



## Careers News - News, Resources and Events

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October 27, 2025

### Events

#### Careers with STEM & QUT – Tech Careers Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents

**Organisation:** Careers with STEM

**Location:** Online

**Date:** November 5, 2025

Imagine building the next big thing in AI, helping fight climate change with smart data, or even designing the tech behind the next generation of electric cars or space travel. Technology is now woven into every industry – from music and gaming to medicine and sustainable energy – which means a career in tech doesn't just mean one path; it means limitless possibilities.

And here's the exciting part: many of the jobs you'll be doing in the future haven't even been invented yet.

So how do you get started? Join us for a free Careers with STEM webinar on Wednesday 5 November at 12pm AEDT/11am AEST with leaders, experts and entrepreneurs in tech that will share their journeys and advice for anyone considering pursuing technology.

Whether you're a high school student, a teacher guiding your students' next steps, or a parent supporting your child's future, this webinar will provide the knowledge and inspiration you need to explore the exciting world of tech careers.

[Find out more](#)

#### Chisholm Institute Campus Tours for Future Students – November

**Organisation:** Chisholm Institute

**Location:** Chisholm Institute, Berwick, Dandenong & Frankston Campuses

**Date:** November 6, 2025

Join us for a campus tour and see Chisholm up close. You'll be able to walk through our facilities, guided by a Chisholm representative who can answer your questions about campus life, career pathways and our range of courses.

Register for a campus tour [Find out more](#)

#### Letz Live Webinar about Gap Years in the United Kingdom

**Organisation:** Letz Live

**Location:** Online

**Date:** November 11, 2025

Our sessions are a great way to learn more about the programmes we have on offer and the opportunities available to you.

Thinking of heading to the United Kingdom? Sign up to learn more about our School, Activity, and Hospitality Assistant opportunities. These online sessions will be held for residents of Australia, New Zealand, and anyone eligible for a working visa in the UK.

[Find out more](#)

### [Becoming a Protective Service Officer with the AFP – Online Information Session](#)

**Organisation:** Australian Federal Police

**Location:** Online

**Date:** November 12, 2025

Gain insights into the role of a protective service officer (PSO), hear first-hand experiences, and discover what it means to do legendary work in the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

[Find out more](#)

### [Monash University Clayton Campus Tour for Future Students](#)

**Organisation:** Monash University

**Location:** Monash University, Clayton Campus

**Date:** November 13, 2025

Join us for a 90-minute campus tour and discover all that Monash has to offer! Led by our friendly student ambassadors, you'll explore the outdoor spaces of our world-class campuses, learn about student life, and have the chance to ask questions about studying at Monash.

[Find out more](#)

### [Career Conversations @ Home – Helping Parents Have Positive Career Convos!](#)

**Organisation:** Arrive & Thrive

**Location:** Online

**Date:** November 19, 2025

Come join Tyson Day, the Co-Founder and Lead Facilitator of Arrive & Thrive, as he shares the best way to have impactful career conversations in and around your home environment that produce clarity, career discovery, and momentum. Tyson will share concepts and practices that he has learned through his 10+ years of experience in career education and the 85,000 students who have attended Arrive & Thrive workshops since 2019.

In our webinar, you can expect to learn:

- How can you positively influence your young person in their career decisions.
- How can you effectively navigate the future of work and understand your young person's options.
- How to communicate effectively through the GROW model to support your young person in career exploration.

We can't wait for you to join us!

All participants will receive a Career Conversation Kit to kick off conversations with their young person as soon as possible!

[Find out more](#)

### [UCAT, GAMSAT and Pathways into Medicine – Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents](#)

**Organisation:** National Institute of Education

**Location:** Online

**Date:** November 26, 2025

This forum is an excellent opportunity for teachers, students and their parents to find out about the UCAT, pathways into medicine, and have all questions answered by an expert teacher who has been working in the field since 1999.

The session is packed with invaluable information during which we will be covering the following topics, and more:

- What is UCAT? UCAT scores? UCAT Sub-tests?
- Year 10, 11 and 12 - things to consider now
- Application process into universities for medicine and dentistry
- When and who can sit the UCAT?
- GAMSAT
- Can you prepare for the UCAT?
- Undergraduate interview process

[Find out more](#)

### Chisholm Institute Campus Tours for Future Students – December

**Organisation:** Chisholm Institute

**Location:** Chisholm Berwick, Frankston & Dandenong Campuses

**Date:** December 4, 2025

Join us for a campus tour and see Chisholm up close. You'll be able to walk through our facilities, guided by a Chisholm representative who can answer your questions about campus life, career pathways and our range of courses.

