's one of the more useful things you can do before your studies actually start.

What is Orientation Week?

Orientation Week is a university-run program that introduces new students to campus life before the first semester begins. It typically runs for five to seven days and covers a mix of practical information sessions and social activities.

Most universities structure it around a few key areas:

- Campus tours so you can find your way around before classes start
- Faculty information sessions where you meet staff from your degree and learn what to expect from your course
- Club and society fairs where student-run groups set up stalls and invite new students to get involved
- Social events designed to help students meet each other in a relaxed setting

Some of these sessions are more useful than others depending on your situation, and you don't have to attend every single thing on the schedule. But getting a feel for the shape of the week before you start is a good idea.

Is it compulsory?

In most cases, no. Orientation Week activities are generally optional, with a few exceptions. Some faculties run information sessions or enrolment check-ins during this time that are strongly encouraged, and a small number of courses may require attendance at a specific session. It's worth checking your university's Orientation Week schedule early so you know what applies to your degree.

The more useful question is whether you'd benefit from going, and for most new students, the answer is yes.

What actually happens during Orientation Week?

Campus tours

If you haven't spent much time on campus before, a guided tour is one of the most practical things you can do. Universities are often spread across large areas, and knowing where your faculty building, the library, student services, and the nearest food options are before you have a 9am lecture makes the first week feel a lot less stressful.

Faculty information sessions

These sessions are run by the staff and sometimes senior students from your specific degree. They usually cover things like how your course is structured, what the assessment expectations are, how to access support, and who to contact if something goes wrong. It's the kind of information that takes a lot longer to figure out on your own, so sitting in for an hour or two can save you a lot of confusion later.

Clubs & societies

One of the less obvious benefits of Orientation Week is the clubs and societies fair. Most universities have hundreds of student-run clubs covering everything from sport and culture to academic interests and social causes. Joining one or two early in your degree is one of the more effective ways to meet people outside your immediate course group, and it gives you something consistent to show up to when the novelty of first semester wears off.

Social events

Orientation Week tends to have a reputation for parties, and while those do exist, most universities also run low-key social events during the day. These might include free lunches, trivia nights, movie screenings, or cultural events. You don't have to be particularly outgoing to find something that suits you.

What if you're feeling nervous about it?

It's completely normal to feel uncertain about walking into a new environment where you don't know anyone. Most of the people around you at Orientation Week are in exactly the same position, even if it doesn't look that way from the outside. The social pressure to immediately have everything figured out is not as real as it can feel.

You don't have to force yourself to attend every event or introduce yourself to dozens of people in the first day. Showing up to one or two things, even just to observe, is enough to start building some familiarity with the campus and the people in it. That familiarity tends to make the first few weeks of actual study feel more manageable.

What about online or distance students?

If you're studying entirely online, Orientation Week will look different. Many universities now offer virtual orientation programs that cover similar ground: how to navigate online learning platforms, what support services are available remotely, and how to connect with other students in your course. It's worth checking what your university offers, because these sessions can be just as useful for understanding what to expect, even if you never set foot on campus.

Why it's worth showing up

The practical value of Orientation Week, knowing your way around, understanding your course structure, having at least a few familiar faces in your degree, is real. But the less obvious benefit is that it gives you a head start on feeling like you belong somewhere new.

University can feel anonymous, especially in the first few weeks. Orientation Week is one of the few times where everyone is equally new, equally uncertain, and equally open to meeting people. That window doesn't stay open forever, so making use of it, even in a small way, tends to pay off more than skipping it entirely.

If you want to explore more about university life and what to expect, [we have plenty of other articles and resources to help you out.](#)

Study Tips

What to do in the last few weeks before a big exam

The lead-up to a big exam can feel like a lot, especially when you're not sure how to use the time you have. Most students know they should be doing something, but figuring out what that looks like at each stage isn't always obvious.

The good news is that the weeks before an exam don't have to feel chaotic. Approaching each phase with a clear focus makes the whole process more manageable, and it means you're not burning energy on the wrong things at the wrong time.

A few weeks out

This is the point where your approach to studying needs to change. Up until now, study has probably looked like keeping on top of class content and making sure you understand what's been covered. In the weeks before an exam, the focus shifts to targeted preparation for a specific task.

The first thing worth doing is taking stock of what the exam actually covers. Go through the syllabus, any study guides your teacher has provided, and your notes from the term. Work out where your understanding is solid and where there are gaps, because that shapes how you spend your time from here.

From there, the goal is to move away from passively reading over notes and toward more active preparation. Working through past papers and practice questions is one of the most useful things you can do at this stage, not just because it helps you review content, but because it shows you what the exam actually asks of you and where your knowledge holds up under that kind of pressure.

It's also worth putting together a rough plan for the weeks ahead. You don't need a rigid hour-by-hour schedule, but having a general sense of what you're covering and when prevents the time from slipping away without much to show for it.

