



Options Career Information Bulletin

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Apprenticeships & Traineeships

2018 TAFE at Schools Guide

This Guide lists courses students can do while they are still at school with the approval of their school and parents. Study areas include: Animal Studies, Automotive, Beauty and Hairdressing, Building and Construction, Business and Justice Studies, Early Childhood, Electrotechnology, Engineering, Fashion, Horticulture, IT, Logistics, Media and Digital Design, Music and Sound Production, Service and Allied Health, Sports and Recreation, Tourism and Events and Visual Arts. Download the Guide from the [TAFE Qld SkillsTech website](#).

Finding an apprenticeship or traineeship – case studies

The Australian Apprenticeships My Gain website has videos in which apprentices and trainees talk about their work and how they went about finding it. See the [My Gain website](#) to access the videos.

My Skills website

[This site](#) is an Australian Government website where you can find information about nationally recognised training courses, registered training organisations and financial assistance. It has a 'Skills in Demand' section which lists the skill shortages in every state and territory. Case studies and videos of people who have completed their training and gained entry to their preferred jobs are included.



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Job Finder

If you are interested in joining the ADF but find it difficult to choose an ADF job, use the Job Finder on the [home page](#) to get you started. This is a short questionnaire that gathers information about you and then comes up with ADF job suggestions.

Defence Technical Scholarship

Apply for a Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) related job in the ADF and you could be awarded a Microsoft Surface Pro 4. There are over 70 STEM-related jobs in the ADF. Visit the [Defence Technical Scholarship website](#) to find out how you could be in the running for the scholarship.

Up is where your future could be

Visit the [What is Up? website](#) to learn what your career path could be in the Royal Australian Air Force.

Upcoming Australian Defence Force information sessions

Brisbane – Thursday 18 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Engineering Careers Information Session* at Defence Force Recruiting Brisbane, Level 13, 295 Ann Street, Brisbane. Book your spot [here](#).

Gold Coast – Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Combat Defence Careers Information Session* at Defence Force Recruiting Gold Coast, 14 Edgewater Ct, Robina. Book your spot [here](#).

Goondiwindi – Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Defence Careers Information Session* at Goondiwindi Waggamba Community Cultural Centre, Cnr Russell and Short Streets, Goondiwindi. Book your spot [here](#).

Toowoomba – Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 6 pm - *ADFA Future Leaders Networking Evening* at Picnic Point Toowoomba, 164 Tourist Road, Toowoomba City. Book your spot [here](#).

Mackay – Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Defence Careers Information Session* at Quest Mackay, 27 Gordon Street, Mackay. Book your spot [here](#).

Cairns – Thursday 25 May 2017 at 6 pm – *Defence Trade Careers Information Session* at Defence Force Recruiting Cairns, Level 1, 55 Lake Street, Cairns. Book your spot [here](#).

Stanthorpe – Thursday 25 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Defence Careers Information Session* at Stanthorpe YMCA, Talc Street, Stanthorpe. Book your spot [here](#).

Thursday Islands – Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Defence Careers Information Session* at Port Kennedy Association Hall, 66 Douglas Street, Thursday Island. Book your spot [here](#).

Brisbane – Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Army Officer Information Session* at Defence Force Recruiting Brisbane, Level 13, 295 Ann Street, Brisbane. Book your spot [here](#).

Toowoomba – Tuesday 30 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Defence Careers Information Session* at Burke and Wills Hotel, 554 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba City. Book your spot [here](#).

Cairns – Wednesday 31 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Combat Defence Careers Information Session* at Defence Force Recruiting Cairns, Level 1, 55 Lake Street, Cairns. Book your spot [here](#).

Townsville – Wednesday 31 May 2017 at 6 pm - *Combat Defence Careers Information Session* at Defence Force Recruiting Townsville, 71 Stanley Street, Townsville. Book your spot [here](#).

For details about these events and for information on Army Reserve Information Sessions, visit the [Defence Facebook site](#).



2017 Good Careers Guide now available

The Good Careers Guide (GCG) is a helpful resource for students starting their career exploration. It provides information on over 400 jobs and related entry pathways. It also includes tips on career exploration, financial assistance and job seeking skills. New in the 2017 edition are:

- Updated job descriptions
- Jobs of the future and entrepreneurship features
- Information on internships, work experience and volunteering.

You can access the GCG through:

- **e-book** – The 2017 [e-book version](#) of GCG will be uploaded shortly.
- **Hard copy** - Your school may have hard copies of GCG. Ask your school Guidance Officer/Counsellor. You can also purchase it from the [Good Education Bookshop](#).
- **Online** - The online version is on the [GCG website](#).
- **GCG App** - This [App](#), called 'Good Education AR' is available for Apple and Android mobile devices. The App compliments GCG by allowing you to interact with elements of its content.