Register for a campus tour so you can:

- See our facilities
- Learn about our range of courses and the career pathways available
- Find out if a course at Chisholm is right for you

[Find out more](#)

### Future Health Careers Day at La Trobe University for Year 12 Students in Bendigo

**Organisation:** La Trobe University

**Location:** La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus

**Date:** December 8, 2025

The Future Health Careers Day is designed to give students a realistic and relevant insight into studying and working in health and science fields, particularly within regional Victoria.

Held over one full day at La Trobe University Bendigo, the event will include a dynamic mix of information sessions, hands-on lab experiences, group-based problem-solving activities and opportunities to engage with LTU academics and current students. Students will explore the wide range of courses and pathways available at LTU Bendigo - including degrees in Nursing/Midwifery, Pharmacy, Social Work, Psychology, and Dentistry. Sessions will cover course entry requirements, tips for applications and important dates. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend an information session covering generalised information about La Trobe University, course entry requirements and important dates.

Practical lab sessions will introduce participants to university-level learning and research, offering a taste of what to expect in health and science degrees. Students will also receive advice on preparing for Year 12 and building foundational knowledge in key subject areas. Throughout the day, students will connect with peers who share similar interests and hear firsthand from those working and studying in rural health. The experience aims to inspire, inform, and equip students with a clearer vision for their future in health and science.

**Application deadline:** 5pm, 31st October 2025.

[Find out more](#)

### VTAC Webinar on Getting Your Results and What Happens Next for Students Starting in 2026

**Organisation:** Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

**Location:** Online

**Date:** December 9, 2025

You're about to receive your secondary school results, but what do you need to do to prepare for the next stage of your education journey? Join us to hear more about how the ATAR is calculated, advice on changing your preferences and how to order them, accepting an offer and other ways you can get support in this important time.

[Find out more](#)

### La Trobe University Change of Preference Fest for Future Students

**Organisation:** La Trobe University

**Location:** La Trobe University, Melbourne (Bundoora) Campus

**Date:** December 11, 2025

We know getting your ATAR results can be a big moment, so we're hosting the Change of Preference Fest to give you the support and advice you need, no matter what your results are. Chat with our course advisors about your options and explore alternative pathways if your results aren't what you expected. We'll help you figure out what's best for you.

Here's what you can expect:

- Course advice and pathways
- Campus tours
- Free food
- Prizes and giveaways

Whether you're thrilled with your results or need a bit of guidance, we've got your back. This is your chance to get all the info you need to make the best decision for your future.

[Find out more](#)

### Australian Catholic University – Change of Preference Guided Campus Tours, Melbourne

**Organisation:** Australian Catholic University

**Location:** Australian Catholic University, Melbourne Campus

**Date:** December 11 to December 12, 2025

Attend a guided campus tour to explore what ACU has to offer, discuss your study options and pathways into ACU, and get personalised change of preference advice.

General guided tours typically last 30 to 60 minutes. Registrations are essential as places fill quickly.

[Find out more](#)

### VTAC Webinar on Preferences, Pathways and Offers for Students Starting in 2026

**Organisation:** Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

**Location:** Online

**Date:** December 11, 2025

You've just received your results, congratulations! This time can be exciting but also a bit stressful, so we are here to help guide you towards your dream course. Join our webinar to hear more about how the preferencing system works and hear advice on ordering your preferences. We will also speak about pathways and how you can look at alternative courses to help you get to your dream course. Finally, we will cover what to expect when receiving an offer and how to accept your offer.

[Find out more](#)SAE University College Info Night in Melbourne

## Scholarships

### Murdoch University Indigenous Engineering Pathway Scholarship

**Organisation:** Murdoch University

**Location:** Western Australia

**Value:** Up to \$12,000 AUD

**Open Date:** October 5, 2025

**Close Date:** March 8, 2026

[Find out more](#)

### Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship for Rural and Regional Students

**Organisation:** Bendigo Bank

**Location:** Australia

**Value:** \$6,500 AUD per year

**Open Date:** December 1, 2025

**Close Date:** January 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)

## Competitions

### [Science without Borders® International Student Art Contest for Students Aged 11-19](#)

**Organisation:** Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation

**Location:** All

**Value:** Up to \$500 USD

**Open Date:** October 20, 2025

**Close Date:** March 2, 2026

[Find out more](#)

### [Anthology Short Story Competition 2026](#)

**Organisation:** Anthology

**Location:** All

**Value:** €1,000

**Open Date:** September 1, 2025

**Close Date:** July 31, 2026

[Find out more](#)

## Weekly Posts

## Skills for Work

### [Reading between the lines: What modern recruitment practices reveal about employers](#)

When you're applying for jobs, it's easy to feel like the whole process is designed to test you - and in many ways, it is. But here's something that might shift your perspective: recruitment processes also reveal a lot about what employers value, what they're willing to invest in, and what trade-offs they might expect you to make.