The week of the exam

By the time exam week arrives, the goal is to narrow your focus rather than cover more ground. Trying to review everything at once at this stage is more likely to scatter your attention than strengthen your preparation.

Look back at what you identified as your weakest areas a few weeks out and spend the bulk of your time there. Go deeper on fewer things rather than skimming broadly across everything. If there are key concepts, formulas, or structures you've been shaky on, this is the week to work through them properly.

If you haven't already been doing timed practice, now is a good time to start. Sitting down and working through questions under exam-like conditions, with the clock running and no notes in front of you, is different to reviewing content at your own pace. Doing it at least once or twice before the actual exam helps you get comfortable with that pressure before it counts.

This is also the week where how you're living starts to matter more directly. Getting enough sleep and keeping stress manageable aren't just general wellbeing advice at this point, they affect how well the study you're doing actually sticks.

The last few days

With only a few days to go, the focus shifts again. This isn't the time to be learning new content or working through material you haven't touched yet. What you know at this point is largely what you've built over the past few weeks, and the goal now is to reinforce it.

Light revision is the right approach here. Going over summaries, key formulas, or the main ideas from each topic is more useful than re-reading full sets of notes. You're not trying to learn anything new, you're making sure what you already know is easy to access when you need it.

This is also the point where it's worth being practical about the day itself. Know where the exam is being held, what time you need to leave, and what you need to bring. Sorting that out in advance means it's one less thing on your mind on the day.

On the subject of all-nighters: it's worth understanding why they tend to backfire before deciding they're worth it. Sleep is when the brain consolidates what it's learned, so cutting it short in the days before an exam doesn't just leave you tired, it actively works against the preparation you've already put in. Most students who pull an all-nighter before an exam perform worse than they would have on a full night's sleep, even if they feel like the extra hours were productive. A few extra hours of review are rarely worth that trade-off.

The morning of

The morning of an exam isn't the time for last-minute study. Cramming at this point is more likely to increase anxiety than improve your performance, and it doesn't leave you in the right headspace to actually do your best work.

Eat something before you leave. It doesn't need to be a full meal, but going into an exam on an empty stomach makes it harder to concentrate.

Aim to arrive early. Getting there with a few minutes to spare means you're not rushing, you have time to settle, and you're not starting the exam already flustered. If you find the pre-exam nerves building while you wait, try to bring your attention back to what you've actually prepared rather than fixating on what you're unsure about. You've put the work in, and that counts for something.

Make the most of the time you have

The lead-up to a big exam is a lot more manageable when you know what each phase is actually for. A few weeks out, you're identifying gaps and shifting into active preparation. The week of, you're narrowing your focus and going deeper. The last few days are about consolidation, not expansion. And the morning of is about showing up in the best shape you can.

Each phase builds on the last, and the students who tend to feel most confident walking into an exam are the ones who treat each stage differently rather than trying to do everything at once.

If you're looking for more guidance on studying and university life, [check out our other articles and resources](#).

Jobs & Careers

Pathways into Veterinary Science

For anyone who loves animals, becoming a vet is probably one of the jobs that's crossed your mind. Making it to becoming a veterinarian (like a doctor or surgeon) takes years of hard work, study, and patience to actually achieve. The good news is that if you're still in high school, you're already at the perfect starting point. There's plenty you can do right now to set yourself up for success, long before you ever step onto a university campus.

What does a vet actually do?

Most people picture vets treating cats and dogs, and that's a big part of the job. But veterinary work stretches much further than the local clinic. Depending on where you work and what you specialise in, you could be

working with all manner of domestic pets from the cute and cuddly, to feathered and scaly, farm animals, large animals like horses, wildlife, and even zoo animals. While some vets specialise in surgery, others focus on nutrition, and some spend their careers in research labs developing new treatments. There are vets who work for government departments checking food safety, and others who travel to disaster zones to help animals after floods or bushfires.

This variety matters because it means there isn't just one "type" of person who becomes a vet. If you love the idea of working outdoors with livestock, that's a real pathway. If you're more interested in microscopes and lab work, that's a pathway too.

Subjects to focus on in high school

Universities want to see that you've built a solid foundation in science before you arrive, so your subject choices in the senior years of high school matter if you're sure this is the right path for you to take after leaving school.

Biology and chemistry are the two subjects that almost every veterinary science course expects you to have studied. Biology helps you understand how animal bodies work, while chemistry lays the groundwork for subjects like pharmacology and biochemistry later on. If your school offers physics, it's worth considering as well, since some universities list it as recommended or assumed knowledge for veterinary courses.

Maths is also commonly required, since you'll need to calculate medication dosages and anaesthetics on wildly different sized patients, as well as interpreting and analysing stacks of data throughout your career. You might want to consider taking the advanced Maths option at school to ensure you've covered all the bases.

