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Do you have the aptitude for the job you are interested in?

The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service has developed a web page at [http://www.aatinfo.com.au/Career-Resources/Practice-Aptitude-Quizzes](http://www.aatinfo.com.au/Career-Resources/Practice-Aptitude-Quizzes) which contains information and quizzes for jobs in a range of industries. Some of the industries included are:

- Transport, Drivers, Air, Sea and Rail Transport, Logistics and Warehousing
- Automotive and Boating - Service and Repair
- Building and Construction
- Property, Maintenance, Cleaning and Security
- Computing, IT, Graphic Arts and Telecommunications
- Electrical, Electronics and Utilities
- Entertainment, Arts, Museums and Libraries
- Food and Wine Processing and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
- Gardening, Farming, Animals, Fishing and Environment
- Health, Care and Community Services
- Hospitality, Travel and Tourism
- Metals and Engineering
- Retail, Sales, Marketing and Customer Service
- Sport, Fitness, Recreation, Hairdressing, Beauty and Personal Services

The quizzes give you an idea about the aptitudes needed for the jobs in the industries listed.

Job Pathways Charts

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gap Year applications are open

The ADF Gap Year program gives Year 12 graduates an opportunity to experience military training and lifestyle while gaining new skills and being paid during their Gap Year. Opportunities are available in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Applications are available for a short time. This is a very popular program, so if you have a serious interest in it, apply now. See [http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/GapYear/](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/GapYear/) for more information and to apply.

**Australian Defence Force Information Sessions**

- 10 March - Women in Defence at Defence Force Recruiting Townsville, 143 Walker St, Townsville.
- 14 March – Defence Careers at Defence Force Recruiting Gold Coast, 14 Edgewater Court, Robina.
- 14 March – Trade Careers at Defence Force Recruiting Toowoomba, Milne Bay Training Depot, O'Quinn Street, Toowoomba.
- 16 March – Defence Careers at Ibis Styles Mt Isa Verona, Cnr. Rodeo Drive and Camooweal Street, Mount Isa.
- 17 March – Engineering Careers at Defence Force Recruiting Gold Coast, 14 Edgewater Court, Robina.
- 21 March – Trade Careers at Defence Force Recruiting Cairns, Level 1, 55 Lake Street, Cairns.
- 22 March – Trade Careers at Defence Force Recruiting Townsville, 143 Walker Street, Townsville.
- 23 March – Defence Careers at Logan Diggers Club, 42-48 Blackwood Road, Logan Central.

For more information, visit [https://www.facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia/events](https://www.facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia/events).

**Important information for Year 11 and 12 students wanting to apply to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA)**

Year 11 students considering applying for a place at the ADFA are encouraged to commence their applications when you are 16 years and 6 months of age. To start
your application, call 131901 or apply online at http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/ (click ‘Apply now’ on the top right-hand corner of the home page). It is not too late for Year 12 students to apply but you need to start your application as soon as possible.

**Join the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)**

Any young Australian who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years and is physically fit enough to participate in the activities is welcome to join the AAFC. Through this organisation you will gain important life skills in leadership, self-reliance, self-confidence, self-discipline, self-respect, good communication, teamwork and citizenship. You will also have an opportunity to experience life in the Air Force. Visit http://www.aafc.org.au/ to find out more.
Why is work experience important?

The best way of exploring a job you are interested in is to try it. You could do this through:

- Work observation/shadowing - spend one or two days with someone already in the job
- Work experience – spend up to a week working in the job
- Volunteering – volunteer your services to an organisation that has jobs you are interested in
- Part-time paid work – explore the possibility of part-time or casual work in your preferred career area
- Join an activity group where you can try out some of the skills you will need in the job you like e.g. join the Air Force Cadets or the St John Ambulance Cadets
- Participating in various programs associated with specific career areas e.g. Engineering Link projects.

The benefits of trying a job are:

- Learning about what the job involves
- Having a structured, supervised, hands-on experience
- Experiencing a work environment – the world of work isn’t like school!
- Gaining a new referee to add to your resume
- Developing contacts that may help you gain employment in the future.

