FOCUS ON VET PATHWAYS

Vocational education and training (VET) includes traineeships, apprenticeships and TAFE study.

4 out of 5 parents report that they would prefer their child to go to university than study VET, http://bit.ly/2vPBkPF but it is crucial that both parents and students take the time to understand the VET sector, and that a preference for just university study may in some cases limit a young persons potential.

Between 20 – 30% of young people in Australia drop out of or change their university course within the first year. Many young people don’t even consider studying VET due to incorrect perceptions or through lack of understanding of the sector.

It’s no secret that employers love job applicants who have TAFE qualifications, including those who graduate from a university degree with a VET qualification.

VET graduates are considered to have ‘job ready’ skills and in the future labour market in Australia with 1 in every 2 young people expected to complete a Bachelor degree, it is more important than ever to have diverse skills, industry experience and more than one qualification (e.g., a Bachelor of Engineering with a TAFE Diploma in Project Management).

Did you know that 9/10 occupations predicted to have the most jobs growth by 2022 are in vocational training areas and in the industries with the most growth (e.g., health and community services, construction, and accommodation and food services)? Source: http://bit.ly/1mab7j7

Specific occupations with the biggest growth prediction include sales assistants, aged care workers, disability workers, enrolled nurses, electricians, chefs, and early childhood education workers etc.

Current skills shortages are in occupations such as automotive trades, food trades, construction trades, and building professionals.


It revealed the following:

- VET graduates earn wages comparable to, if not exceeding, that of university graduates.
- VET graduates have a higher employment rate than university undergraduates. More than 78% of VET graduates are employed after training.
- VET courses have adapted more readily to changing workforce needs.

There are some occupations that require a university degree (e.g., medicine, social work, law).

It is advisable that students consider undertaking VET study during their gap year (e.g., gap year traineeship or TAFE course) and concurrently with their university studies (if time permits).

Other benefits of TAFE courses include:

- Higher level courses (e.g., Diploma) can provide a direct pathway into university courses with credit
- Can give you the opportunity to trial an industry or career area before you commit to university study
Can give you a qualification you can use to gain part time work whilst undertaking university study.

Do you know you can study a huge range of vocational courses at TAFE? TAFE provides students with the opportunity to:

- Undertake applied learning
- Gain ‘industry ready’ experience
- Learn about industries and careers
- Obtain a qualification in a relatively short time frame.

The following are example courses you could consider:

Jane knows she loves working with people, has excellent written and verbal communication skills, is creative, loves thinking outside the box, is highly organised and enjoys solving problems. She explores the following TAFE courses:

- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Advertising
- Professional Writing and Editing
- Broadcast Journalism
- Liberal Arts
- Library and Information Services

Sheridan loves sciences and health and is considering working in rehabilitation, medical sciences or allied health in the future. She explores the following courses:

- Dental Technology
- Nursing
- Massage and Myotherapy
- Allied Health Assistance
- Laboratory Technology
- Pathology Collection

Paul knows he loves helping people and that he would like to work in counselling, case management, or human services in the future. He explores the following courses:

- Community Services
- Youth Work
- Disability Services
- Mental Health
- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Aged Care

To search for TAFE courses, use the following websites:

- Victorian Skills Gateway website
- TAFE NSW
- MySkills (Australia wide)
- Private Colleges Australia

It’s important to note that many courses have optional or compulsory information sessions that run between now and the end of the year. You will need to ensure that you attend these sessions and also fulfil any portfolio or selection task requirements.

Key VET websites include:

- ‘VET. It’s right now’
- Skills Road
- Australian Apprenticeship Pathways
- SkillsOne
- Good Careers Guide

FREE TAFE COURSES - VICTORIA

If you live or work in Victoria, you may be eligible for a fully subsidised course at a Victorian TAFE Institute starting next year.

The following are eligible courses:

**Non-apprenticeship courses**

- Accounting and Bookkeeping (Cert IV)
- Accounting (Diploma, Advanced Diploma)
• Alcohol and Other Drugs (Certificate IV)
• Ageing Support (Certificate IV)
• Agriculture (Certificate II, III, IV)
• Agriculture (Dairy Production) (Cert III)
• Allied Health Assistance (Certificate II, III)
• Building & Construction (Building) (Certificate IV, Diploma)
• Building & Surveying (Advanced Diploma)
• Child, Youth & Family Intervention (Certificate IV)
• Civil Construction (Certificate III)
• Civil Construction Supervision (Cert IV)
• Commercial Cookery (Certificate III)
• Community Services (Cert III, IV, Diploma)
• Concreting (Certificate III)
• Construction Waterproofing (Certificate III)