English is worth taking seriously too, even though it might seem unrelated. Vets spend a surprising amount of time writing case notes, explaining treatment plans to worried pet owners, and communicating with colleagues, so strong written and verbal skills go a long way.

When your researching courses to apply for, remember to check that you'll meet all the prerequisites, or work out which bridging or uni prep programs you could complete to get you up to the level you'll need to be at.

Skills you'll need beyond the classroom

Veterinary courses are popular, and due to the length and nature of them (lots of lab work, supervision, and placements), places can be limited. Which means that you'll need good grades to get you through the university door. But great grades alone won't necessarily help you make it through interviews or make you a good vet. Veterinary work demands a mix of technical knowledge and personal skills that are just as important. Problem-solving is a huge requirement in this field. Animals can't tell you exactly what's wrong, so vets need to piece together symptoms, test results, behaviours, and information from owners or keepers to figure out a diagnosis. Communication deserves a special mention too. A vet who can explain a treatment plan clearly to a stressed pet owner is just as valuable as one with excellent clinical skills. Try to take notice of these moments in your own life. Group projects, part-time jobs, and even babysitting can all help you build the kind of communication and problem-solving skills that translate directly into veterinary work.

Emotional resilience matters a great deal, because the job not only involves dealing with sick and injured animals, but comforting them when they're frightened or stressed, and sometimes delivering difficult news to owners. You'll also need physical stamina, as the work can involve long hours on your feet, lifting animals, and more often than not getting your hands quite dirty.

Getting work experience while you're still at school

[Work experience](#) is never a waste of your time, with the skills you'll gain and networking you'll do. It could help you determine if this is indeed the right career path for you and help you to start gaining relevant experience, which could make a real difference to your applications later on.

[Local vet clinics are a great place to begin](#). Many are happy to have high school students shadow them for a day or a week during school holidays, even if it's just observing rather than assisting. It's worth planning well ahead and getting in touch personally to ask, since spots fill up quickly, and places are often limited.

[Animal shelters and rescue organisations are another option, and they often welcome volunteers from age 14 or 15](#) depending on local rules. Spending time walking dogs, cleaning enclosures, or helping with adoption days will teach you a lot about animal behaviour, handling, and welfare. If you live near a farm, stables, or wildlife sanctuary, reaching out to ask about volunteering can also open doors, particularly if you're interested in large

animal or wildlife veterinary work. Pet shops are another option for work experience, you'll learn about caretaking and nutritional requirements for lots of different animals, and practice your business, communication, and customer service skills too.

Whatever you choose, always keep a record of what you did and what you learned. Remember to ask for written references as well. Those details will be useful later when writing personal statements or in interviews with university admissions staff about why you're committed to this career.

University pathways in Australia and New Zealand

There are eight universities in Australia and one in New Zealand whose veterinary degrees are accredited by the [Australasian Veterinary Boards Council \(AVBC\)](#). Accreditation is important because it means your qualification will be recognised and you'll be able to register and work as a vet on graduation. Completing an accredited course means you could also be able to [register and work in other countries around the world](#) (New Zealand, the UK, Ireland, and South Africa), as well as in all Australian states and territories.

In Australia, these are:

- University of Sydney offer the [Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Bioscience \(BVSc\)](#) (3 years full time) and [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine](#) (4 years full time) as well as the joint program [Bachelor of Veterinary Biology and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine](#) which can be completed in just six years.
- University of Melbourne run the [Bachelor of Science \(BVSc\)](#) and [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine \(DVM\)](#)
- University of Queensland's [Bachelor of Veterinary Science \(Honours\) \(BVSc \(Hons\)\)](#)
- Southern Cross University offer the newest of the accredited degrees which is the [Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine \(Honours\) \(BVM\(Hons\)\)](#)
- Adelaide University have the [Bachelor of Science \(Veterinary Bioscience\) \(BSc \(VetBiosc\)\)](#) and [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine \(DVM\)](#) pathway. (Note, there's no direct entry into the DVM, applicants must have completed a Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Bioscience) from Adelaide University to apply).
- Murdoch University offer the [Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery \(BVMS\)](#) and the [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine \(DVM\)](#) (you'll need to have completed a Bachelor Degree in Veterinary Science with Honours or a Bachelor Degree in Veterinary Science and satisfy the Dean of Graduate Research requirements)
- [Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Veterinary Biology \(BVBiol\)/ Bachelor of Veterinary Science \(BVSc\)](#)
- [James Cook University's Bachelor of Veterinary Science \(Honours\) \(BVSc \(Hons\)\)](#)

In New Zealand, Massey University in Palmerston North offers the only AVBC-accredited veterinary degree with their [Bachelor of Veterinary Science \(BVSc\)](#).

It's worth checking the accreditation status of any course before you apply, just in case anything has changed. These universities offer slightly different structures. Some, like Southern Cross Uni and James Cook University, offer a five-year undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary Science straight after high school. Others, like the University of Melbourne, require you to complete an undergraduate degree first before applying for a graduate-entry Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Whereas the University of Sydney and the University of Adelaide offer combined degree pathways, where you study a related science degree before progressing into the veterinary qualification.

