

## Events

## Scholarships

### Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship Program

**Organisation:** University of Technology Sydney

**Location:** Australia

**Value:** \$49,500 AUD + 2 industry placements

**Open Date:** June 2, 2025

**Close Date:** September 7, 2025

[Find out more](#)

### PEF National Regional & Remote Tertiary Scholarship

**Organisation:** Public Education Foundation

**Location:** Australia

**Value:** Up to \$3,000 AUD per year

**Open Date:** June 2, 2025

**Close Date:** August 27, 2025

[Find out more](#)

## Competitions

### Sony World Photography Awards Youth Competition

**Organisation:** World Photography Organisation

**Location:** All

**Value:** See details

**Open Date:** June 1, 2025

**Close Date:** January 6, 2026

[Find out more](#)

### BIOTech Futures Challenge 2025

**Organisation:** BIOTech Futures

**Location:** All

**Value:** See details

**Open Date:** May 7, 2025

**Close Date:** July 28, 2025

[Find out more](#)

## Weekly Posts

## Jobs & Careers

### What's the difference between a career, a job, and work?

We talk a lot about careers, jobs, and work - but what do these words actually mean? Are they really all just different words for the same thing, or are there subtle differences?

Well, they actually do all mean different things. And most importantly, knowing the differences can not only help you plan out your future, but also re-think what success in our working lives means.

### **What is a career?**

"Career" is a word we use to describe the jobs and work we do throughout our lives. It comes from an old word for chariot, and can also be used to describe forward movement (as in, the car *careered* off the road).

In the past, the only people who had a career were the lucky people who could choose what they did, such as men who worked in management. Most careers moved forward in a pretty predictable way - as long as you turned up and did your job, you could expect to eventually be promoted.

Other people (like women, minorities, factory workers, and those with less money) were unlikely to have a "career" - instead they would have "jobs", which didn't have clear paths for advancement.

Today, we know that straightforward careers are actually the exception rather than the norm. The main reason people could have them in the past is because they relied on others in their lives to do everything else (like raise kids, clean the house, cook meals, and plan holidays).

Essentially, your career is a combination of the jobs and work you do over your lifetime. And it's unlikely to look like a straight line - there will be times when you make great leaps forward, but there will also be times when you seem to stand still, or even go backwards. But this is all totally normal!

If you move into another field entirely then you may feel that you have ended one career and started another - we call this a "career change".

### **What's a job?**

A "job" is a much more static than a career: it's a set of tasks that you perform on a regular basis in return for a set benefit (typically pay).

To move forward in your career, you may be promoted from one job to another or find a job somewhere else - the job itself is static, while you move around.

As an example, you may have a *career* in nursing, but your current *job* is a ward nurse in the respiratory unit of your local hospital. In the future, you could move into a job as a nursing unit manager, or a job as a research nurse. Your career will still be in nursing, but your job will change.

### **So, what's work then?**

We use the word "work" to refer to something that we *need* to do. This means it's an activity that serves a purpose - it isn't just something you *want* to do (but you can still enjoy it, of course).

Your job is a form of work - most of us do it because we need the money to fund the rest of our lives. If you weren't paid, then you probably wouldn't turn up.

But work isn't just something you do in return for money. In fact, there are lots of other things that count as work that won't earn you a cent. This is typically called "unpaid work", and includes things like caring for family members, cleaning and maintaining your living space and clothes, managing your professional networks, and even growing your own food.

Just because something doesn't have a monetary value doesn't mean it's *valueless* - all of these things are important in different ways, and are often things we couldn't survive without. It's simply easier to track and measure paid work, so that's what most people (including the government) focus on.

### **Why is this important?**

How you see your work, job, and career can have a big impact on how successful you feel.

For example, parents who have to take time out of their jobs to care for their children may feel less successful than their peers who can work full-time without distractions, but they only feel this way because they don't count all their unpaid caring work as 'work'.

We know that earning lots of money or climbing the corporate ladder [doesn't necessarily lead to happiness](#), so re-framing what you consider to be "success" can help when thinking about your future career.

The world of work is always changing, and those shiny, linear careers we spoke about earlier have largely disappeared. So if you can reset your thinking before you've even started your journey, you'll be more prepared for the ups and downs when they appear.

### **Find out more**

Looking for more resources on careers, jobs, and work? [You can read heaps of other blogs and find inspiration on our website.](#)

## **Gap Years**

### **[What a gap year really costs](#)**

Would you like to take a gap year, but are afraid you won't be able to afford the costs? Or perhaps you're really keen, but your parents are worried about the money and don't want you ending up in debt.