Understanding these dynamics doesn't make you cynical - it makes you informed. And being informed helps you ask better questions, spot potential issues early, and ultimately find roles where you'll actually thrive rather than just survive.

A [recent article from PwC](#) about recruitment trends offers some fascinating insights into what major employers are thinking about when they design their hiring processes. Let's look at what these trends might mean for you as a job seeker, and what you should be watching out for.

### **What you might encounter in modern recruitment**

Today's recruitment processes look quite different from even five years ago, and understanding what you're likely to face helps you prepare properly and know what's reasonable to expect.

### **Video interviews are becoming standard**

Many employers now use video interviews, particularly in early stages. They'll often frame this as offering flexibility for candidates - and to be fair, it does mean you don't need to travel for initial conversations. However, it's also significantly cheaper and more efficient for employers. A company can conduct preliminary interviews with candidates across the country without anyone leaving their desk.

What to watch for: If a company uses video interviews exclusively, even for final rounds, consider what this might suggest about their commitment to the role or their workplace culture. Are they genuinely offering flexibility, or are they minimising investment in recruitment? It's worth asking whether you'll have opportunities to visit the workplace and meet your potential team in person before making a final decision.

### **Automated screening systems**

Your CV might never be seen by human eyes, at least not initially. Many larger organisations use applicant tracking systems (ATS) that scan CVs for keywords, qualifications, and experience before a recruiter ever gets involved.

According to various industry sources, some systems reject up to 75% of applications before human review.

What to watch for: If you're consistently not hearing back from applications where you meet the stated requirements, your CV formatting or keyword usage might be the issue rather than your actual qualifications. This isn't necessarily a red flag about the employer, but it does mean you need to be strategic about how you present your information. Research how to optimise your CV for ATS systems - it's a genuine skill in modern job hunting.

### **Assessment tasks and "trial" work**

Increasingly, employers ask candidates to complete tasks, assessments, or even sample projects as part of the application process. Sometimes these are standardised tests measuring aptitude or personality. Other times, they're specific tasks related to the actual job.

What to watch for: There's a difference between a reasonable assessment of your skills and a company getting free work from applicants. A one-hour task that demonstrates your approach to problem-solving is reasonable. Being asked to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy, create multiple design concepts, or produce detailed reports without compensation should raise questions. If a task feels excessive, it's absolutely appropriate to ask about the time expectation and whether it will be compensated.

### **Multiple interview rounds**

It's increasingly common to face several rounds of interviews - perhaps a phone screening, a video interview, a technical assessment, and then in-person interviews with multiple people. Employers see this as being thorough and ensuring good fits on both sides.

What to watch for: While multiple rounds aren't necessarily problematic, consider what they tell you about the company's decision-making process. Are they organised and respectful of your time, with clear communication about expectations and timelines? Or does the process feel chaotic, with poor communication and constantly moving goalposts? A disorganised recruitment process often reflects a disorganised workplace. You're also investing significant time - if you're several rounds in, it's reasonable to ask about salary ranges and role specifics if these haven't been discussed.

### **Emphasis on "experiencing" the role before applying**

Some forward-thinking companies now offer ways for candidates to experience the role or workplace before formally applying - through office visits, job shadowing, virtual reality simulations, or detailed video content showing what the work actually involves. The PwC article mentions that 65% of candidates are more likely to consider a role if they can experience it through technology first.

What to watch for: This is generally a positive sign - it suggests the employer is confident in their workplace and wants to set realistic expectations. However, if you're interested in a company that doesn't offer this, don't be afraid to ask for something similar. Could you speak with someone currently in the role? Visit the office? Shadow for a few hours? Companies that are resistant to letting you see the reality of the job might have something to hide.

### **Decoding what employers are really looking for**

Job descriptions are filled with buzzwords and corporate language that can be hard to interpret. Here's what some common phrases and priorities actually tend to mean in practice.

### **"Cultural fit" really means...**

When employers emphasise cultural fit, they're looking for someone who'll adapt to their existing way of doing things without causing friction. This isn't inherently bad - workplaces do need some shared values and communication styles to function well. However, "cultural fit" can sometimes be code for "someone like the people we already have" which can perpetuate lack of diversity.