Entry is competitive, and most courses require a high ATAR or equivalent, although this changes from year to year and between universities. If you'll have to progress or apply for the Doctor of Medicine then you'll also need to ensure that you maintain a high Grade Point Average (GPA) throughout your undergraduate studies to meet the entry requirements.

Some universities also use additional selection tools, such as a situational judgement test like [Casper test](#), an interview, or evidence of animal-related work experience, so it's worth checking the specific entry requirements for each course you're interested in well before applications open. If your results end up being slightly below what's needed, don't panic. Several universities offer alternative pathways into veterinary science, including transferring from a related science degree after a strong first year, or applying as a mature-age or tertiary entry student with relevant university study already completed.

Bear in mind, that's there's also the option of studying overseas and then converting your qualifications if you'd like to practice in Australia down the track.

What if you change your mind along the way?

Choosing this path doesn't lock you into only one outcome. Because many Australian and New Zealand veterinary degrees begin with a broader science qualification before you move into the veterinary-specific years, you'll come out with skills that are valued well beyond clinical practice, even if your interests shift. Animal science and biology graduates often move into research roles, working in laboratories on things like disease control, genetics, or new treatments for animals and humans alike. Others head into conservation and wildlife management, using their understanding of animal biology to support environmental agencies or zoos. There are also opportunities in government, where animal health inspectors and biosecurity officers help keep diseases out of farms, ports, and borders.

If you enjoy the science side more than hands-on animal care, pharmaceutical and biotech companies regularly hire science graduates for research and development work. Some people find they're drawn to teaching, eventually becoming science teachers or lecturers, while others move into health-related fields entirely, like physiotherapy or nutrition, using their existing science credits as a head start.

None of this means you're giving up on veterinary work for good either. There is always the option to pause after completing your undergraduate degree, try working in other fields, then re-enter veterinary study later, once you've had time to think things through or gain more work and life experience.

Didn't get the ATAR you wanted? There's still a way in

A lower-than-hoped-for ATAR doesn't have to be the end of the road, and plenty of vets started out taking a longer, less direct route to get there.

One popular option is starting with a vocational qualification, such as a [Certificate III in Animal Care](#) or a [Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing](#) through TAFE or a registered training provider. These courses could get you working hands-on with animals (and earning) far sooner than a university degree would, and they're a career in their own right. But they can also double as a stepping stone. Completing a vocational qualification like this can grant you general entry into university, even without an ATAR, and some universities will credit your studies towards relevant units in a related degree, such as [Charles Sturt University's Bachelor of Veterinary Technology](#).

Another route is to start in a related university science degree with a lower entry requirement, do well in your first year or two, and then apply to transfer into veterinary science once you've proven yourself academically. Several universities run this kind of internal transfer pathway, sometimes called advanced standing, and it can be a smart option if your school results don't quite reflect your ability or potential. Examples of courses include (but are not limited to) [La Trobe University's Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing and Technology](#). Or Murdoch Uni's [Bachelor of Agricultural Science](#) with a [major in Animal Science](#) or [Animal Health](#) which they state on their website as a pathway "[after one successful year, apply for transfer into the vet science integrated degree](#)."

There are no shortcuts, just alternative routes. They make take you a bit longer and involve a few more steps, but they could lead to exactly the same outcome of becoming a vet.

Jobs in the veterinary field that don't need a degree

Not everyone who wants to work with animals needs to spend years at university, and there's a whole range of veterinary-adjacent jobs open to people without a degree at all.

[Veterinary nursing](#) is an obvious example. With a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing, you can work alongside vets monitoring patients, assisting with procedures, and supporting pet owners through difficult moments, all without needing a university qualification. Animal attendants and kennel or cattery workers are entry-level roles that often require little more than enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, and many people use these jobs to get a foot in the door before deciding whether to study further. Veterinary receptionists keep clinics running smoothly and need strong people skills more than scientific ones, while groomers and pet stylists build a trade-based career working closely with animals, often through a vocational certificate rather than a degree. Outside of a veterinary practice, there are stacks of jobs working with animals that you might also like to consider. From dog walking and pet grooming to working in agricultural roles, conservation and wildlife positions, there are lots of ways to work with animals.

These jobs are worth considering even if your end goal is still to become a fully qualified vet. Working in any of these roles while you're studying, or even during your gap year, gives you valuable hands-on experience and a much clearer picture of whether veterinary work is really the right fit for you.

Where to next?

Yes the road to becoming a vet is a long road, but it's one that lots of people have successfully walked before you, so you know it's achievable and there's already a clear set of steps you can start ticking off right now.

Choose your science subjects carefully, look for small ways to gain experience with animals, and start researching the universities that interest you so you know exactly what they're looking for.