Go – Australia's Premier Graduate Jobs Directory

While the intended audience of this directory is university students, it has lots of useful information for students in Years 11 and 12 who are exploring their future options. This information includes:

- Grad Stats – these show the destination of degree graduates (under 25 years of age), based on their field of study, four months after they completed their course
- Career advice and self-assessment activities
- Profiles of graduates who are now employed
- Job search skills – including resumes, interviews, networking
- Industry snapshots – covers different industries, providing information about the jobs within the industry, earnings, future employment opportunities, etc.

You can download the directory from the [GraduateOpportunities.com website](#). Also on this webpage are specific ebooks for many Australian universities.

Job Jumpstart

Having trouble with deciding on what to do in the future? The [Job Jumpstart website](#) will get you started. It has tips and ideas about careers and jobs on the one website. Click on the 'I'm at school' icon. The site is divided into the following three sections which include informative articles, activities and links to helpful websites:

- **Choose the right field of work** – Here you can learn about Australian industries and occupations. You can also learn a bit about yourself to help you understand what you want from work.
- **Choose a uni or training course** – This section will help you compare courses and understand that a qualification doesn't guarantee you a job. It also looks at ATARs or equivalents (e.g. OPs) and what they are used for.
- **Starting a new job** – Here you have everything you need to know when starting a job. It includes information on Tax File Numbers, superannuation, preparing for your first day, and hints and tips to help you survive your first day at work.

The site has additional articles on Looking for a job; Building a career and Being at work. You can also sign up to receive updates when new features are put on the site.

There must be a test that can tell me my ideal job!

That would make career decision making easier, wouldn't it? Unfortunately, it's not that simple. However, there are many tests that can help identify your career interests, work values, skills, aptitudes, personality, etc. at one point in your life when you do the tests. While they can't tell you what your ideal job should be, they can increase your self-awareness and, usually, provide you with a list of possible jobs based on how you responded to the test questions. This information can be used to begin your career exploration to find a job that matches up with what you now know about yourself. The following tests/questionnaires are examples of instruments that can be used to come up with job ideas. Alternatively, you could visit your school Guidance Counsellor/Officer and ask them about tests or questionnaires they recommend to help you begin your career exploration.

- [myfuture](#) – My career profile (Sign up when first entering this site).
- [Job Outlook](#) – Career quiz.
- [Career Quest](#) – This is on a New Zealand career website.
- [Jung Typology Test](#) – This is a personality test.
- [Career Interest Explorer](#) – The focus is jobs that require VET qualifications.

Competitions

ReelOzInd – Short film competition

Submissions are now open for the 2017 ReelOzInd - Australia Indonesia Short Film Competition. You are required to submit animation, documentary or fiction short films of no longer than 10 minutes that relate to the competition theme, 'Water'. Submissions close 31 July 2017. Details are on the [ReelOzInd website](#).

The One–Minute Film Competition 2017

This competition provides Australian and New Zealand primary and secondary students with the opportunity to make a 60-second short film or animation. The theme for this year's competition is 'Tomorrow'. The four first-place prizes include \$500 in cash. Entries close on Friday 28 July 2017. The winners will be announced at the [Atom Awards Event](#), to be held in Melbourne on Wednesday 25 October 2017. Find out more on the [1-minute film competition website](#).



Australian Institute of Creative Design (AICD) holiday courses

AICD is a private provider offering study options in Arts and Design, Photography, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Fashion business, Fashion Styling, Beauty Therapy and Make-up. AICD has campuses in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. It offers full-time, part-time, short course and holiday study options. The following are two of the short courses that will be offered in the June/July 2017 school holidays.

- Beginner Sewing Intensive - Fashion Design
- Introduction to Pattern Making - Fashion Design

Visit the [AICD website](#) for information about these and other short courses.

CQUniversity (CQU) news

Be Magazine – The [latest edition](#) of this magazine celebrates CQUni's 25th year as a university. It features upcoming events, research projects and articles such as 'Career Check-up: What jobs will be hot in 2017'.

STEPS Information Session – STEPS is CQUni's pathways course. It is designed to help students gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to enter university. The course is free and can be studied by distance education or on-campus. The next STEPS Information Session will be held at most campuses on Friday 26 May 2017. You can register to attend on the [CQUni website](#).

Upcoming Career Expos - If you are interested in finding out more about CQUni come along to one of the following career expos where you will have the opportunity to speak with CQUni lecturers and current students.

- 23 May - [Bundaberg Careers Expo](#) at the Bundaberg Civic Centre
- 24 May – [Fraser Coast Jobs and Careers Expo](#) at the Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
- 25 May – [Cairns Careers and Employment Expo](#) at the Fred Moule Pavilion, Cairns Showgrounds
- 25 May – [Gympie Regional Careers Expo](#) at the Pavilion, Gympie

Online Chat Session - Got questions about TAFE or university? Get the answers at the Online Chat Session to be held from 3 – 6 pm on Tuesday 30 May 2017. Click [here](#) for more information about this event.