Apprenticeship pathway courses
The following courses are all Certificate II level
• Automotive: Air Conditioning, Body Repair Technology, Servicing Technology, Vocational Preparation
• Baking
• Building & Construction
• Construction Pathways
• Electrotechnology: Studies (Pre Vocational), Career Start
• Engineering: Pathways, Studies
• Furniture Making
• Glass and Glazing
• Horticulture
• Meat Processing (Food Services)
• Plumbing (Pre Apprenticeship)
• Printing and Graphic Arts
• Production Nursery
• Salon Assistant
• Signage and Graphics

To check your eligibility and to search for TAFE courses and providers, use the websites:
• Victorian Skills Gateway
• Victorian Government

NSW students may be eligible if they have a job in Victoria.

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Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships
The Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships Program supports students with the costs of studying at university or at a vocational education and training institution. The scholarships are valued at up to $18,000 each and the course must be either Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Health or Agriculture related. The scholarship is administered through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre and applications for the 2019 intake are now open, https://bit.ly/2jLXqNQ

Interested in animation and visual effects?
Collarts has just announced they will be offering the Diploma and Bachelor of Animation & VFX in collaboration with CG Spectrum from 2019. This course will be fully online and will suit students interested in pursuing a career in animation and visual effects career in the film, television, online entertainment or gaming, https://bit.ly/2QQnpCP

Passionate about IT? Have you considered studying virtual reality?
The following is taken from Deakin University: “Virtual Reality (VR) is an immersive digital environment that replicates life-like physical environments or portrays a fictional world to make the user feel like they’re immersed in that environment in real life. Virtual and Augmented Reality (AR) is already being integrated into the healthcare, tourism, advertising, entertainment, automotive, gaming and education industries. Whether it be developing virtual prototypes, providing virtual training scenarios for health care providers or developing new games for the entertainment industry, Virtual and Augmented Reality are likely to continue transforming the way we live over the next decade.

Deakin University, in partnership with California-based Virtual Reality company EON Reality, offer students the opportunity to study a major sequence in Virtual and Augmented Reality as part of the Bachelor of Information Technology. Students will also have the opportunity to undertake an elective industry placement with EON Reality and work directly with VR and AR professionals on industry projects. For information about the major, go to http://bit.ly/2dSowCN

Passionate about languages?
Having a second language is great for your future employment prospects. Did you know that you can study a Diploma of Languages whilst you are studying a Bachelor degree at most universities?
You don’t need to have any previous experience with the language you are interested in. The following are examples of Diploma programs at several universities:

- University of Melbourne
- Monash University
- La Trobe University
- Deakin University
- RMIT
- Australia National University

Search for university scholarships
The Country Education Foundation has developed a resource to assist Year 12 students to find and apply for university scholarships. To access the resource, go to http://bit.ly/2yGMSGX
Have you considered studying nanotechnology?
Nanotechnology is the engineering and manipulation of extremely small matter and is one of the fastest growing areas of technology and scientific research. The degree suits students who love Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry and would like to work in the field of material and physical sciences. The following are examples of three courses you can study in Victoria:


- **RMIT**: Approved Bachelor degree in an area such as science or engineering/Master of Nanotechnology and Smart Materials, [http://bit.ly/2n7O1TW](http://bit.ly/2n7O1TW)

Latest articles from Careers With STEM


- **What kind of scientist are you?** Get your career inspiration right here, with the 10 different types of scientists you could become, [https://bit.ly/2R4iRJm](https://bit.ly/2R4iRJm)

- **The highest paying careers in STEM**: It's definitely not all about the money, but it never hurts to find out a little about the highest paying jobs in STEM – you might be surprised by the results! [https://bit.ly/2PMyAMR](https://bit.ly/2PMyAMR)

- **Getting smart with skills at Questicon**: Careers in science aren’t always about research. Find out what a career in science communication looks like with the Questacon Smart Skills Initiative! [https://bit.ly/2EEVEMl](https://bit.ly/2EEVEMl)

- **Urban Engineers making our cities smarter**: learn how urban engineers are shaping our cities, [http://bit.ly/2zwZxLI](http://bit.ly/2zwZxLI)

**2018 Careers With Code magazine – just released**
In this issue of Careers with STEM: Code, you'll meet computer scientists creating solutions to social challenges across agriculture, artificial intelligence, health, universal accessibility, cybersecurity and more. Plus, meet mentors making a difference in their community and discover the best-paid, most in-demand careers in tech. You'll get exclusive access to events, programs and tools to help you skill up quickly or find your study paths. Read online - [https://bit.ly/2ytOMM9](https://bit.ly/2ytOMM9) or pick up a FREE print copy from Mr Martin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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