If you'd like to keep exploring your study options and compare different universities and courses, you can find more helpful guides on our [university page](#).

What's the difference between an Engineer and an Architect?

If you've ever looked at a stunning building and wondered who designed it or how it stays standing, you've already started thinking about two of the most creative and technical careers out there. Engineering and architecture often get mentioned together, and for good reason. Both play a role in shaping the built environment around us. But they approach that work quite differently, and understanding those differences could help you figure out which path suits you best.

What is architecture?

Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings and spaces. Architects are responsible for how a structure looks, how it feels to be inside it, and how it works for the people using it. That means thinking about everything from the shape of a building's exterior to the flow of rooms inside, the materials used, the way natural light enters a space, and how the building fits into its surroundings.

Architects work closely with clients to understand what they need, then translate those needs into detailed designs. A lot of their work involves sketching, drawing, and using design software to bring ideas to life before anything is built. They also need to understand building regulations and make sure their designs are safe and practical, not just visually striking.

What is engineering?

Engineering is the application of science and mathematics to design, build, and maintain structures, systems, and machines. Engineers figure out how things work and make sure they work reliably and safely. In the context of buildings and infrastructure, engineers are the ones calculating whether a bridge can hold its load, designing the systems that move water through a city, or working out how a skyscraper can withstand wind and earthquakes.

Engineering covers a wide range of disciplines. Some engineers focus on structures, others on roads and water systems, others on machines or electronics. What they all share is a strong foundation in problem-solving, mathematics, and applied science.

So what are the main differences?

Now that we have a sense of each field, here's how they differ across a few key areas.

Creative focus vs technical focus

Architecture sits at the intersection of art and science. A big part of the job involves making decisions about aesthetics, that is, how something looks and the experience it creates for the people who use it. Architects think about proportion, light, materials, and meaning.

Engineering leans more heavily into the technical side. The primary concern is function: will this work? Will it hold? Is it safe? Engineers use maths and physics to answer those questions with precision.

That said, both fields require creativity. Architects need to solve practical problems within real constraints, and engineers often need to find elegant solutions to complex challenges.

The type of work day to day

Architects spend a lot of their time on design work: drawing, modelling, meeting with clients, and refining plans. They might visit construction sites to check that their design is being built correctly, but much of their work happens in a studio or office environment.

Engineers are more likely to be involved in the technical analysis and construction phases of a project. Depending on their specialisation, they might spend time on-site, running calculations, testing materials, or managing the technical side of a build. Their work is often more hands-on and tied to measurable outcomes.

How the two work together

On most major building projects, architects and engineers work side by side. An architect might design a building with a dramatic curved roof, and it's the structural engineer's job to figure out how to actually build it so it doesn't collapse. They need each other, and good communication between the two is a big part of how successful projects come together.

This is also where the overlap can get interesting. Some professionals train in both areas, and there are roles that sit right on the boundary between design and technical problem-solving.

Study pathways

Architecture typically requires a university degree, and most programs are structured across two stages: an undergraduate degree followed by a postgraduate qualification. After graduating, there's also a period of practical experience required before you can become a registered Architect. It's a longer pathway, but it builds deep expertise across both the creative and technical sides of the role. At school, subjects like design, visual arts, maths, and physics are all useful foundations.

Engineering is also typically studied at university, with degrees covering a broad range of disciplines. You might study civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, or software engineering, among others. Most undergraduate engineering degrees take around four years. Strong performance in maths and science subjects at school is usually important for entry into these programs.

Both pathways are competitive and rewarding, and there are also vocational qualifications available in related trades and technical areas that can lead into engineering or construction roles through a different route.

Which one might suit you?

Choosing between architecture and engineering isn't just about what you're good at. It's also about what kind of work energises you.

Architecture could be a strong fit if you:

- Love drawing, designing, or making things
- Are interested in how spaces make people feel
- Enjoy subjects like design, art, or visual communication
- Like the idea of working closely with clients to bring a vision to life

Engineering could be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy maths and science and like applying them to real problems
- Are a logical thinker who likes figuring out how things work
- Get satisfaction from finding solutions that are efficient and reliable
- Are drawn to a wide variety of industries and applications

If you find yourself drawn to both, that's not a bad thing. Some of the best projects happen when people from both fields understand each other's work a little better.

5 careers working with animals beyond vet and zookeeper

When most people think about careers with animals, the same two roles come up: vet and zookeeper. Both are great, but they're far from the only options. Whether you're drawn to science, law, storytelling, or helping people, there's likely an animal-related career that fits.

Here are five roles you might not have considered.

Wildlife Biologist

Wildlife Biologists study animals and the ecosystems they live in, from tracking population numbers and mapping habitats to understanding how land clearing or climate change affects specific species. It's a role with a direct hand in whether certain animals survive or disappear.