These are both valid and sensible concerns! But if a gap year is what you really want and you have a plan in mind, you might be pleasantly surprised about how affordable some options are. Let's take a look.

### **The nuts and bolts of gap year costs**

Even if you're already working and plan to live at home rent-free for the next 12 months, you'll need a financial plan. Without one, you could fritter away all your hard-earned salary and not may not be able to achieve your goals at the end of your gap year.

Unfortunately, the reality is travel, study, and gap year programs almost always have costs associated with them. Thankfully, there's a fairly simple way to prepare.

First, you need to figure out how much it's going to cost you overall. Don't forget to include the smallest details, because they all add up.

Then, figure out how you're going to be able to afford *everything*, and then some - running out of money half way through your gap year isn't ideal.

If your parents or other family are helping you out, great! You still need to know what costs to expect, then plan a budget to make sure your money will last as long as it needs to. After all, their pockets are only so deep, so don't expect constant top-ups. Our biggest tip? Try to avoid getting into debt for a gap year. Ending your gap year with a lot of money owing (and don't forget interest on top) could set your future plans back.

### **The three steps to gap year success**

Keen to take a gap year, but unsure where to start? Here are a few simple steps to follow.

## **Plan**

Work out what you want to do and where you want to go. You need these details first so you can work out how much everything will cost.

## **Budget**

Once you know how much you need, write a clear budget that lists every item. You'll need at least a fairly accurate estimate of your overall costs to ensure you save enough.

## **Save**

Once you know how much you need, you can set some goals and start saving. Having a backup plan is usually also a good idea, just in case something unexpected happens or you change your mind.

## **Your gap year options**

There are tonnes of different gap year options to choose from, and the costs vary between all of them. Even so, we've broken down a few different gap year options and the costs you can expect to be associated with each.

Keep in mind these lists aren't comprehensive and there may be other costs we haven't included - at the end of the day, it's up to you to create a thorough budget and prepare accordingly.

## **Travel**

If you want to explore the world and broaden your horizons, travel is the quintessential gap year choice. Think of a travel gap year like a really long holiday - most of the costs are the same, just stretched out over a longer period of time.

Here are some of the things you'll need to include in your budget:

- Travel to, from, and between your destination/s
- Accommodation
- Food (remember, you'll probably be doing a lot of dining out)
- Daily travel (bus or train fares, bike or car rental costs, etc.)
- Tours and experiences
- Souvenirs and gifts
- Emergency money
- Pre-travel costs (passport fees, medical checks, visa applications, etc.)

## **Work**

It might not seem like everyone's idea of fun, but sometimes the only way you can afford a gap year is to combine it with a job. On the bright side, you'll gain heaps of valuable skills, meet heaps of new people, and potentially end up with more money than you started with.

It's pretty common to combine travel with work, so as well as the above costs, here are some other things you might need to consider:

- Uniform and/or tools
- Travel to and from work
- Applying for a working visa (if working overseas)
- Income tax

## **Learn**

A break from formal learning like school or university doesn't mean you need to totally switch your brain off. Lots of people use their gap year as an opportunity to follow their passion or learn something they've always wanted to.

If this sounds like something you might like to do, here are some costs you might need to prepare for:

- Course or workshop fees
- Materials and/or tools
- Travel costs

### **Specialised programs**

There are heaps of providers out there that offer ready-to-go gap year packages, making the planning process a breeze - all you need to do is sign up, pay the fee, and get ready to go! This makes them a great 'set-and-forget' option (if you can afford the initial fees).

The overall costs of these programs vary wildly depending on lots of factors, like what's involved, where you'll go, how long the program is, and even the provider themselves. Your upfront costs are usually high, but generally you don't need to worry about ongoing costs during the program, as things like accommodation, meals, and travel are covered.

Your costs typically include:

- Program fees
- Connecting travel (e.g. from your hometown to the city the program departs from)
- Optional experiences not included in the program fees
- Souvenirs and gifts
- Emergency money
- Pre-travel costs (passport fees, medical checks, visas, etc.)

### **Think outside the box**

Need a bit of extra help meeting your savings goals? Here are some options you might not have considered.

### **Gap year scholarships**

Apply for money towards your time out - there are [scholarships and grants](#) on offer through gap year providers or external organisations. If your application is successful, you could receive money to put towards your program fees, or receive a bit extra to use how you'd like.