Endeavour webinar on being a Sports Nutritionist

The Endeavour College of Natural Health will present a Sports Nutritionist Q & A webinar from 5.30 pm on Thursday 25 May 2017. The presenter is an experienced Sports Nutritionist with more than 20 years in

clinical practice. Register to attend on the [Endeavour website](#) (scroll down to the Careers and Webinars section).

Events at the Australian Catholic University (ACU)

University Experience Day – This event will be held at the ACU Brisbane campus on Thursday 6 July 2017. On the day you can participate in workshops related to the degrees offered at ACU, meet staff and current students, check out the campus, get tips on preparing for uni and enjoy the entertainment. [Registrations](#) for this event will open shortly.

Open Day – This will be held at the Brisbane campus from 9 am – 2 pm on Saturday 22 July 2017. This is a must attend event to learn about the courses offered at ACU. [Register to attend Open Day](#) for a chance to win \$5,000 for an ACU study trip to Rome when you enrol in a course at ACU.

Griffith University updates and event reminders

Musical theatre audition workshop - This workshop will be of interest to students in Years 11 and 12 who want to develop their audition skills for entry to Griffith's Queensland Conservatorium Musical Theatre program. The workshop will be held from Monday 26 – Friday 30 June 2017. Visit the [website](#) for more information and to register.

Mathematics bridging course – This is a self-paced, modular and individualised program. You can commence it on any Monday night except for public holidays. A weekly, three-hour tutorial runs continuously from Monday 20 February to Monday 20 November 2017 at the Gold Coast campus. Visit the [website](#) for details.

Reminder: Discover Griffith events – At these events, you can tour the campus, get tips on choosing a degree, find out about pathways to Griffith, talk to current students about university life and discuss your study options with academic and professional staff. They will be held from 4 – 6.30 pm on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at the Nathan campus and Thursday 18 May 2017 at the Gold Coast campus. For more information and to register to attend, visit the [Griffith website](#).

Reminder: Pathways to Medicine for School Leavers – These information sessions will be held from 7 – 8 pm on Wednesday 17 May 2017 at the Gold Coast campus and on Thursday 18 May 2017 at the South Bank campus. For more information and to register to attend, click [here](#).

News from the University of Queensland (UQ)

Facts and myths about UQ – Did you know that a full-time course means being at uni from 9 am – 5 pm five days a week? This and other myths are busted on the [Facts and Myths about UQ webpage](#).

Auditions for the 2018 B Music (Honours) Program - The UQ School of Music invites applications from everyone who is interested in auditioning for a place in the B Music (Honours) program commencing in Semester one 2018. The auditions will be held in September and October. 2018 application forms will be available on the [School of Music website](#) shortly. Applications close on 14 August 2017.

UQ Big Day In – This [IT careers conference](#) will be held from 9 am – 2.30 pm on Thursday 8 June 2017. Hear from industry speakers and visit exhibitor stands to learn about where a career in IT can take you. Click [here](#) to book your tickets. Tickets cost \$10 per student.

2017-18 UQ Young Scholars Program - This program provides high achieving Year 11 students with an opportunity to discover, learn and engage with UQ's academic community and like-minded students from across Queensland. For more information, visit the [Young Scholars Program webpage](#). Applications open on the 29 May and close on 11 August 2017.

Exercise and Nutrition Sciences as your pathway to Medicine – According to UQ's School of Human Movement and Nutrition, the [B Exercise and Nutrition Sciences](#) is a recommended pathway to UQ's Doctor of Medicine program. Read the rationale for this on the [School's website](#). Read about other pathways to medicine on the [School of Medicine website](#).

Queensland Police Recruiting seminars

If you are interested in exploring the career opportunities within the Queensland Police Service, you can attend a seminar. Seminars are held throughout the year. Queensland Police also have a stall at most career expos in Queensland. Visit the [website](#) for dates and bookings.

Queensland University of Technology (QUT) updates

Visiting police associate mentors justice students – [B Justice](#) students can tap into decades of policing experience and real-life cases from [police inspector Christopher Emzin](#). Inspector Emzin has worked on prosecutions, flood crisis reviews and counter terrorism. His role is to deliver guest lectures, mentor students and assist with research.

QUT students awarded Westpac Young Technologists scholarships - [Five passionate IT students](#) have received [2017 Westpac Bicentennial Foundation Young Technologist Scholarships](#) worth up to \$25,000 each. Applications for the 2018 scholarships will open later this year.

Real world experience for optometry students – QUT optometry students undertake a [range of practical experiences](#) including travelling to remote communities in the NT to participate in outreach clinics, undertaking placements with corporate optometry stores such as OPSM and providing eye examinations in the QUT Optometry Clinic at Kelvin Grove.

QUT Faculty of Education best in Queensland for student satisfaction – A survey of 178,000 undergraduate students at 39 universities in Australia has resulted in QUT's Faculty of Education being ranked number one in Queensland for overall graduate satisfaction, and in the top five universities Australia-wide. Read about it [here](#). While you are at it, check out the [QUT education degrees](#).