Some spend weeks outdoors collecting data in forests, wetlands, or coastal environments. Others split their time between fieldwork and lab analysis, writing reports and sharing findings with government agencies or conservation organisations.

A degree in wildlife biology, zoology, or ecology is the usual starting point, with many research-level roles requiring postgraduate study. Volunteering with conservation groups while still at school is one of the most practical ways to build early experience and work out if the field is right for you.

Wildlife Rehabilitator

Wildlife Rehabilitators care for animals that have been injured, orphaned, or caught up in events like bushfires. The goal is always to return them to the wild, which means every decision during their care has to support that outcome.

On any given day, you might be feeding an orphaned joey, treating a bird with a broken wing, or preparing an animal for release. Too much human contact during recovery can actually reduce an animal's chances of surviving once released, so the work requires as much discipline as it does compassion.

Volunteering is the most accessible entry point for wildlife rehabilitation, you can get hands on experience helping animals and even volunteer while still in school.

Animal-Assisted Therapist

Animal-Assisted Therapists use animals as part of structured therapy sessions to support people's mental, physical, or emotional health. Animals can reduce anxiety, build trust, and help people engage with therapeutic processes in ways they might otherwise resist.

Sessions are carefully planned, progress is tracked, and the animals involved are specifically trained and assessed. Therapists are responsible for both the client's wellbeing and the animal's, so understanding animal behaviour matters as much as clinical training.

Getting in starts with a degree in psychology, social work, or counselling, followed by specialised certification in animal-assisted therapy. For someone genuinely interested in both people and animals, it's a career that sits in a space very few others do.

Animal Lawyer

Animal Lawyers use legal expertise to advocate for animal welfare through the justice system, prosecuting cruelty cases, advising organisations on welfare laws, or helping draft new legislation. It's a field where a passion for animals translates into real legal change.

Animal welfare law varies between states and industries, so the work involves staying across a constantly shifting legal landscape. Some Animal Lawyers work in private practice, others in government or non-profit organisations like [Voiceless](#).

The path starts with a law degree. Many law programs offer animal law as an elective, which lets you start building relevant knowledge before you graduate.

Wildlife Photographer and Videographer

Wildlife Photographers and Videographers document animals and their environments for conservation campaigns, documentaries, and media outlets. A single photograph can shift public opinion on a species in a way a research report rarely does.

The work demands patience, physical endurance, and genuine knowledge of animal behaviour. Knowing how an animal moves or responds to your presence is often what separates a great shot from none at all.

There's no single required pathway in. Many practitioners are self-taught, building skills through practice and growing a portfolio over time. Volunteering to document local wildlife or conservation projects is a concrete first step, and building an online presence early gives your work an audience while you're still developing it.

Find your path

These five careers are just a small sample of the ways working with animals can become a profession. Take a look at our [jobs and careers section](#) for more ideas and pathways.

Pay & Conditions

Where to find reliable salary information

What you earn could shape a lot of your life. From where you live, and what you can afford or the lifestyle you can afford, to how much financial stress you carry. So the potential earning capacity for careers you're interested in, is worth considering. At the same time, salary is just one piece of the puzzle. You'll spend a large chunk of your waking life at work, so it's worth finding something that suits you and that you'll enjoy or find rewarding, not just something that pays well.

With that in mind, if you're curious about what different jobs really pay, here's some tips on how to research it properly, without getting misled by figures that don't tell always the full story.

Why the numbers can be misleading

Not all salary figures are created equal. The most commonly quoted number is the [average salary](#), but averages could be skewed heavily by a small number of very high earners. A handful of people at the top of a profession can pull the average up considerably, making a typical salary look better than it actually is for most people working in that field.

A more useful figure is the [median salary – the middle point](#), a figure that represents where half of workers earn more and half earn less. Think of it like a line of 100 people arranged in order of income. The average is calculated from taking everyone's figures combined, but the median is simply what the person in the middle earns. For most roles, those two numbers can be quite different. So when you're researching, always look for the median figure if it's available, it'll give you the most realistic idea of what to expect.

Location matters more than you might think

Salaries for the same job can vary significantly depending on where you live – not just between countries, but between cities and regions within a country. A nurse in London will typically earn more than a nurse in a rural town, partly because the cost of living is higher and partly because of local demand. However, here in Australia a nurse in Sydney generally earns less than a nurse working in a remote location like Katherine in the NT. This means it's important to look up salary information for your specific location, or where you're planning on working, not just national figures. A national average might look appealing, but if you're planning to live somewhere with a lower cost of living, or a less competitive job market, the real figures could look quite different.

Where to look: reliable sources by country

The quality of salary information varies a lot depending on where you find it. Random job ads or forums can give you a rough sense, but they're often incomplete or biased. The most reliable sources are government labour market databases and well-established recruitment industry guides, which draw on large data sets updated regularly.