Your school guidance officer/counsellor or VET coordinator can help you organise work experience. Read ‘Tips for finding work experience’ on the myfuture website for other ways of finding work experience. The article can be accessed at http://myfuture.edu.au/career-insight/how-do-i-find-work-experience (you may have to Sign Up or Log In).

Work experience with CSIRO scientists

Work experience is a great way to explore your career interests. If you are interested in a science career, you could consider applying for a work experience placement with the CSIRO. The CSIRO offers students in Years 10 - 12 the chance to gain first-hand experience of research in a scientific environment. Applications for 2016 will open on Monday 21 March. Visit http://www.csiro.au/en/Careers/Student-and-graduate-opportunities/Work-experience for details.
2016 Problem Solving Competition

This is a mathematics competition which is held close to Pi Day each year. Students sit for the competition at their school on 11 March or at UQ St Lucia campus on 12 March 2016. Find out more at http://www.maths.uq.edu.au/qamt/. Interested students should talk to their Maths teacher as registrations are through schools.

A competition for young composers

The Score IT Competition is part of the Queensland Music Festival. The competition requires young composers to create an original composition for a short film produced by the Griffith Film School. You can register for Score IT at http://qmf.org.au/whats-on/score-it/. The competition closes on 20 May 2016.

Get Writing! competition

If you are an Australian high school student who loves writing, the University of Southern Queensland’s ‘Get Writing!’ competition is for you. Entries are now open and will close on Tuesday 31 May 2016. Submit original poetry and short story productions for a chance to win. See http://www.usq.edu.au/bela/school-of-arts-and-communication/get-writing-prize/how-to-enter for details.

Google Science Fair 2016

The Google Science Fair is a global online science and technology competition open to individuals and teams from 13 to 18 years of age who have an idea for a science or engineering project. Entries close on 17 May 2016. See https://www.googlesciencefair.com/en/ for more information.

Register now for the 2016 Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge

This Challenge, which is open to Year 10 students, is a neuroscience competition in which participants learn about the brain through provided resources and then complete an online quiz. A teacher will need to register your school to enter the challenge. See http://abbc.edu.au/ for details.

The 2016 Hermitage Plant Science Competition
This competition is open to students with an interest in science and agriculture. This year’s topic is ‘My pulse rules!’ Visit https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/field-crops-and-pastures/research/hermitage-competition/competition-details for competition details. A teacher is required to register interest in this competition. The competition closes on 24 June 2016.
2016 Senior External Examination registrations open

Year 12 students are eligible to sit a maximum of two of these exams if they can’t study the subjects offered at school because the subject is not taught at their school or there is a timetable clash. The examination subjects are Accounting, Modern Greek, Ancient History, Modern History, Arabic, Philosophy and Reason, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Polish, Chinese, Punjabi, English, Russian, Korean, Spanish, Legal Studies, Vietnamese, Mathematics A, Visual Art and Mathematics B. The examinations are held in October and November.

You will need the permission of your school to sit for these exams and your school will have to register you with Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. Registrations close on 30 April 2016. Read the information at https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/see/general-information and see your school guidance counsellor/officer for more information.

Admission to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) through special entry programs

The following are special entry programs offered by QUT. Extra bonus entry points (OPs and ranks) can be allocated through these programs. The maximum number of bonus points a student can receive for QUT courses is 5 OPs or 10 ranks. Details about these programs can be accessed at https://www.qut.edu.au/study/applying/undergraduate-applications/special-entry-programs.

Students with difficult circumstances: Educational Access Scheme (EAS) - This program helps students who may have experienced educational disadvantage during their preparation for tertiary study. Students can receive a bonus of up to three OPs or six ranks and other benefits. Applications are via the QTAC application by completing the Educational Access Scheme section. If you’re from a low-income background, you may be eligible for the Q-Step Scheme under the EAS financial hardship category. The Q-Step Scheme offers a guaranteed Equity scholarship to successful applicants in addition to the OP or rank bonus. Learn more about EAS at http://www.qtac.edu.au/applications/application-resources/assistance-schemes/educational-access-scheme.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students: Centralised Assessment Selection Program (CASP) – This program is offered through the Oodgeroo Unit and is an alternative entry program to university. The benefits of the program include gaining
entry to the course you want, financial support and a good start to your studies through the Pre-Orientation Program.