Visit no walls for an insight into creative careers - Interested in a creative career but not sure what jobs are available? QUT's [no walls site](#) includes profiles of graduates and their career path, as well as staff and student stories and events.

Learning through the QUTopia marketplace - Each year QUT marketing students gain hands-on skills and industry connections by participating in the [QUTopia marketing simulation](#). They develop a marketing plan,

produce a product or service and sell it at market days. They then analyse their performance using tools such as market share calculations, competitor analysis, profitability and customer retention ratios.

Snippets from Christian Heritage College (CHC)

Study Dance at CHC - CHC now offers Dance units within the School of Education, Humanities and Business. Students can choose to include Dance units as part of their major or minor area of study in Education, or as elective units within any CHC course. Read about the Dance units on the [CHC website](#).

2018 Course Guide – You can download this booklet from the [CHC website](#). The Guide provides information on the 2018 courses offered in Business, Education and Humanities, Liberal Arts, Ministries and Social Sciences.

Study to be an enrolled nurse at the Mater

Mater Education offers a Diploma of Nursing. The course is delivered on a full-time or part-time basis. VET Student Loans are available for eligible students. Year 12 students apply directly to Mater Education, not through QTAC. The full-time course has two intakes each year, in January and July. See the [Mater Education website](#) for more information about the course. Students who successfully complete the Diploma of Nursing through Mater Education may gain up to one year's credit towards a three-year Bachelor of Nursing (contact Mater Education for more information about this pathway). Indigenous and refugee background applicants may be eligible to apply for a scholarship.

TAFE Queensland Dental Courses

TAFE Qld offers the following dental courses. For more information about these courses, ring 3244 6139.

Certificate III in Dental Assisting – Dental Assistants assist the Dentist or Dental Hygienist in several ways including preparing the surgery for patient treatment, sterilizing instruments, chair side assistance, exposing and processing dental X-rays and reception duties when required. The Dental Assisting course is delivered on campus (9-month course) at South Bank or externally if the student is currently working a minimum of 15 hours per week in a dental surgery (12 – 24-month course). Course details are available [here](#).

Diploma of Dental Technology – Dental Technologists work in laboratories. They make crowns, bridges and dentures after receiving an impression of the patient's teeth from a Dentist. The Dental Technology course is delivered at the South Bank campus over two years. Course details are available [here](#).

Bachelor of Dental Prosthetics - Dental Prosthetists work as registered independent practitioners in the assessment, treatment, management and provision of removable dentures and flexible removable mouthguards used for sporting activities. The Dental Prosthetics degree is offered at the South Bank campus. It is a three-year course. Course details are available [here](#).

TAFE Queensland Roundup

Brisbane

- **TAFE at School Parent Information Evening** – This event will be held from 6 – 7.30 pm on Wednesday 24 May 2017 at the South Bank campus. The evening will provide parents of prospective TAFE at School students with information about the program. Visit the [website](#) for more information. Registrations will open soon.
- **Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo** – Visit the TAFE Queensland stand at this [expo](#) to be held on 2 and 3 June 2017 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- **CRE8** – This is a showcase of student work in the creative industries. It will be held from 6 – 8.30 pm on Tuesday 8 June 2017 at the South Bank campus. More information about this event will be on the [website](#) shortly.

South West

- **TAFE at School Open Days** – These events will be held on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at the Bundamba campus and Tuesday 23 May 2017 at the Toowoomba campus. Potential TAFE at School students are invited to attend to explore their study options. See your VET Coordinator or Guidance Officer/Counsellor if you would like to attend one of these days.

East Coast

- **Career Expos** - TAFE Qld East Coast will have a stand at the Bundaberg Careers Expo on 23 May 2017, Fraser Coast Jobs and Careers Expo on 24 May 2017 and the Gympie Careers Expo on 25 May 2017. More information is available on the [East Coast website](#).

What's up at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC)

Voices on the Coast – This is an annual youth literature festival for students in Years 4 – 12 presented by Immanuel Lutheran College and USC. It will be held from 19 to 22 July 2017 at the USC Sippy Downs campus. See the [Voices on the Coast website](#) for details.

Experience USC – This program is for Year 9 and 10 students who are keen to learn more about careers offered through study at USC. Students can experience university and explore possible career pathways. The program will be held at [Sippy Downs](#) on the 7 and 8 June 2017 and at [Fraser Coast](#) on 6 June 2017. Students register for workshops through their schools.

Career resources – The USC [Deciding on a Career webpage](#) has lots of tips to help you with your career and course decisions.

USC Career Directory - Know the career they're looking for but not sure which degree will take you there? Use the career directory on the [USC website](#) to find the right USC degree.

Employment

The 10 skills you need to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

According to a World Economic Forum [article](#), by 2020 the [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#) will have brought us enormous technological advances (e.g. advanced robotics and autonomous transport, artificial intelligence and machine learning, advanced materials, biotechnology and genomics). These developments will change the way we live, and the way we work. Some jobs will disappear, others will grow and jobs that don't exist today will become commonplace. The only certainty is that we will need the skills to meet these emerging challenges. So, what are these skills? The article lists the following 10 skills, suggested by chief human resources and strategy officers from leading global employers, as the skills needed to succeed in 2020. The skills are listed in order of importance.

