Career decisions are some of the most important ones of your life, so getting help in making those decisions is vital. Career News is one source of information available to you. Career News will be published fortnightly throughout the year, providing information about how to choose a career, about information sessions being held on various courses and careers, Open Days at institutions where you might want to study, career expos, insights into a number of careers, and where you can get help. Students who do their research during Year 10-12 usually find it easier to make some career decisions at the end of Year 12.

1. HOW CAN I CHOOSE A CAREER? Many people say that basically they would like a career they enjoy, with the possibility of earning a reasonable income. So how do you choose that career? Firstly, keep in mind that there isn’t just one perfect job for you. There are several jobs that would suit you well, so you need to explore the possibilities.

First, think about what you enjoy doing. For example, is it sport-related, scientific, reading/writing-related, helping people, information technology-related?

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
What subjects do you excel in at school?
How important is income?

Answering questions such as these will set you on a path to making some decisions. If you like science, what type of science do you prefer – physics, chemistry, biology? If you are creative, what is your speciality – music, drama, art, design? If it is geography, perhaps you could be interested in urban planning, mapping or surveying. If it is health, perhaps it is nursing, nutrition or public health. If it is physics and maths, perhaps engineering.

Don’t look too far ahead – you are not deciding on a life-time career. You are likely to have several careers.

2. WHERE CAN I STUDY IN VICTORIA? After completing Year 12, there are many options. If you are considering university, hoping to get a degree, these are the universities available in Victoria:

- Australian Catholic University (ACU) with campuses in Melbourne (Fitzroy) and Ballarat
- Deakin University with campuses in Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool
- Federation University with campuses in Ballarat and Gippsland
- La Trobe University with campuses in Melbourne (Bundoora), Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton
- Monash University with campuses in Melbourne (Clayton, Caulfield, Berwick, Parkville)
- RMIT University with campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick, Bundoora)

- Swinburne University has a campus in Melbourne (Hawthorn)
- University of Melbourne in Melbourne (Parkville, Burnley, Southbank, Werribee, Creswick, Dookie and Shepparton
- Victoria University is in Melbourne (City, Footscray, St Albans, Melton, Sunshine)

You can check out their facilities and courses by attending their Open Days, usually held on Sundays in August. If you plan a VET course (pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma and a limited number of degrees), institutes offering courses in the Melbourne area are:

- Box Hill Institute
- Chisholm (Dandenong, Frankston, etc)
- Holmesglen (Moorabbin, Chadstone)
- Kangan (Broadmeadows, Richmond, etc)
- Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Collingwood, Epping, Preston, Prahran, etc)
- RMIT (City, Brunswick)
- Swinburne (Hawthorn, Croydon, Wantirna)
- Victoria (Footscray, City)
- William Angliss (City) and several others.

There are also independent institutions offering degrees, diplomas and certificates. Examples are:

- Academy of Design (Port Melbourne)
- Australian Institute of Fitness (Bendigo, City, etc)
- Footscray City Films
- JMC (South Melbourne)

Independent colleges are full-fee paying institutions, whereas the government generally offers financial assistance to study at universities and VET providers like Box Hill Institute.

NOTE: The government will only fund courses of study that are at a higher level than what they have funded already. For example, if you have a bachelor’s degree, the government will not fund you to complete a VET diploma as it is at a lower level than the degree.

3. WHAT IS THE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST (UMAT)? Results from this test are used as part of the selection process for some Australian and New Zealand university degrees. In Victoria the only university degree now requiring this test for Year 12 selection is Medicine at Monash (Clayton). However, some interstate and NZ universities also use it. Registrations for UMAT2015 are now open, and close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 5 June. The test will take place on Wednesday 29 July 2015. The UMAT Information Booklet is available from the UMAT website: www.umat.acer.edu.au.

NOTES:

- Practice materials are available through the UMAT website and can only be completed online. There are currently four practice tests available: UMAT Practice Test 1, UMAT Practice Test 2, UMAT Practice Test 3 and Additional Practice Questions. UMAT Practice Test 1 will be included with the UMAT2015 registration. In addition, candidates will have access to some free
preparation videos once registration to sit UMAT2015 is completed.

- Candidates with a disability or other health-related needs and who wish to apply for special testing conditions must do so by Friday 19 June. This includes candidates who have diabetes and require food during the test.

- Some tutorials and a quiz are now available on the UMAT website. Candidates should watch these tutorials and complete the quiz questions before registering for the test.

4. WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS TEST (ISAT)? This a test used by Australian universities to assist their selection of international students for certain undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Courses include Monash University Medicine. It is delivered by Prometric; there are over 5000 Authorised Testing Centres around the world. You may select a test date and location convenient to you. Register at http://isat.acer.edu.au.

5. WHAT KIND OF ENGINEER ARE YOU? Are you interested in engineering but not sure which type is the best fit for you? You can find out with the new RMIT online quiz at http://trueengineer.com.au/.


7. AVALON AIRSHOW – Students interested in a career in the aviation industry might wish to attend the Avalon Airshow. Among other things, you will be able to find out about RMIT’s flight training program, aerospace and mechanical engineering programs. When: 24 Feb – 1 Mar, 2015; Where: Avalon Airport; Info: www.airshow.com.au/airshow2015/.

8. VETERINARY NURSING ASSOCIATE DEGREE – Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Epping) is offering a 2-year associate degree, the first para-professional veterinary nursing qualification in Australia. It is designed to produce highly skilled clinicians with exceptional levels of practical skill, knowledge and in depth understanding gained through an exploration of the academic underpinnings of the field. Graduate employment will include veterinary practices as veterinary nurses and practice managers and large organisations (veterinary pharmaceutical, veterinary nutrition companies and research facilities). Prerequisites: Successful completion of VCE or recognised equivalent with a study score of at least 20 in any English and a study score of at least 20 in one of any Mathematics, Chemistry or Biology; OR successful completion of a Diploma course in Veterinary Nursing or a related area; OR at least two years of related industry experience.

9. ANU TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIPS – The vision behind these Australian National University Scholarship is to help you make an impact on your community and the world by offering unique educational opportunities and personal experiences. The Scholarship allows you to study any discipline offered at ANU for up to five years. Information night: When: 6.30pm, Wed 18 Feb; Where: ANU House, 52 Collins St, Melbourne; Enquires: student.recruitment@anu.edu.au. Register to attend: http://www.anu.edu.au/study/events/anu-tuckwell-scholarship-roadshow-melbourne

10. OPEN DAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Open Days are a great opportunity to check out tertiary institutions. Most Open Days occur on Sundays in August. The dates for many of them are listed here so that you can get them in your diary for later on. Year 10-12 students (and their families) are encouraged to visit institutions of interest on Open Days so that you can see their facilities, attend information sessions, collect information, get your questions answered, talk to staff, and so on.

DATES:
- Sat 1 Aug – Monash (Berwick & Peninsula campuses)
- Sun 2 Aug – Deakin (Warrnambool); Monash (Caulfield & Clayton); Swinburne (Hawthorn)
- Sun 9 Aug – Australian Catholic University (ACU) (Fitzroy); Deakin (Geelong campuses); La Trobe (Bundoora); RMIT, William Anglis Institute
- Sun 16 Aug – Melbourne; Monash (Parkville – Pharmacy); La Trobe (Bendigo)
- Sun 23 Aug – Box Hill Institute; Deakin & MIBT; Victoria (Footscray)
- Sun 30 Aug – ACU (Ballarat); Federation (Ballarat & Gippsland)

Holmesglen has a number of Open Days during the year, usually the last Thursday of the month.

11. DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MONASH UNIVERSITY? If so, a great way to do so is to attend an ‘At Monash’ seminar. The series commences in March, and you will be able to learn from students, graduates and staff about university experiences.

Seminars available commence with:
- Tues 10 Mar - Nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and occupational therapy (Peninsula)
- Wed 11 Mar – Business and economics (Clayton campus)
- Thurs 12 Mar – Science (Clayton)
- Tues 17 Mar – Arts (Humanities and social sciences) (Clayton)
- Wed 18 Mar – Information Technology (Clayton)
- Thurs 19 Mar – Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences (Parkville campus).

Many other seminars follow in terms 2 and 3 with design and fine art, architecture, psychology, medicine, law and so on. All seminars run 6.30pm to 8pm. To check out the full list of seminars and to register, go to www.destination.monash.edu/at-monash.

12. SWINBURNE NEWS –
Swinburne is a smaller institution than some, offering VET courses through to PhDs. Its main campus is in Hawthorn, with smaller campuses at Croydon and Wantirna. The
Hawthorn campus has several new buildings with state-of-the-art facilities. What’s happening at Swinburne?

- **LAW** – Swinburne introduced a law degree this year. Its focus is on commercialisation, intellectual property and technology transfer. The clearly-in ATAR was 91, with 71 students commencing this year. A number of double degrees are also on offer – with arts, business, engineering and science.