Here are some solid starting points, depending on where you are:

In **Australia** the [Jobs and Skills Atlas](#) is a government tool that lets you explore salary and employment data by state and region. **New Zealand's** Tahtatū is the Government's national career information and exploration service, head to the [Careers Navigator](#) for information about careers, salaries, and training requirements. In the **United Kingdom** the [National Careers Service – Explore Careers](#) database is the UK government's official careers resource, which includes salary information for hundreds of job profiles, sourced from the [Office for National Statistics](#).

Canada has the [Job Bank – Wages](#) the Canadian government's official tool, which lets you search median wages by occupation at the national, provincial and regional levels.

For any country, there will be tools and websites similar to the examples above that you can use to research salaries for different jobs across regions. Bear in mind that Government sources while being detailed and accurate sometimes lag slightly behind the current market.

You could also look at online recruitment sites such as [SEEK](#) which you can filter, showing job opportunities in different areas and the salaries you could expect to earn, as well as qualifications and/or experience that's required.

Other things worth considering

Beyond the headline figures, a few other factors are worth keeping in mind when you're researching salaries:

Experience and qualifications affect pay significantly. Most salary databases will show a range with entry-level at one end and experienced professionals at the other. Where you fall in that range will depend on your qualifications, how long you've been working, and the specific employer. Starting salaries are often well below the median, so factor that in when you're planning ahead. You might be able to filter some databases to show you entry level salaries only, or graduate salaries, which could be helpful if you have a specific pathway in mind.

Industry and sector matter too. The same job title can pay very differently depending on who's employing you. A graphic designer at a large tech company might earn considerably more than one working for a small local business, even in the same city.

Benefits and conditions are part of the package. Salary is only part of what you're paid. Superannuation (or pension contributions), leave entitlements, flexible working, training opportunities and job security all have real financial value. Two jobs with the same salary might look very different once you factor everything in.

Salaries change over time. Labour markets shift. Jobs that are in high demand right now might be more competitive in five or ten years, and vice versa. When you're researching, pay attention to whether a role has strong future prospects. Government databases often include employment outlook data alongside salary figures.

Find out more

Salary research should be one part of exploring your career options. There are lots of factors to take into consideration if you're researching your future in the workforce.

If you want to dig deeper into the world of work, our [Jobs & Careers](#) section has plenty of resources to help you think through your options – including job profiles, career ideas, and practical advice on getting started. It's well worth a look.

Budgeting

What to do when your income is irregular

Getting your first job is exciting, but it doesn't always come with a predictable routine. One week you might pick up four shifts, the next week you get one, and sometimes a whole fortnight can go by without much coming in at all. That kind of inconsistency is pretty normal for casual workers, especially when you're still at school.

The challenge is that most budgeting advice assumes you get paid the same amount every week, which isn't helpful when your income changes all the time. So here's a more realistic way to think about it.

Figure out what you actually need

Before you can manage an irregular income, you need to know what you're actually spending. Not in a complicated way, just a rough sense of where your money goes.

Think about the things you spend on regularly. Things like transport, food, phone costs, or any subscriptions you pay for. These are your consistent expenses, the ones you can roughly predict. Once you know what those cost each month, you have a baseline. When pay comes in, you know straight away whether it covers your essentials or not.

Everything else is flexible spending, and that's where irregular income makes things interesting.

Work with what you have, not what you hope for

When your shifts are unpredictable, it's tempting to spend based on a busy week and then feel stuck during a quiet one. A more useful approach is to spend based on your lower weeks, not your better ones. If your quieter weeks tend to bring in less, try treating that as your default. When a bigger pay comes in, you've got breathing room rather than a shortfall. It takes a bit of mental adjustment, but it's one of the most practical things you can do when income isn't consistent.

Decide what you're trying to do with your money

This is worth thinking about, because the answer changes how you approach everything else.

If you're working to have spending money while you're at school, that's a completely valid goal. In that case, managing your money is mostly about making sure you don't run out between shifts and that you're covering your basics.

If you're trying to save for something, whether that's a car, a trip, a course, or just getting a buffer together, that adds another layer. You don't need to stress about saving a specific amount every week when your income varies, but putting something aside when you can is still worth doing. Even setting aside a portion of a good pay, rather than spending all of it, builds a habit that's useful well beyond school.

And if you're not sure what you want yet, that's fine too. Just avoiding the habit of spending everything as soon as it lands is a reasonable place to start.

Give yourself a simple system

You don't need a spreadsheet or a budgeting app to manage money well at this stage. A simple approach works just as well.

When you get paid, mentally split it into three things: what you need to cover, what you want to spend, and anything left over. The last part doesn't have to go anywhere specific, but getting into the habit of noticing it, rather than just spending it, is what matters.

On quieter weeks, knowing what your essentials cost means you're not caught off guard. On bigger weeks, you've already got a sense of what's reasonable to spend and what you might hold onto.