1. Complex problem solving
2. Critical thinking
3. Creativity
4. People management
5. Coordinating with others
6. Emotional intelligence
7. Judgment and decision making
8. Service orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive flexibility

Could you demonstrate that you have these skills (i.e. talk about when you have successfully used them)? If not, how could you develop these skills? Read the following related articles from the World Economic Forum.

- [What are the 21st-century skills every student needs?](#)
- [The jobs of the future – and two skills you need to get them](#)

The hidden jobs market

The hidden jobs market is a term used to describe jobs that aren't posted online or advertised. It is estimated to be from 50 - 80 % of the entire jobs market (depending on what you read!). To access the hidden jobs market, you need to network. Networking is not just about meeting lots of people. Effective networking means being focused by first deciding what sort of work you want. Then you need to identify employers who offer that sort of work. A helpful website that lists large employers in Australia is [Job Adviser](#). Your social network (family, friends, friends' parents, neighbours, etc.) can also help you identify employers.

It is important to put dollars at the bottom of your priority list, particularly when you're starting out. Also, you may not get your ideal job first up. It is more important to find an employer and a job that gives you a pathway you want to take. Approach employers who look promising. There's a fine line between being persistent and being annoying, so always be very conscious and respectful of people's time. If you say you want to work for an organisation, have a clear set of reasons why; saying, 'because you look like a cool company' isn't a very strong reason. Instead think about their values as a business, the market they operate in, their reputation, how they fit in with your own vision of the work you want to do.

Visit the [Youth Central website](#) for more tips on accessing the hidden jobs market.

Financial Assistance & Scholarships



Bond University scholarships for 2018 are open online

Bond's scholarship program offers many full-fee and part-fee scholarships as well as cash bursaries. Most scholarships can be used for any single or combined program (except for the Medical Program). Visit the [Scholarship webpage](#) for more information, to download the scholarship brochure and to access the application tips. Scholarship applications for Year 12s must be lodged online using the Bond University application form. Applications close on 31 July 2017.

Commonwealth Supported Places and HELP Loans: The current scheme

The Commonwealth Government has several financial assistance programs to help students meet the cost of their tertiary education. This item will provide a brief explanation of Commonwealth Supported Places and HELP Loans. **This information is based on the current policy not on the proposed budget changes.**

Commonwealth Supported Places - If you are studying a bachelor degree at a university or at an approved private higher education institution, you will be offered either a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) or a fee-paying place. A CSP is a Commonwealth Government subsidised place. Students with a CSP currently pay a student contribution of 42% of the cost of their course. The Commonwealth Government pays the remaining 58%.

HELP Loans - The Commonwealth Government administers the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) which consists of four HELP loan schemes and a VET Student Loan scheme. These schemes are:

- HECS-HELP is a loan scheme to help eligible Commonwealth supported students to pay their student contribution amounts through a loan. Through this scheme, students can defer payment of their student contribution until they are working and earning a specified minimum income (currently this repayment threshold is \$54,869). They then repay their loan through the income tax system.
- FEE-HELP is a loan to help eligible fee-paying students to pay their tuition fees.
- SA-HELP is a loan that assists eligible students to pay for all or part of their student services and amenities fee.
- OS-HELP is a loan to help eligible Commonwealth supported students pay their overseas study expenses.
- VET Student Loan is a loan to help eligible students enrolled in higher-level vocational education and training (VET) courses (diplomas, advanced diplomas, associate degrees) at approved registered training organisations (e.g. TAFE and many private colleges) to pay for their fees up to capped amounts. Not all courses in this category meet the requirements for this loan program.

For details about CSPs and the HELP Loans, visit the [Study Assist website](#).

How will the proposed changes to HELP loans affect you?

Assuming parliament passes the changes proposed in last week's Federal budget, all university students in the future will pay more for their education and will have to start paying off their debt earlier. The following points about these changes are adapted from several sources, including an email from Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University and articles from The Conversation online newsletter.

Increased course fees - From 1 January 2018, students in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) will pay a greater share of the cost of their studies (from the current 42% to 46% of the cost of the course). Student fees will rise over time, at the rate of 1.8 % each year up to 2021 (a total increase of 7.5 %). For example:

- Under the current system, a four-year B Education would cost \$26,550 for a student enrolling in 2018; under the proposed system, it would cost \$27,800 (an increase of \$1,250)
- Under the current system, a three-year B Arts would cost \$19,700 for a student enrolling in 2018; under the proposed system, it would cost \$20,400 (an increase of \$700).