- **ENGINEERING** – In engineering, Swinburne has a high employment rate, particularly in civil engineering. A new degree commencing at Swinburne is in construction engineering.

- **PSYCHOLOGY** – At Swinburne, many psychology students look or work after completing their three-year degree, without pursuing post-graduate study. Graduates have many skills: they can source, sort and evaluate information, apply psychological theory, communicate information in a logical way, can formulate research questions, collect, analyse and interpret data. These skills are often used to get a job, in community services, (counselling, welfare, child protection, corrections, disability, youth), in business (market research, public relations, human resource management), in education support, health services and in graduate programs (eg Bureau of Statistics, Customs, ATO Defence, Immigration).

- **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CIRCUS ARTS** – A very specialised area of study at Swinburne, located in Prahran; many graduates are currently working for Cirque du Soleil.

- **PHYSICS RESEARCH** – Swinburne is very highly regarded in world research in physics (in the top 75 universities in the world, in fact).

- **HIGH ACHIEVERS PROGRAM** – High achievers have different expectations of university. Students with an ATAR of 95 or more are invited to join this Swinburne program. It is currently offered to science (physics), communication design (honours), and IT students, later to be offered to students of business and engineering. Students are guaranteed access to a research group from first year, mentoring with senior academic staff, guaranteed accommodation, and a $5,000 pa scholarship. Places are offered automatically to students meeting the entry criteria in the participating degrees.

- **INDUSTRY BASED LEARNING (IBL)** – Swinburne has long been a proponent of this style of learning. Students involved in this program generally work for six or twelve months in an area linked to their study program. New skills are obtained, the work is paid for, and the placement can lead on to full time employment with the organisation.

- **AUTISM** – In April, Swinburne is launching a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) about autism. It is designed for parents, families and carers living and working with individuals with autism. The MOOC is a free online course using scenario-based learning to support, guide and share experiences from parents and experts in the field.

  Email [autism@swinburne.edu.au](mailto:autism@swinburne.edu.au) for information. [Register »](http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/events#course-information-day)

13. **INTERESTED IN VETERINARY SCIENCE?** In Victoria, veterinary science can only be studied at the University of Melbourne. The Faculty is holding a Course Advice Day on Saturday 21 March (10am-3pm) at the Werribee Campus, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee. For further information please visit [http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/events#course-information-day](http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/events#course-information-day). This will be different from previous years. There will be a tour of the hospital for which you must register.

14. **VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (VU) NEWS –**

- **NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION** – is being built at the Footscray campus. The 500-bed complex is in collaboration with Maribyrnong City Council, opening in 2016.

- **WHAT IS BIOMEDICINE?** VU offers Biomedicine and Biomedical sciences at the St Albans campus. Biomedicine is a broad field of study to gain an in-depth understanding of human physiological and anatomical function, disease and medical applications. These degrees prepare graduates for a career preventing and treating disease. Gain hands-on training and knowledge of human physiology, combined with skills in critical analysis and communication. Possible careers are in research, pathology, injury rehabilitation, crime scene investigation, and so on.

  NOTE: Biomedical science is also offered at Monash university (a possible pathway into Monash post-graduate medicine), ACU, Deakin, La Trobe, Federation, La Trobe while Biomedicine is offered at Melbourne university (a possible pathway into Melbourne post-graduate medicine, dentistry and physiotherapy degrees).

15. **CAREERS IN THE DEFENCE FORCES** – entry is usually through general or officer entry.

- **General entry** requires applicants to have at least Year 10, be at least 17 years, and to pass a number of physical, mental and character tests.

- **Officer entry** requires applicants to have a high ATAR in their VCE, and also to pass various tests. Officer entry applicants study in Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), a campus of the University of NSW. Degrees on offer at ADFA are: Arts, Business, Engineering, Information Technology, Science and Technology. Successful applicants complete their military training during university holiday breaks.

  - Defence Force recruiting hold information sessions throughout the year. Call 13 19 01 for details, or see: [www.defencejobs.gov.au](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au).

  - Defence Forces offer the ADFA Education Award, presented to Year 12 students in recognition of leadership potential, and academic and sporting achievements exhibited during Year 11. The award is a laptop computer, with up to 100 awards on offer annually.

  - **ADF Gap Year program** still operates – it provides an opportunity for young people who have completed Year 12 to gain military training and new skills.