### **Government payments**

It's always worth having a chat with government services too. They won't be handing out money for nothing, but if you're volunteering or earning below a certain threshold during your gap year, there could be some financial assistance you're eligible for.

### **Just can't afford it?**

And if all these options still feel out of reach, there are lots of other ways to have a great gap year too. You could travel locally, find work experience or volunteer, or even just take some time out to relax, refresh, and do some self-improvement. Ultimately, the choice is yours.

### **Find out more**

If you want more information about opportunities or how to plan your gap year, [head over to our gap years page](#) or grab a copy of our [Gap Year Guide](#).

## Pathways

### What is the IB Diploma Programme and could it be right for you?

If you're heading to high school soon and considering your senior options, you might have heard about something called the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. But what exactly is it? How does it compare to your state's senior certificate? And most importantly, should you consider it for your final years of school? Let's break it down for you.

#### **What makes the IB different?**

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a two-year international curriculum designed for students aged 16-19. It was developed in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland to "provide students with a balanced education, facilitate geographic and cultural mobility and to promote international understanding."

The IB is recognised globally and [taught in over 150 countries around the world](#) - so if you're thinking about studying overseas after high school, this could help you to apply with ease.

You can still apply to overseas universities using your country's high school certificate, and even if you're planning to study at home, local universities recognise the IB for entry too. But if you're looking for something a bit different from the usual curriculum, the IB might be for you.

The Diploma Programme incorporates the IB [learner profile](#), designed to help students develop skills to become responsible, global learners. You won't just understand how the world works, but also how you can help make it better.

#### **What will you study during the IB Diploma Programme?**

The IB Diploma curriculum and structure is quite different from traditional high school, made up of a combination of the DP Core and subject groups. Here's what you'll need to complete:

- [The DP core](#): The heart of the IB, these components are designed to "broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills." It consists of:
  - Theory of knowledge (TOK), a 100-hour course that encourages you to think about *how* we know what we know, exploring questions about knowledge itself across different subject areas.
  - The extended essay (EE), an independent 4,000-word research project on a topic of your choice, giving you a taste of university-level research.
  - Creativity, activity, service (CAS) projects, which require you to engage in activities outside the classroom for 3 hours a week that develop your personal growth. This could include sports, volunteering, creative pursuits, or community service.
- [Six subjects](#): You'll choose one subject from six groups based on your interests and goals.
  - The groups are language and literature, language acquisition, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, and arts.

- Subject offerings can vary depending on your school, and you may be able to opt out of the arts and select a second subject from one of the other groups.
- 3 or 4 subjects must be studied at Higher Level (HL) and 2 or 3 at Standard Level (SL), with HL subjects requiring more depth and study time.

### **How does IB scoring work for university entry?**

Your [final IB score](#) is calculated out of 45 points total. Each of your subjects can earn you up to 7 points, and you can earn up to 3 additional points from your performance in TOK and the EE. To pass the programme and gain the Diploma, you must receive a minimum of 24 points and successfully complete all DP Core components.

When applying to university, Your final IB score will typically be converted to your state or country's normal equivalent - this conversion happens automatically, so you don't need to worry about calculating it yourself.

In some cases, you may need send an official transcript of your results to the university. This should be done on your behalf by your school's IB Programme Coordinator.

### **Will universities accept your IB results?**

Many universities in [over 110 countries around the world](#) formally recognise the Diploma Programme for undergraduate entry. Even if the university you want to attend isn't on the IBO's list, they may still accept the DP for entry - you'll need to check their website directly.

In most cases, you'll need to have completed and been awarded the full IB Diploma to be eligible for entry to university. If you're not awarded the full Diploma, you may need to contact universities directly about your eligibility to apply and consider [alternative pathways](#) to study.

You'll apply through the same entry method as other high school students. Some universities even offer specific scholarships or pathways for high-achieving IB students.

### **Is the IB Diploma Programme right for you?**

The IB Diploma Programme works well for students who:

- Enjoy learning across multiple subject areas
- Can handle a demanding workload consistently
- Have strong time management and independent study skills
- Are interested in a global perspective on education
- Might be considering university study overseas
- Like to think deeply about big questions and make connections between different subjects

However, it might not be the best fit if you:

- Prefer to focus intensively on just one or two subject areas
- Have significant commitments outside school (like elite sport or work)
- Find it difficult to manage multiple deadlines and assignments
- Prefer more flexibility in your subject choices

### **Weighing up the pros and cons**

Nobody can tell you what the best option will be for you, but before making any decisions it's best to take some time to really work out which option could be best,

taking into account your lifestyle and commitments, as well as taking into account your end goals.