Higher Education Loan Program - Fees for all places funded by the government (CSPs) will still be deferred through the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP). However, students will be required to start paying back their debt earlier. They will be required to pay 1% of their income when they start earning \$42,000. The rate will increase by 0.5% points for each 6% increase in salary up to the maximum repayment threshold of \$119,882 (at which time they will be paying 10% of their income). There will be no administrative fees on student loans.

Increase in Commonwealth Supported places (CSPs) - The demand-driven funding system will be expanded to include CSPs in approved sub-bachelor level courses (e.g. diploma, advanced diploma and associate degree) at public universities from 1 January 2018.

Proposed changes for non-citizens - Non-citizens who are permanent residents (or New Zealand citizens) will no longer be eligible for Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs). They will become fee-paying students. These students previously had to pay the student contribution upfront. They will now be eligible for HELP loans. New Zealanders who arrived as minors and have lived in Australia for over 10 years will still be eligible for a CSP and a HECS-HELP loan.

Also read the following articles from The Conversation online newsletter.

- [Explainer: how will the changes to HELP student loans affect you?](#)
- [Federal Budget 2017: what's changing in education?](#)



Gap Year Program News

African Conservation Experience (ACE) for Gap Year students

ACE works with conservation projects in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mauritius. Project options include working in a wildlife care centre, having a wildlife veterinary experience or becoming a marine conservation volunteer. For more information about this organisation and its projects, see the [ACE website](#).

Gap year program updates

[Camp America](#) will be attending the [Careers and Employment Expo](#) on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 June 2017 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

[Southern Cross Cultural Exchange](#) (SCCE) will be holding the following information sessions from 7 – 9 pm in Queensland in May 2017:

- Sunshine Coast on 17 May at the Beach Club Resort, Mooloolaba
- Brisbane on 23 May at Ruth Fairfax House, 89-95 Gregory Terrace, Brisbane
- Gold Coast on 30 May at Southport Community Centre, 6 Lawson Street, Southport.

Register to attend on the [Information Sessions website](#).

[World Education Program Student Exchange](#) (WEP) will hold an information session in Cairns from 10.30 am – 12 noon on Saturday 27 May 2017 at the Cairns State High School, Cnr Sheridan and Upward Streets. Register to attend on the [Information Sessions website](#).

[Youth for Understanding Student Exchange Programs](#) (YFU) will hold an online information session on 1 June 2017. Visit the [Information Sessions website](#) for more information.

Indigenous

ASSETS summer schools for STEM

These summer schools are open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from all over Australia who are in Year 10 and who are interested in science, technology, engineering and maths. The 2017-18 summer schools will be held in Adelaide, Newcastle and Townsville. Each summer school has cultural, academic and personal development strands. Visit the [website](#) for program details. Applications open on the 22 May 2017 and close on 16 June 2017.

Occupational Information



Careers in local government

Local councils provide many of the services we use every day. These include roads and parks and community services (e.g. libraries, child care and many others). There are over 500 local councils across Australia. Occupations in demand by councils include engineering, building surveying, town planning, IT, trade areas, accounting, emergency management, customer service and environmental health.

To provide information on local councils and the occupations they employ, Government Skills Australia has developed an interactive [local government careers website](#). The site allows you to click on an area of interest to access a list of job titles and related qualifications used by local councils. The resources section has a downloadable local government career map poster and links to related websites. There is also a useful 'How to Search' section to help you make the most of the website.

Careers in Music

The 'School Students' page of the [Music Career wiki](#) has descriptions for over 150 music careers, for jobs in Composition, Performance, Production, Instrument Making and Repairing, Broadcasting, Music Business, Retailing and Wholesaling, Teaching, Writing and Research, Arts Administration, Music Therapy, Libraries, Archives and Information Services, Digital and Online jobs and many more.

Is your future on track? Explore rail careers

The [Rail Career Pathways website](#) contains information for school leavers interested in a rail career. Explore the A – Z rail jobs listing on the site. Links to employer organisations are included.

The Job I Love website

This [website](#) focuses on 12 different jobs in the service industries, including business, fitness, community pharmacy, retail, hairdressing, beauty, community recreation, outdoor recreation and floristry. The information provided for each industry includes the jobs available, the duties for each job and the training required for each job.

Ultimate Careers – Explore careers of the future

Australia's Science Channel has developed the [Ultimate Careers website](#). From this site, you can access the following resources and activities that explore jobs of the future, with a focus on STEM career opportunities.

- Read the online 2017 Ultimate Careers magazine
- Download the Ultimate Careers App
- Sign up and stay up to date with the Ultimate Careers Challenge.
- Visit Australia's Science Channel to hear inspiring career stories
- Take the survey for a chance to win prizes.

What careers use mathematics?

Did you know that Zoo Keepers, Meteorologists, Builders, Mechanics and Hairdressers use maths in their work? These jobs are included in the 21 career profiles on the [Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute website](#). You can also check out the [Careers with Maths magazine](#) for more information about exciting careers that use maths.