Elite Athlete Entry Program - This program helps elite athletes (coaches, referees, competitors) gain entry to QUT courses through an entry bonus of up to three OPs or six ranks. The program assists its students to manage the demands of their studies and their sport.

Subject entry bonus scheme – Under this scheme, students who have completed the equivalent of four semesters at senior school level with a passing exit grade in Maths C, Languages other than English and Engineering Technology are allocated entry bonus points. Completing university subjects can also earn bonus points.

Charlton Brown

Charlton Brown is a private registered training organisation and employment agency that trains and places graduates in employment locally, nationally and internationally. It is located in Brisbane’s Fortitude Valley and offers courses in Child Care, Aged Care, Disability, Youth Work, Community Services, Youth Justice, and Business and Management. If you are interested in finding out more about these courses, visit the website at http://www.charltonbrown.com.au/. VET FEE-HELP is available for eligible students.

Christian Heritage College (CHC)

CHC is a Christian higher education institution that offers accredited bachelor degrees in business, education, humanities, social science and ministries. The college is located in Mansfield, Brisbane. Applications to CHC are through QTAC. HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP are available for eligible students. For more information, visit http://chc.edu.au/index.php.

College of Theatre Practice


CSIRO Science Bootcamp in Brisbane

This is a two-day non-residential camp for secondary school students. It will be held on 5 and 6 April 2016 (during the Easter holidays) at the Ecosciences Precinct, Dutton Park. During the camp, students will explore acoustics, sound and personal electronics. They will also visit CSIRO labs and meet research scientists. Interested students can register to attend at https://events.csiro.au/Events/2016/February/4/Student-Science-Bootcamp-Apr16-Brisbane.
Flexible programs at the Australian National University (ANU)

ANU, located in Canberra, offers a range of flexible and vertical double degree programs. For example, a student can study B Laws/B Actuarial Studies or B Arts/Master of International Relations. Find out about the options available at http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options. Queensland students may be interested in the scholarships offered at ANU. These include:

- The Tuckwell scholarship http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au/

Students interested in applying for ANU courses are required to apply through UAC at http://www.uac.edu.au/. ANU will hold its open day on 27 August 2016.

Jschool

Jschool is a private college that offers an accredited one-year Diploma of Journalism. The course prepares students for an entry-level position in journalism. VET FEE-HELP is available for eligible students. Jschool has an articulation arrangement with the University of the Sunshine Coast, giving a year's full credit towards a three-year Arts or Journalism degrees. For more information, visit http://www.jschool.com.au/.

News from Griffith University

Trimesters in 2017 – Griffith will change from a semester system (two semesters per year) to a trimester system (three trimesters per year) in 2017. Tentative start dates are 27 February, 3 July and 30 October 2017.

Assumed Knowledge – In 2017 Griffith undergraduate courses will have assumed knowledge rather than prerequisites. There are course exceptions that include engineering, education, science and health science courses.

Education in 2017 – Students wishing to study education will apply for a B Education with English and Maths prerequisites. In the second year of this course, students choose a primary or secondary teaching pathway. Students choosing a primary pathway will be required to have a Year 12 science subject (biology, physics, chemistry) or an acceptable alternative (e.g. through a bridging course).

Schoolgirls' Breakfast Career Experience Day – This event is for female students in Years 10 – 12. Participants will have an opportunity to learn about career pathways based on a passion for sport. The event will be held on 4 May 2016 at the Gold Coast campus. Registrations close on 27 April. Visit https://www.griffith.edu.au/business-government/griffith-business-school/high-school-community-programs for details and to register.
TAFE Roundup

Visit the TAFE Queensland at the Reinvent Your Career Expo – Find out about TAFE courses and pathways at this event. The expo will be held on 19 and 20 March 2016 in Brisbane. Visit the expo website at http://www.reinventyourcareer.com.au/brisbane-expo/about-the-expo/.

TAFE Queensland East Coast Trades Open Day – this event will be held on 8 March in Bundaberg and 10 March 2016 at Hervey Bay. Visit Http://www.tafeeastcoast.edu.au/about-us/events/ for details.

