It’s never too early to start considering your future career directions. Many students often feel lost about what they would like to study and many feel like they don’t know where to start.

There are many things to consider-

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<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Year 12 or leave school early?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocational or higher education?</td>
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<td>Have a gap year or go straight into further study?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I afford to move away if I can’t study locally?</td>
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For students and their families who haven't been to a university or TAFE information session, there are even more questions-

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Where can I study the course I am interested in?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do I choose between several courses across several institutions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How much will my course cost?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do I find out about scholarships?</td>
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<td>What if I don’t obtain the ATAR I need?</td>
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<td>What is university and TAFE actually like?</td>
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These decisions can be difficult to make, and then you have the added pressure of focusing on your studies and other commitments like sport, hobbies and employment.

Not only can it be tough for students, but also for families!

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<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>Where do we access information?</td>
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<td>How do we best support our child?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How can we afford the costs associated with further study?</td>
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<td>Will Youth Allowance be available?</td>
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Apart from meeting with your career adviser early in the year, it is a great idea to attend information sessions run by vocational and university institutes. Many run focus days and information seminars throughout the year, and most run Open Days in August and September.

By attending information sessions, you and your family will be able to do the following:

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

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

**Charles Sturt University- ‘Explore Day’ seminars:** Explore Day’s showcase over 40 courses at 6 campuses. The upcoming Explore Day at Wagga Wagga in April will focus on courses in Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Equine Science, and Veterinary Technology. For information on dates, go to [https://bit.ly/2GmQV1b](https://bit.ly/2GmQV1b)

**Monash University- ‘Inside Monash’ seminars.** These events showcase different courses and faculties within the University. Dates run over several months and students have to book in advance. For information on dates, go to [http://bit.ly/2ki2NYw](http://bit.ly/2ki2NYw)

**Monash University - Information Evenings.** Staff from Monash will be visiting regional areas during the year to meet with prospective students and their families. The next event will be held at Mildura on the 19th of March. For information on dates and locations, go to [https://bit.ly/2pt8nsT](https://bit.ly/2pt8nsT)

**The University of Melbourne – ‘Meet Melbourne’:** Representatives from the University will be running online information sessions to advise students and parents about courses, graduate outcomes, housing options, scholarships and student services. Online sessions will be held on the 12th and 14th of March and are open to prospective students and their families. For information and to register, go to [https://bit.ly/2S7X2Zn](https://bit.ly/2S7X2Zn)

**The University of Melbourne - A Day at Melbourne:** This event is being held during the Term 1 holidays for Year 10 students. You will learn about:

- Undergraduate degrees and graduate pathways
- Admissions and entry requirements
- Access Melbourne and Melbourne Scholarships
- Accommodation options
- How parents can help with the transition to university.

The event will be held on the 12th of April. Information hasn’t been released yet but you can book-link the following page for updates, [https://bit.ly/2S7X2Zn](https://bit.ly/2S7X2Zn)

**Experience Clever at La Trobe University:** These events are designed for future students to get a taste of what it’s like to be a La Trobe student for a day. You will be able to: chat with staff and course advisers, participate in structured workshops focused on your desired career/course and talk to student ambassadors about studying at La Trobe. Parents are welcome. Upcoming dates are as follows:

- Melbourne – Friday 12 April and Friday 5 July
- Albury-Wodonga – Friday 31 May
- Bendigo – Wednesday 3 July

For more information and to register your interest, go to [http://bit.ly/1Rilhxz](http://bit.ly/1Rilhxz)

**Interested in nursing?** The Australian College of Nursing is hosting a Nursing and Health Expo on Saturday 27 April at The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre between 8.30am – 1.30pm. You will be able to:

- Meet a range of nursing and health organisations
- Explore career pathways
- Find out about educational opportunities

For more information, go to [https://bit.ly/2Iw332H](https://bit.ly/2Iw332H)

**University of Melbourne - George Hansen Scholarship:** The University of Melbourne’s new flagship equity scholarship opens for applications on 1 March. Twenty exceptional students from around Australia starting their undergraduate studies at Melbourne in 2020 will be chosen in the first intake for the scholarship. The program brings together a package of benefits for high-achieving students who may otherwise struggle financially to access higher education.