Open Days, Expos & Career Markets



Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo coming soon

This expo will be held from 9 am – 3 pm on Friday 2 and from 10 am – 4 pm on Saturday 3 June 2017 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. At the Expo you will be able to talk to representatives from universities (some interstate and overseas institutions usually attend this expo), TAFE Queensland, private colleges, industry groups, employers, government agencies, gap year programs, etc. Seminars and workshops will also be held. The [Expo website](#) will be updated shortly with details of the event.

How to make the best use of a career expo

The purpose of a career expo is to give you an opportunity to explore your future options in employment, training and/or higher education. While there are many resources available that provide this information, a career expo offers a unique opportunity as it has a broad range of information in the same place at the same time. Also, you can gather brochures to take home as well as get accurate, up-to-date information from representatives who can answer your questions, usually on the spot. However, to get the most out of a career expo, you need to do some preparation. First, go onto the expo website (most expos have a website) to find out about:

- The exhibitors - industries, organisations, universities, colleges, TAFE, employers, etc. who will have a stand at the expo
- Activities - some expos have activities such as 'Try-a-Trade'
- Seminars or workshops
- Competitions – some expos use these as a drawcard for people to attend.

Next, make a list of the exhibitors, activities and seminars/workshops you want to visit. You could also list the information you would like to obtain and/or the questions you want answered.

Most expos have a map of exhibitors (i.e. where their stands are located on the expo site). Use this on the day to help you navigate the expo to get the information you want. Once you have this, you could then look at what else is on offer (you might find something you hadn't thought of). After the expo, it is a good idea to review the information you have gathered and reflect on how this information might influence your future decision making. You could talk this over with your school Guidance Counsellor/Officer.

Regional Career Expos in May

The following is a selection of career and employment expos to be held in regional Queensland locations in May 2017.

- 23 May - [Bundaberg Careers Expo](#) at the Bundaberg Civic Centre
- 24 May – [Fraser Coast Jobs and Careers Expo](#) at the Brolga Theatre, Maryborough
- 25 May – [Cairns Careers and Employment Expo](#) at the Fred Moule Pavilion, Cairns Showgrounds
- 25 May – [Gympie Regional Careers Expo](#) at the Pavilion, Gympie
- 30 May - Roma Careers Market at [Roma State College](#)
- 31 May - [St George and District Courses and Careers Expo](#) at Balonne Skill Centre, St George

Overseas Studies

Helpful websites for researching overseas study options

The following websites can help you in your search for institutions and courses overseas. Most of the sites also provide information on what it is like to study in another country and processes for applying for courses and scholarships.

[Education USA](#) – This site offers a five-step approach to researching study in the USA.

[International Student](#) – Provides access to resources for study in USA and UK.

[OS Top Universities](#) – Provides information on the highest ranked universities in the world.

[Study Link](#) – This site has a search tool that gives you access to thousands of courses from institutions around the world.

[Study Overseas](#) – This is an Australian Government site with a course search function and helpful information for Australian students wanting to study overseas.

[Study Portals](#) – Allows you to search globally for institutions and courses.

[Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#) – A website set up by the company behind the world's most influential university ranking on every continent across the world.

[OS-HELP on the Study Assist website](#) - OS- HELP is a loan available to eligible Australian students enrolled in a Commonwealth supported place who want to undertake some of their study overseas.

[Smartraveller](#) – This Australian Government website provides information for Australian travellers.

[Study in Canada](#) – You can use this site to explore institutions and courses in Canada.

[Study in New Zealand](#) – A course search and information about qualifications and scholarships available.

[British Council: Study UK](#) – Everything you need to know about studying in the United Kingdom.

[Ministry of Education, Singapore](#) – Provides general information about studying in Singapore.



QTAC & Tertiary Entry

Tertiary entry questions from Year 12 students

Q. - How do I apply to university for next year?

A. - You apply through [QTAC](#) for most Queensland tertiary courses. Applications to tertiary institutions in other states are through [tertiary admissions centres](#) like QTAC. You apply directly to all other institutions.

Q. - What is QTAC?

A. - The [Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre](#) (QTAC) is a public, not-for-profit company that manages the application and offer processes for universities, TAFE Queensland and some private colleges in Queensland (three interstate institutions are also included). QTAC does not make the rules about entry to courses. The institutions make the rules and QTAC administers these rules.

Q. - How many courses can I apply for through QTAC?

A. - You can apply for up to six courses from any of the institutions that use QTAC. You receive only one offer (if you meet the prerequisites and have a competitive OP or Rank) at any given offer round. Find out more on the [Preferences page](#) of the QTAC website.

Q. - When will I receive my QTAC application form?

A. - The QTAC application is an online application. It will be activated on 3 August 2017 on the [QTAC website](#). The 'on-time' due date for applications is 29 September 2017.

Q. - How are applicants selected for courses through QTAC?

A. - There are usually more applicants than available places for many of the courses. Selection is based on meeting minimum entry requirements (prerequisite subjects, folio, audition, etc.) and on merit (OP or Rank). Once minimum entry requirements are met, applicants compete on the basis of merit for competitive courses.