TAFE Queensland South West will be at the Ipswich Plant Expo – visit the expo on 12 and 13 March 2016 to learn about the horticulture courses offered at TAFE. See http://www.tafesouthwest.edu.au/about-us/events/ for details.

University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) snippets

Campus locations - USC’s full-service campus is located at Sippy Downs on the Sunshine Coast. The university has study locations at Gympie, Fraser Coast (Hervey Bay), Noosa, Caboolture, North Lakes, Brisbane and Moreton Bay University Precinct at Petrie (opening in 2020).


Updates from the University of Queensland (UQ)

Undergraduate UQ Guide 2017 – This publication lists the UQ courses that will be offered in 2017 and topics related to university study at UQ. You can use the activity on page 41 of the guide to help you choose a course. Download the guide at https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/index.php/s/331uiU8CpjDH3M0.

B Music (Honours) auditions – One of the prerequisites for entry to this course is an audition. These will be held in September and October. The closing date to apply for an audition is Monday 15 August 2016. You can access the audition information guide and the application at https://music.uq.edu.au/auditions.

FEAST registrations are now open - FEAST is a five-day residential program held at the UQ Gatton Campus for students in Years 10 – 12 who are interested in agriculture, animals, vet science, food and/or the environment. It will be held from 26 - 30 June 2016 (during the school holidays). This is a popular program, so register early at http://www.science.uq.edu.au/feast. Registrations close on 24 April 2016.
InspireU Junior Science – This is a five-day camp specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, male and female, in Years 9 and 10 who have an interest in studying science. It will be held 4 – 8 April 2016. Applications close on 16 March. Visit http://www.atsis.uq.edu.au/inspireu-junior-science for information about the camp and the application.

UMAT cut-offs for 2016 entry – Sitting for UMAT is one of the prerequisites for entry the provisional entry medicine courses at UQ. Because entry is competitive, the UMAT result required for entry can change from year to year. The UMAT scaled score aggregate cut-offs for entry in 2016 were:

- 187:69 for Doctor of Medicine (MD) (Provisional Entry for School leavers)
- 181:67 for Doctor of Medicine (MD) (Provisional Entry for School leavers) (Bonded)

See https://future-students.uq.edu.au/apply/doctor-of-medicine/pathways-and-entry-requirements#provisional for information about how the UMAT Section 1 score is used.

Registrations are now open for Experience Science 2016 – This program provides students in Years 10 - 12 an opportunity to find out what it is like to study science at UQ and how science is applied in industry and everyday life. It will be held on 14, 15, 19 and 20 July. Students can register to attend one of these days as an individual or through their school. Visit http://www.science.uq.edu.au/expsci to register.

UQ College at St Lucia campus

UQ College is a company owned by the University of Queensland (UQ) and located at the St Lucia campus. It provides alternate pathways to university study. The programs offered include:

- **Tertiary Preparation Program** – This free 28-week program is offered in January, May and September. The program helps students gain tertiary study skills and provides a rank for entry into UQ’s degree programs when applying through QTAC. Apply directly to UQ College for this program.

- **Associate Degree in Business** – This is a 16-month program. Successful completion may provide an option to gain entry to UQ’s B Business Management with advanced standing. You apply through QTAC for this program.

- **Mathematics B, Chemistry and Biology bridging programs** – These intensive, full-fee courses will be offered from 22 November – 17 December 2016. Successful completion will meet the subject prerequisites in these subjects for UQ degrees. Results will be available in time to be used in the QTAC January 2017 major offer round. Apply directly to UQ College for these courses.

You can access more information about these programs from the UQ College website at http://uqcollege.edu.au/.
USQ Study Options Evening at Ipswich

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) will hold this evening from 5 – 7 pm on 16 March 2016. At this event, participants are invited to ask questions about USQ courses and any other study related topics they are interested in or concerned about. Visit http://www.usq.edu.au/news-events/events/2016/03/usq-study-options-ips for more information about the event and to register to attend.

What’s up at the Australian Catholic University (ACU)?

University Experience Day - This event provides future students with an opportunity to sample a degree they are interested in and to check out the ACU staff and campus. It will be held on 7 July 2016 at the ACU Brisbane campus. For more information, visit http://www.acu.edu.au/97108.