It offers free accommodation, living allowances, funds for an international exchange, internship or voluntary opportunity, plus a tailored enrichment program including academic orientation, study skills, mentoring and cultural activities. For information and to book for one the upcoming information sessions, go to [https://bit.ly/2iB4IDC](https://bit.ly/2iB4IDC)
Interested in studying hair, beauty, fashion and/or make-up? The Masters Institute of Creative Education is Australia’s only integrated creative education provider offering vocational courses in hair, beauty, fashion and make-up and a Bachelor degree in Fashion Business. Courses are offered at Melbourne and Sydney. An information session is being run at the Melbourne campus on Thursday 21 February. For information on courses and to RSVP for the information session, go to https://themasters.institute/

Passionate about all things automotive? Have you considered a career working with cars? Vantage Automotive is an organization dedicated to assisting students to forge a career in the automotive industry. They work with Volvo, Skoda, Audi, Jaguar, Land Rover and Volkswagen. To read about the amazing work they do and student testimonials, go to http://bit.ly/1MLU82s

Careers in the Defence Force: There are many occupations in the Defence Force that you may be suited to. Your ability to apply for the occupation of your choice will be affected by your level of education, the subjects you have studied at school and your age. To narrow down which occupations you can apply for, use the Defence Force “Job Finder”. You just enter your personal details and select your general career interest areas and a list of jobs will be generated. Go to www.defencejobs.gov.au/ You can also watch videos about different occupations and the recruitment process at this link - http://bit.ly/1vdEGtY

Australia National University (ANU) - applications open soon for courses, accommodation and scholarships: From March, Year 12 students who are planning to study at ANU in 2020 (or defer their studies until 2021) will be able to apply for courses, accommodation and scholarship in the one online application direct to the university. Students will be unable to apply for ANU courses via the Universities Admissions Centre later in the year. For information on dates and the new admissions process, go to https://bit.ly/2WVbyHn

Interested in agriculture and/or veterinary science? To keep up to date with news and course information at the University of Melbourne Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences:
- Follow the news blog at https://bit.ly/2SUAjnX
- Join the Pre Ag Club at http://bit.ly/1XZ6E6H

Do you have a passion for science and the ocean? Have you considered studying one of the amazing programs at the Australian Maritime College located in Tasmania? They offer courses in:
- Ocean & coastal seafaring
- Maritime engineering – marine & offshore systems; ocean engineering; naval architecture
- Marine Engineering & Marine Electrical Engineering
- Nautical Science
- Global logistics and maritime management

To learn about their programs, go to www.amc.edu.au/

Interested in Asian Studies? Australia National University (ANU), Canberra, has a wide range of scholarships available to assist their students studying Asian Studies to undertake overseas exchange placements.
- Click here for a full list of scholarships - http://goo.gl/rVRAuF
- Click here to read stories from ANU students undertaking the Year in Asia program - http://goo.gl/u9C3MS
- Click here for information on their Asian Studies courses- http://goo.gl/srLv22

You can study an undergraduate major in Asian Studies at the following Victorian universities:
- La Trobe University: http://bit.ly/2m2ugdL

And you can study Asian languages at all Victorian Universities. The following are two course examples:

If the university you would like to study at doesn’t offer the Asian language you are interested in, they may allow you to co-enrol with another university that offers the language.
Do you love maths, science and health? Have you considered studying biomedical engineering? “Biomedical engineering sits at the intersection of technology and human biology – applying the latest developments in computing, robotics and nanotechnology to medicine to ensure a better life for all of us.

Biomedical engineers create new technologies that improve disease diagnosis, find new and better ways of patient monitoring, revolutionise medical treatment and so much more”.

You can specialise in areas such as:

- Biomechanics
- Biosignal Processing
- Medical Imaging
- Biomaterials
- Neural Engineering
- Computational Modelling
- Tissue Engineering
- Surgical Instruments and Medical Devices
- Telehealth

“If you’re fascinated by human anatomy and curious about artificial intelligence and robotics then you’re going to love exploring biomedical engineering”. UNSW have put together a website featuring different types of biomedical engineering and profiles of students and alumni, http://bit.ly/1oWGNAd

The following are examples of biomedical engineering courses:

- University of Melbourne: Master of Engineering (Biomedical), http://bit.ly/2kCNO1M
- RMIT: Bachelor of Engineering (Biomedical) (Honours), http://bit.ly/2eFbRji
- Swinburne University: Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) majoring in Biomedical Engineering, http://bit.ly/2sAOp27
- University of Newcastle: Bachelor of Medical Engineering (Honours), http://bit.ly/2CsWRA7
- UNSW: concurrent Bachelor of Engineering degree (e.g., Electrical) with a Master of Biomedical Engineering, http://bit.ly/2EMbDap

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY


MARCH

- 8: Latitude Global Volunteering, priority deadline applications due, https://latitudeaustralia.org/
- 12, 14: Meet Melbourne, University of Melbourne. Online information sessions, https://bit.ly/2S7X2Zn

APRIL