Q. - What is the difference between undergraduate and postgraduate courses?

A. - The term 'undergraduate' is normally applied to diploma, advanced diploma, associate degree and bachelor degree courses. 'Postgraduate' usually applies to courses you can study after completing a bachelor degree, e.g. graduate certificate, graduate diploma, masters and doctorate.

Which is the best university?

All Australian universities offer accredited courses that can lead to employment. Consequently, the better question is 'Which is the best university for me?' Consider the following when researching universities.

- Is the course offered at this university a pathway to the job I eventually want?
- Where is this university located? Can I realistically travel there? What are the transport options?
- Will the university help me gain work experience in my career area of interest while I do the course?
- How hard is it to get into this course at this university?
- Are the courses at this university full-fee or are they subsidised by the Commonwealth Government and eligible for HECS-HELP?
- If the courses are full-fee, is the institution accredited for FEE-HELP?
- Where do students of this course at this university go after they graduate?
- What support services are available at this university?
- What co-curricular activities (sport, clubs, etc.) are available at this university?
- What is the 'atmosphere' or working and social environment of the university like?
- Is it important to me to go to the same university as my friends?

These websites can help you with your research.

- [QILT](#) (Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching) can help you compare study experience and employment outcomes data from Australian higher education institutions to select the institution with all the qualities you want.
- [Rate Your Uni](#) gives you student ratings for Australian universities.
- [The Good Universities Guide](#) has a course and institution search function and information on careers and scholarships. It also has a rating section for all Australian universities.
- [Study Assist](#) provides information on Australian Government financial assistance for further study.

Other sources of information are:

- Open days and career expos – access information from the [Open days and expos page](#) on the QTAC website. Term three is big for open days.
- University brochures – obtain these at open days, career expos and university websites
- University websites
- Current students at the university (you will have access to these students at open days).

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Student Connect magazine

The Student Connect magazine gives Year 12 students important and interesting information and advice about their studies, future education, training and career pathways. It also highlights key events in Semester two and profiles the study and career pathways of recent school graduates. The magazine is published twice a year –in May and December.

The May 2017 edition will be distributed to your school in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, if you want a head start, the magazine can be downloaded from the [QCAA website](#). In the edition, you are encouraged to log in to your Learning Account on the [Student Connect website](#) to check your personal details before final results are released in December. All Year 12 students who log in at least once between 1 May and 31 August 2017 will go into a draw to win an Apple MacBook Air.



Study Skills

Staying motivated

With the pressure of assignments, exams, social events (Who should I take to the formal? or Will he/she ask me to the formal?), and career and course decision making, it is easy to lose sight of the goals you set yourself for your senior studies. The following suggestions may help you regain the momentum you had at the beginning of the year.

One step at a time - Getting motivated again takes a little time. So, just pick a small task, and address that. Break big projects and assignments into smaller ones, and tackle just one, then another. Before you know it, you're starting to feel like you're achieving something, and that will boost your confidence.

Be realistic - Lack of motivation can sometimes happen when you doubt your ability to achieve your goals and projects. Maybe you're demanding too much of yourself. Look at what you've got on your plate: is it realistic? If not, try and reduce the workload by talking to teachers, guidance officers/counsellors and parents. They're human too!

Take a break - Sometimes, all you need to motivate yourself again is to take a break. Go for a walk, catch up with friends, treat yourself to a movie or a meal. It's amazing how walking away from the immediate issues can help you see them with fresh eyes when you get back to them.

Reward yourself - Go on, have a treat! You may think you're not doing so well, so think about what you have already achieved, and reward yourself for that.

Remember the dream - If you're losing motivation, you're probably caught up with the day-to-day detail. Just remind yourself why you're doing this - to live a comfortable, successful, independent life. Now picture what that will be like. Feeling better?

Ask for help - If you're not clear on an assignment, ask your teacher or a fellow student. Just discussing the issues may make it clearer and kick start your energy.

Read a biography - Many of the famous, successful people we admire faced difficulties and failure in their lives. A biography will put your current challenges in context, and allow you to see you're not alone.

Phone a friend - One of the oldest ideas in the book, but it really does help to talk with someone who can give you a positive point of view regarding how you are feeling. Talk to someone who is empathetic NOT sympathetic.

If you need more inspiration, view [The secret behind staying motivated](#) on the University of Southern Queensland's website.

Youth Enrichment Activities

Young Social Pioneers

This program has been developed by the Foundation for Young Australians (FYP). FYP is looking for young people with an idea or project that could change the world for the better. Participants will have access to mentors, workshops, resources and the biggest community of young trailblazers in Australia. Travel and accommodation is also included for all finalists. YSP will bring finalists to a board room to share their live pitches. Seven participants representing one of each specialist stream (Sustainability, Youth Mental Health, Arts, Health, Environment, Indigenous and Open) will be rewarded with \$10,000 in funding. Visit the [YSP webpage](#) for more information. Applications close on 24 May 2017.