### **Benefits of the IB Diploma Programme**

- Global recognition could opens doors to universities worldwide
- Develops critical thinking and research skills
- Encourages a well-rounded education and global perspective
- Regarded well by universities for its academic standards
- Your final score stands on its own merit and will be assessed across two year levels of work
- You'll gain independent study skills and a great work ethic
- If your family plan to move between states or countries, the workload and subject offerings won't vary much between schools

### **Potential challenges to completing the IB Diploma Programme**

- Demanding workload across all subjects can leave less time for extracurricular activities or casual work
- All subjects are academically challenging with no 'easier' options
- Less flexibility or choices in subject selection compared to regular curriculum
- Requires strong time management and self-discipline
- If you score below 24 you will not receive a full Diploma
- You may not be eligible for some university programs
- May be less familiar to some employers compared to state certificates

### **Tips for success in the IB Diploma Programme**

If you decide the IB Diploma Programme is right for you, here are some strategies to help you succeed:

#### **Stay organised from the start**

You're going to need to be on top of your studies from day one. Use planners, set reminders, break large assignments (particularly the extended essay) into smaller, more manageable tasks, and definitely don't leave things until the last minute.

#### **Don't underestimate TOK and CAS**

While these components might seem less intensive than your other subjects, they do contribute to your final score and will require consistent effort throughout the programme.

#### **Ask for help when you need it**

IB teachers understand the demands of the programme and want to see you succeed, so don't wait until you're struggling to reach out for support.

#### **Build connections with your classmates**

Having a support network of students going through the same experience can be invaluable. Study groups and meet ups might help you stay motivated and on track.

#### **Maintain balance**

While the IB is demanding, remember that your [physical and mental wellbeing](#) are still important. Make time for sleep, exercise, and activities you enjoy.

#### **Research your options**



The decision to study the DP is made long before you finish school, so you'll need to have a good idea what you're signing up for and the post-school options you're aiming for. You can usually transfer from the DP to the regular curriculum if you change your mind, but not the other way around.

### **Making your decision**

The IB Diploma Programme isn't the right choice for every student, but for those who thrive on challenges and enjoy learning across multiple disciplines, it could be a great pathway to consider. It doesn't just teach subject content - it develops resilience, independence, critical thinking skills, and a global perspective that could serve you well in your future studies and career.

Whether you're planning to study at home or overseas, the IB could help to keep doors open.

If you're interested in learning more about the IB Diploma Programme, speak with your school's careers adviser or IB coordinator. They can help you understand whether your school offers the programme, what subjects are available, and whether it aligns with your goals and interests.

### **Find out more**

Want to explore more study options? [You can find information about pathways and qualifications on our website here.](#)

## **Subject Selection**

### **Why going to subject selection events is a smart move**

Subject selection can feel overwhelming. One minute you're cruising through school, and the next everyone's asking about your future, whether you want to go to university, or careers you've barely heard of. Before you get caught in a spiral of "what if I choose the wrong thing?", there's one simple move that can make everything less stressful: go to subject selection events.

Whether you go to the event your school hosts, an information night at a university, or a webinar or expo run by another organisation, here's why subject selection events are worth your time.

### **You don't know what you don't know**

You might think you have it all figured out: you're taking advanced maths and physics because you want to study engineering. But then you attend a university information night and discover that some engineering programs actually prioritise design thinking and problem-solving over high-level mathematics. Maybe you discover a job you've never heard of before at a careers expo, or the subjects you planned on taking clash on your school timetable.

Subject selection events give you access to valuable information, advice, and options you might not discover just by searching online or chatting to friends.

### **You'll have real conversations with real people**

You can't beat hearing things straight from the source.

Teachers can explain exactly what it's going to be like to take a subject in senior years, including how much coursework and assessment to expect. Knowing you and your past performance, they can also help manage your expectations - for example, if English has never been your strong suit but you plan on selecting extension English, you may need to work extra hard to keep up.

At university events, student advisers, professors, and current students can walk you through prerequisites, course options, and what student life is actually like.

Apprenticeship and training providers could give you a clear picture of what study and work commitments involve day-to-day for the pathways you're considering.

Even chatting with older students or recent graduates could give you a better feel for whether a subject or pathway is going to suit you.

### **You can bring your family along**

Even if your [parents or carers](#) encourage independence and support you to make your own choices, bringing them along to a subject selection event could provide a sounding board for ideas.