2016 Open Day - This year ACU Brisbane campus will hold its open day on 23 July. Open days are opportunities to explore courses and to meet current students. Visit http://www.acu.edu.au/99146 for more information.

Information for future students - Visit http://www.acu.edu.au/417344 for information that can assist you in making decisions for your future study. Find out if you are eligible for bonus points to help you gain entry and check out ACU’s Early Achievers’ Program.
Are we heading towards mass unemployment as computers and robots do all the work?

According to a recent report in *The Conversation* the short answer to this question is ‘No’. The author suggests that the economy is expected to create new jobs at a similar rate (or faster) as the rate at which it gets rid of existing jobs. Some of the points made in the article are:

- We have had sudden shocks to the labour market in the past e.g. the industrial revolution caused social and economic disruption to the workers of that time.
- However, in today’s world we know more about how to adapt.
- The key to surviving digital technology disruption is finding ways to combine our skills with the power of advanced robots and computers i.e. learning to “race with the machine not against the machine”.
- We are not heading into a time of job destruction but a time of job transition.

Access the article at [https://theconversation.com/automation-wont-destroy-jobs-but-it-will-change-them-55318](https://theconversation.com/automation-wont-destroy-jobs-but-it-will-change-them-55318) to read about jobs that have already begun this transition.

**Spot Jobs.com - a new job search site**

SpotJobs.com is one of Australia’s fastest-growing online job boards. It focuses on permanent and flexible (part-time, casual) employment opportunities. You can search jobs by location and working conditions, including the time of day you would like to work and preferences such as working indoors or outdoors, or in a customer service role. Visit the site at [https://www.spotjobs.com/](https://www.spotjobs.com/).

**What are employers looking for?**

The findings of a Department of Employment survey of employers’ recruitment experiences suggests that, for school leavers, they are looking for:

**Experience** – through work experience, voluntary work or transitional jobs (jobs you get before the job you really want). Experience is essential for some jobs.

**Employability skills** – team work, communication and initiative. You need to be able to demonstrate these to employers.

**Personality attributes** – enthusiasm, reliability, presentation and a good work ethic. You are unlikely to get the job if you don’t display these traits.
**Education and training** – complete Year 12 and gain a post-school qualification. Certificates III and IV, Diplomas and Degrees open the door to more job opportunities.


**What is labour market information and why is it helpful?**

Labour market information is information related to conditions in the job market. It includes information about wages, job openings, working conditions, current and future skill requirements, and occupation and industry requirements (adapted from Australian Blueprint for Career Development, 2009). As part of your career exploration, you need to access labour market information for the jobs you are considering. The information you gain can help you make good career decisions for your immediate future. The following resources can be helpful in this process.

**Labour Market Information Portal (LMIP)** [http://lmip.gov.au](http://lmip.gov.au) - The LMIP contains:

- Key labour market data at national, state and regional level
- Employment projections
- Industry Outlook Reports
- Vacancy Reports.

**The Department of Employment website** [http://www.employment.gov.au](http://www.employment.gov.au) - You can find the following information on this site:

- Jobactive – Australia’s employment services
- Australian Jobs 2015 (the 2016 version should be released in April) – do a search on the site to find this booklet
- Small Area Labour Markets
- Occupational Skill Shortages Research
- Employers’ recruitment experiences.


- Information on almost 400 occupations
- Includes the skills, knowledge, abilities, interests, and activities relevant to each occupation.
- Information on wages, trends and prospects for occupations is included.

There are also a number of phone apps that can provide some of this information. For example, Career Quiz Australia and Job Seeker can be downloaded for free from the iTunes app store and Google Play. CareerMe can be downloaded for free from the Apple App Store and the Android Marketplace.
The Tuckwell Scholarship applications are open

If you are awarded a Tuckwell Scholarship you will receive $21,700 per year (2016 rate) for the length of your undergraduate degree studies at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. In addition, you will be in a group of motivated young people who want to use their abilities to make a difference in the world. The scholarship is unique in that it allows you to study a single or double undergraduate program, including honours and vertical degrees (degrees that combine undergraduate and graduate study, across a range of disciplines, completed in a reduced time-frame), in any discipline offered at ANU for up to five years. Find out about the options available at http://www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options.

The application consists of a three-stage process.