Don't compare your situation to others

It's easy to feel like you're behind when your friends seem to have more money or more consistent work. But casual and part-time jobs are almost always irregular, especially early on. More hours often come with time, as you become a familiar and reliable presence at work.

In the meantime, getting comfortable with the unpredictability now, and learning to work within it, is genuinely useful. Managing an inconsistent income is actually harder than managing a fixed one, so if you can get a handle on it early, you're building a skill that a lot of people don't pick up until much later.

If you want to explore more about managing money, [check out our other articles on budgeting and finances.](#)

Job Spotlights

How to become an Occupational Health & Safety Officer

Occupational Health & Safety Officers identify workplace hazards, assess risks, and develop the policies and procedures that keep workers, visitors, and the public safe. They work across nearly every industry, from construction sites and manufacturing floors to offices and healthcare settings.

If you're observant, enjoy problem-solving, and want a role where your work directly protects the people around you, this career could be a strong fit.

What skills do I need as an Occupational Health & Safety Officer?

- Sharp observation skills
- Strong communicator
- Critical & analytical thinker
- Decisive under pressure
- Diplomatic & tactful
- High attention to detail

- Committed to continuous learning
- Comfortable with compliance

What do Occupational Health & Safety Officers do?

Before anything goes wrong, you're working to make sure it doesn't. You'll conduct workplace inspections, identify potential hazards, and assess the level of risk they pose to workers and others on site. You'll review existing policies and procedures, identify gaps, and develop or update documentation to bring the organisation in line with current health and safety legislation.

A significant part of your role involves working directly with people. You'll deliver training sessions on safe work practices, explain workers' rights and responsibilities, and make sure employees know what to do in an emergency. When incidents do occur, you're the one investigating what happened, documenting findings, and recommending changes to prevent it from happening again. You'll also coordinate and run emergency drills to keep procedures sharp.

Over time, you may take on responsibility for more complex programs, including managing return-to-work plans for injured employees, overseeing contractors and subcontractors to ensure compliance, or advising senior leadership on how to manage risk across the organisation. Some OHS Officers develop deep expertise in a particular industry, while others move across sectors throughout their careers.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Occupational Health & Safety Officers are employed across virtually every industry, including construction, manufacturing, mining, healthcare, transport, agriculture, and public administration. You might work in-house for a single organisation or as a consultant advising multiple clients. Government agencies, large corporations, and small businesses all employ OHS professionals, though the day-to-day environment varies considerably depending on where you work.

Hours are typically full-time, and most roles follow standard business hours. That said, if you work in an industry that operates around the clock, such as mining or emergency services, you may need to be available outside regular hours or work shifts. Part-time opportunities exist but are less common in this field.

The physical demands of the role depend heavily on your industry. In a corporate setting, you might spend most of your time at a desk. In construction, agriculture, or manufacturing, you'll regularly be out on site, which may involve walking uneven terrain, wearing personal protective equipment, or working in variable weather conditions. Salaries for OHS Officers are average, with progression available as you build experience and take on more senior responsibilities. Demand for qualified OHS professionals is strong and expected to remain so, as workplace safety requirements continue to grow across all sectors.

How to become an Occupational Health & Safety Officer

- **Build a foundation in work health and safety** A vocational qualification such as a Certificate IV or Diploma of Work Health and Safety is a common and practical entry point into this field. These qualifications can be completed through registered training organisations and are widely recognised by employers across industries.
- **Consider a degree pathway** A bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety, health science, or a related field can open doors to graduate roles and more senior positions. Some people also complete a degree in another discipline first, then follow it with a graduate diploma in work health and safety.
- **Gain practical experience** Many people enter the field by starting in a related role within an industry they already know, such as construction, healthcare, or manufacturing, and building towards a dedicated OHS position from there. Work experience alongside your studies is valuable wherever you can find it.
- **Maintain and update your knowledge** Workplace health and safety legislation changes regularly, and staying current is part of the job. Industry bodies such as the Australian Institute of Health and Safety offer professional development pathways, resources, and networking opportunities that can support your growth throughout your career.

From here, you could move into senior OHS advisor or manager roles, build a consultancy practice, or take on leadership positions with responsibility for safety systems across an entire organisation. Some OHS

professionals also move into related areas such as workers' compensation, risk management, or environmental health.

What can I do right now?

If you're in high school and interested in working as an Occupational Health & Safety Officer, here are some practical steps:

- Look for part-time or casual work in industries like hospitality, retail, or construction, and pay attention to the safety practices and procedures in place. Noticing how workplaces manage risk is a useful habit to build early.
- Develop your communication skills by taking on leadership roles at school, such as peer mentoring, sports captaincy, or involvement in student representative bodies, as OHS work relies heavily on your ability to train and influence others.
- Research the Australian Institute of Health and Safety (AIHS) and Safe Work Australia to get a clearer picture of the profession, current legislation, and what employers look for in this field.

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

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