If you have parents and family members who feel strongly about you pursuing a particular pathway, they might learn more about the workload expected from you and the outcomes you can expect, which might not align with what they had in mind.

They'll hear the same information, ask different questions (usually the practical ones you haven't thought of yet), and help you remember the important details later.

Plus, it saves you having to go home and explain everything to them.

### **It helps your future self**

[The subjects you choose right now](#) won't lock you into a career forever, but they could keep opportunities open that might be harder to access later.

Subject selection events help you understand how your subject choices connect to different university courses, traineeships, or jobs. With some research and thought, you won't find yourself in Year 12 wishing you'd chosen different options two years ago.

### **You might actually enjoy it**

It sounds surprising, but it's true. Some of these events have interactive sessions like [quizzes](#), mini-exhibitions, or short taster workshops that help you picture life after school.

Plus, being surrounded by people all working out their futures too could bring you peace of mind that you're definitely not alone.

### **You have nothing to lose**

So if there's a subject selection event coming up at your school, go. University or training provider open day? Sign up. Local careers expo? Worth a visit. It's all part of piecing together what you want your next steps to look like.

Remember, it's completely normal to not have all the answers yet. But showing up, asking questions, and gathering information means you'll be in a much better position to make choices you actually feel confident about.

### **Find out more**

Want to explore more about subject selection? [You can find lots of helpful resources and advice on our website here.](#)

## **Job Spotlights**

### **[How to become an Anthropologist](#)**

Anthropologists research and examine all aspects of human society and behaviour, both past and present, including languages, art, belief systems, rituals, music,

economic systems and more. They can research ancient cultures to uncover new information, or research current trends and patterns to provide insights to governments and businesses.

If you're curious, patient, and have a passion for history and culture, a career as an anthropologist could be worth considering.

### **What skills do I need as an anthropologist?**

- Curious & inquisitive
- Organised & methodical
- Critical thinker
- Empathetic & open
- Skilled communicator
- Analytical & thorough
- Can work alone & in teams
- Good problem-solver

### **What does the job involve?**

- Conducting research & presenting findings
- Comparing sets of data to find trends
- Gathering & analysing artefacts & records
- Explaining findings to others
- Working with other social professionals
- Providing culturally-specific advice
- Organising & safely storing items
- Educating others on different cultures

### **What industries do anthropologists typically work in?**

- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
- Education & Training
- Health Care & Social Assistance

### **What Career Cluster do anthropologists belong to?**

Anthropologists belong to the [Informer Cluster](#) - they need to have a lot of curiosity and great communication skills, ready to share their knowledge with others.

### **What kind of lifestyle can I expect?**

Most anthropologists work average hours, and there are plenty of part-time opportunities available.

While some of the work is hands-on, you may also be able to conduct work remotely or from home, particularly when conducting certain research and communicating with clients. There is also lots of opportunity to travel.

As an anthropologist you can expect to earn an average salary throughout your careers.

### **How to become an anthropologist**

To work as an anthropologist, you will typically need to study a relevant undergraduate qualification, such as in arts or social sciences. Postgraduate study is also highly desirable in this field. You may also need to be fluent in another language, depending on which culture you would like to research.

You might choose to specialise in a particular area of anthropology down the track, such as linguistics, culture, biology, or archaeology.

- Finish high school, focusing on subjects such as English, History, and Social Studies
- Complete a relevant university qualification, typically an undergraduate degree in Anthropology, Arts, or Social Sciences
- Start building work experience
- Consider undertaking a Master's degree in Anthropology, or potentially even a PhD

### **What can I do right now to work towards this career?**

If you're in high school and you'd like to find out if becoming an anthropologist is right for you, here are a few things you could do right now:

- Work on your research and writing skills, which will be vital in this career. Delve deep into a particular area of interest and find out everything you possibly can.
- Try and find work experience in places like a museum, cultural institution, or research institution.
- Talk to an anthropologist to see what a day in their life is like. If you don't know anyone, see if you can watch videos or documentaries about a career in anthropology.

### **Where can I find more information?**

- [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#)
- [Australian Anthropological Society](#)
- [Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand](#)
- [Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania](#)
- [Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK](#)
- [American Anthropological Association](#)
- [Canadian Anthropology Society](#)

### **Similar careers to anthropologist**

- Historian
- [Interpreter](#)
- [Lecturer](#)
- Archaeologist
- Community Development Officer
- [Data Scientist](#)
- Advocate
- [Librarian](#)

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