- Stage 1 – applicants submit a written online application and nominate a teacher to provide a reference. Applications for Stage 1 close on 30 March 2016.
- Stage 2 – If your Stage 1 application is shortlisted you will be sent a link to the Stage 2 application form which you will be able to complete online. Stage 2 applications close on 11 May 2016.
- Stage 3 – 75 applicants from Stage 2 are selected for individual and group interviews to be held in Canberra from 8 – 10 July 2016. From this group, up to 25 applicants are awarded the scholarship. Scholarship offers will be made from 11 July 2016.

The selection panel is looking for bright students, but not necessarily those with OP1. They will be looking at applicant attributes, interests and achievements as well. Visit http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au/ for information about the selection criteria and the application. If you have further questions, email them to tuckwell@anu.edu.au.
AFS Gap Program

The AFS Gap Program provides opportunities for young people to live for a few months or a whole year in another country where they can study a new language, attend a local school or participate in volunteer projects. Find out more at http://www.afs.org.au/intercultural-programs/adult-programs/. AFS also has a Schoolies Short Volunteer program you can read about on this site.

Be a ski instructor in Canada or Japan

Educating Adventures offers ski and snowboard instructor courses and internships. The internships may provide an opportunity to obtain paid employment at a ski resort and complete an internationally recognised ski or snowboard instructing qualification. See http://www.easkiandsnowboard.com/ for more information.

Gap Year Program information events and due dates

World Education Program (WEP) will hold an information evening on 16 March 2016 from 7 – 8.30 pm at Fulton Trotter Lounge, 129 Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill, Brisbane. Register to attend at https://wep.org.au/lets-talk/sessions/.

Projects Abroad will hold an information evening from 6.30 – 7.30 pm on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at the Hotel George Williams, 325 George Street, Brisbane. Register to attend at http://www.projects-abroad.com.au/more-info/information-events/.


Letz Live (http://www.letzlive.org/) and Tutors Worldwide (http://www.tutorsworldwide.org/) have a joint application which closes on 8 April 2016 for gap year programs in 2017. They strongly suggest that you register your interest early.

High School Volunteer Projects

Projects Abroad have recently announced their High School Projects for Summer 2016/17. These projects are designed for Year 10 and 11 students and consist of two-week group trips to locations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the

**How does a gap year help your career?**

You can read this article on the Go Overseas website at http://www.gooverseas.com/blog/how-does-a-gap-year-help-your-career.

**Lions Australia Youth Exchange Program**

This program provides an opportunity to travel to an international destination for up to six weeks. While overseas, you live with one or more families associated with Lions International to experience first-hand a new culture, lifestyle and customs. Unlike some exchange programs, the Lions Youth Exchange Program does not involve tourism, academic studies or employment. Find out more at http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/ye/. Applications close on 30 June 2016 or when places are filled.

**Schoolies Unearthed - An adventurous alternative to schoolies week**

Antipodean Abroad’s Schoolies Unearthed Program is an alcohol-free, 10-day journey overseas that combines meaningful community service projects alongside adventurous exploration and activities. The program provides school leavers an opportunity to immerse themselves in a new environment and culture. Destinations include Borneo, Northern Thailand and the Maldives. For more information, see http://www.antipodeans.com.au/Programs/Expeditions-and-Tours/Programs/Unearthed.htm.
**Indigenous**

**Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program**


**The Aspiration Initiative Academic program**

The Aspiration Initiative Academic enrichment program is an innovative education program designed to enhance academic achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students. The aim of the program is for all students to successfully complete high school and be eligible for direct entry to university (on their own merit). The website at [http://theaspirationinitiative.com.au](http://theaspirationinitiative.com.au) has information about academic enrichment programs and Indigenous scholarships.
Interested in security or policing as a career?

There are a number of employing organisations you can investigate. These include:


Once on the websites for these organisations, you need to find out:

- Jobs (job titles) employed by the organisation
- What are the duties undertaken in these jobs?
- Entry requirements – age, education level, tests required, physical/medical requirements, criminal checks, drivers licence, etc.
- Will part of the process be to investigating your social network sites?
- If you get the job, do you have to live away from home?
- Do they recommend you do specific university or TAFE courses?
- Would having a second language be an advantage?
- What is the recruitment process?
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Can you contact the organisation by email from the website for other questions you might have?
If you find all this totally confusing, make an appointment to see your school guidance officer/counsellor.

**Want to be a paramedic? Become a St John Ambulance cadet**

Young people between 11 and 18 years can apply to be a cadet. Activities include learning first aid, providing first aid services at public functions and competing in first aid competitions. For more information, visit [http://cadets.stjohn.org.au/cadets](http://cadets.stjohn.org.au/cadets).

**What is Spatial Science?**

If you are familiar with Google Earth and know what a GPS is, you already know about Spatial Science. Spatial Science covers the measurement, management, analysis and presentation of spatial or location based information describing the physical features of the Earth (natural and man-made, on land and water). It incorporates several fields of study (e.g. surveying, Geographic Information Systems, satellite imagery, maps and charts) and is used in many industries (e.g. environment and natural resources, transport, construction, mining and exploration, emergency and disaster management).

Visit the Destination Spatial: Be what you want to be website at [http://www.destinationspatial.org/Home.aspx](http://www.destinationspatial.org/Home.aspx) to gain a greater understanding of Spatial Science and how it is used in the real world. The site has profiles of people working in the field, case studies of Australian projects, videos and the courses you can study. Related websites are:

Brisbane Beauty Expo at AIAS

Find out about careers in the beauty industry at this expo to be held on Sunday 17 April 2016 at the Brisbane campus of the Australian Institute of Applied Science (AIAS). At the expo you can pamper yourself with treatments from industry experts and AIAS students. For details and to RSVP, visit http://www.aias.edu.au/about/upcoming-events/brisbane-beauty-expo.

The Big Day In à IT Conference

If you are interested in future jobs and opportunities in the computer/IT field, consider attending the The Big Day In conference. This conference is designed by students for students in high school (Years 9 – 12) and university students interested in a career in technology. In 2016 The Big Day In will be held:

- Thursday 21 April 2016 at the University of the Sunshine Coast
- Wednesday 8 June 2016 at the University of Queensland.


World Science Festival

The inaugural World Science Festival Brisbane will bring some of the world’s greatest thought leaders to Queensland, showcase local scientists and performers from around the Asia Pacific region, and host the brightest and the best from previous events in New York. The festival will take place at various venues in Brisbane between 9 and 13 March 2016 and is presented by the Queensland Museum. Several of our local universities will partner with the festival through a range of activities. Find out more about these activities at:

Compare higher education courses with QILT

The Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) website was launched late last year to help students make informed decisions about their future study. Users of the site can search for courses and institutions. They can develop a short list of courses and institutions that interest them and do a comparison. Comparative information on the site includes:

- overall satisfaction of current students
- overall satisfaction of recent graduates
- outcomes of students moving into full-time employment after graduation and
- the median salary received by recent graduates.

The address for the website is https://www.qilt.edu.au/.

TAFE pathways to university study

TAFE provides several pathways that can be used to gain entry to degree courses at university. These include:

- **Credit transfer agreements with universities** - You complete a diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree at TAFE and apply through QTAC for a related degree course at a university with which TAFE has a formal credit transfer agreement. This means you receive credit from your TAFE course towards your degree course.

- **Upgrading** - Successful completion of any diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree at TAFE may improve your tertiary entry score when applying through QTAC for entry to university degree programs. For example, a completed diploma at pass level will receive a QTAC selection rank of 82, which was comparable to OP 9 in 2015.

- **Dual awards** - You apply through QTAC for a dual TAFE/university qualification. Once you have completed your TAFE qualification you commence your university degree studies without reapplying through QTAC.

- **Degrees at TAFE** – Some TAFE institutes partner with universities to deliver a degree program on the TAFE campus. TAFE Queensland Brisbane at South Bank has been accredited to offer its own degree program – B Dental Prosthetics.

Check out [TAFE Queensland degrees and pathways to higher education guide 2016](http://www.tafeqld.edu.au/study-with-us/school-students/university-pathways/) for a
listing of degree programs offered by TAFE Queensland and for a list of pathway options to universities and other higher education providers.

What is the difference between a certificate, a diploma and a degree?

In Australia we have a national system of qualifications called the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). At the end of Year 12, you can apply for the following qualifications from the Framework. These qualifications can differ in length, content and competitiveness as shown below.

- **Bachelors Degree**: Usually 3-5 years full-time (or part-time equivalent); theoretical; entry is usually competitive.
- **Associate degree/Advanced diploma**: Usually 2 years full-time (or part-time equivalent); combination of theory and practice; range from not competitive to very competitive depending on the topic.
- **Diploma**: Can be 1-2 years full-time (or part-time equivalent); tend to be practical with some theory; range from not competitive to very competitive depending on the topic.
- **Certificates I, II, III, IV**: 1 month - 1 year full-time; usually very practical; usually not competitive.

The different levels of qualifications on the AQF are a bit like a ladder. You can use one level to help you gain entry to a higher level of study in the future depending on your results and the rules of the institution you want to gain entry to. To decide on the best level of qualification for you, consider:

- The study/training requirements of the job you want
- Your past study results
- Whether you are a hands-on (practical) or theory person
- The cost of the course
- The length of time you are prepared to study.

For more information about the AQF and its qualifications, visit [http://www.aqf.edu.au/](http://www.aqf.edu.au/).
Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) Achievement Awards

On Saturday 20 February 2016 the QCE Achievement Award winners were announced. This award is for Queensland’s top performing students in seven categories:

- Distinguished Academic Achievers
- Outstanding Academic Achiever
- Highest Achievement by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Student
- Highest Achievement by an International Student
- Highest Result on the Queensland Core Skills Test
- Highest Achievement in the International Baccalaureate
- Certificate of Academic Commendation

How to improve your concentration

Concentration is the ability to focus and control your attention. Some people seem to be born with it, the rest of us have to learn how to do it. Anyone can improve his/her ability to concentrate. The following are strategies for you to try.

- Make sure you get plenty of sleep. It is difficult to concentrate when you are tired. Regular exercise and healthy eating are also important.
- Set realistic and specific study goals for yourself (e.g. I will go up one grade in English next exam).
- Develop regular habits of study – same desk, same time, etc.
- Work in a place that is free of distractions (in front of the TV is probably not the best place!). De-cluttering your desk will help too.
- When you sit down to study, make a plan of what you want to achieve that session and cross off items as you complete them.
- If you find yourself distracted by something else (e.g. I feel fat, I should do more exercise), jot down the task, idea or problem to deal with later.
- Begin working immediately – don’t wait for inspiration.
- Attend to one thing at a time.
- When you start to lose focus, get up and take a walk.
Youth Enrichment Activities

Future Leaders Awards 2016

The Future Leaders Awards recognise young Australians who have shown strong leadership potential. The award categories are:

- Future Leaders Environment Award – This award recognises young Australians who have shown outstanding environmental leadership.
- Helen Handbury Leadership Award – This award recognises Year 12 students in rural and regional Australia who have shown outstanding community leadership.
- Future Leaders Writing Prize – This award is designed to recognise and reward talented young writers. It aims to encourage expressive and creative writing. Australian Year 11 and 12 students are invited to submit a piece of writing (800 to 1,000 words). The essays can be fiction or non-fiction and on any topic.
- Future Leaders Future Justice Award – This award recognises Year 12 students who have shown leadership and initiative on intergenerational equity and future justice (future justice is concerned with what those living today leave behind for future generations).
- Future Leaders Photography Prize – This prize is designed to recognize talented young photographers.


Join a LEO Club

Leo clubs are sponsored by Lions Clubs International. They encourage young men and women, 12 – 30 years of age, to serve others in their community and around the world. Find out more at http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/leos/about-leo-clubs/.

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) 2017

NYSF is a 12-day residential program that runs during the summer school holidays each January in Canberra. The program is for students entering Year 12 who are passionate about science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It aims to show participants the wide variety of study and career options in STEM fields. Students apply to attend this program through their local Rotary Club. Expressions of interest are now open and will close on 31 May 2016. Visit http://www.nysf.edu.au/ for more information and to follow the application steps provided.
The above information has been gathered from a range of sources including publicly available websites, institutional and organisational newsletters, student and career advisers and guidance officers. Every effort has been made to ensure the information provided is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication.

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