It can also mean they value conformity over bringing in fresh perspectives. Pay attention to whether they seem interested in what you might bring that's different, or whether they're just checking that you'll slot in quietly without challenging anything.

### **"Self-starter" translates to...**

This usually means they're looking for someone who can figure things out independently without much training or supervision. For some people, this autonomy is exactly what they want. For others, especially those early in their careers, it might mean insufficient support and mentoring.

If you see this term frequently in a job description, ask specific questions during the interview about training, onboarding, and what support looks like for new employees. A good employer should be able to describe how they help self-starters actually get started.

### **Experience requirements for "entry-level" roles mean...**

When an entry-level position requires one to three years of experience, employers are essentially saying they want someone who can contribute immediately with minimal investment in development. They're looking for candidates who've already made their mistakes somewhere else and learned from them.

This is frustrating, but understanding the motivation helps you position yourself better. Emphasise any relevant experience you do have, even if it's from volunteering, university projects, or adjacent fields. And don't be put off from applying if you don't meet every requirement - many employers acknowledge their ideal candidate descriptions are wishful thinking.

### **Interest in your "passion" for the company suggests...**

Employers who place heavy emphasis on wanting people who are passionate about their mission or excited about their products are often looking for employees who'll go above and beyond without necessarily being compensated for it. Passion can translate to working longer hours, taking on extra projects, or being more flexible about conditions because you "believe in the mission."

There's nothing wrong with being genuinely interested in a company's work, but be cautious about roles where passion seems to be valued more highly than fair compensation or reasonable working conditions. Your passion doesn't pay your rent.

### **"Fast-paced environment" is code for...**

This often means busy, possibly understaffed, with frequently changing priorities. For some people, this variety and pace is energising. For others, it's a recipe for stress and burnout. There's no universal right answer, but you should know what you're signing up for.

Ask specific questions: What does fast-paced mean in practice? How often do priorities shift? What does workload look like during busy periods? How does the team handle stress? Their answers will tell you whether "fast-paced" means dynamic and interesting or chaotic and overwhelming.

### **Common trade-offs that aren't always explicit**

Modern employment often involves trade-offs that seem positive on the surface but come with strings attached. Being aware of these helps you negotiate better and set appropriate boundaries from the start.

### **Flexibility and remote work**

The ability to work from home or choose your hours sounds brilliant, and for many people it genuinely improves quality of life. However, this flexibility can sometimes come with an unspoken expectation that you'll be available outside traditional hours or that you'll be just as productive at home as in the office.

The PwC article discusses using technology to create flexible processes for candidates, which can be genuinely helpful. But flexibility is only valuable if it actually gives you more control over your time rather than just blurring the boundaries between work and personal life.

What to clarify: When flexibility is mentioned, ask specific questions about expectations. Are there core hours when everyone needs to be available? How are deadlines managed? What does responsive communication look like? Is there a cultural expectation of responding to messages in the evening?

### "Competitive salary"

This phrase in a job advertisement often means less than you'd hope. "Competitive" doesn't necessarily mean good - it just means comparable to similar roles in the market. And sometimes employers have an optimistic view of what's actually competitive. What to clarify: Always ask for a specific salary range early in the process, ideally before investing significant time in applications and interviews. If they won't provide one, that's useful information too - it might suggest the salary isn't actually very competitive, or that they're hoping to lowball candidates who don't know better.

### "Opportunities for growth"

Everyone wants to grow professionally, so this sounds appealing. However, sometimes "opportunities for growth" translates to "we'll expect you to take on increasing responsibility without corresponding increases in pay or support." Growth is only valuable if it's accompanied by appropriate recognition, compensation, and resources. What to clarify: Ask what professional development looks like concretely. Is there a budget for training? Do people typically get promoted, and how often? What does career progression look like? Can they give examples of how people have grown in this role? Vague answers to these questions suggest "growth opportunities" might be more theoretical than real.

### "Young, dynamic team"

This can indicate an energetic, innovative environment. It can also be a red flag for high turnover, inexperienced management, or an expectation that you'll tolerate conditions that more experienced workers wouldn't accept. What to clarify: Ask about team tenure and turnover rates. How long has the manager been in their role? What's the average length of time people stay? Why do people typically leave? These questions can reveal whether "young and dynamic" means exciting or just unstable.

### What actually makes a "good" employee

Understanding what employers genuinely value - beyond the buzzwords - helps you present yourself effectively and also assess whether you want to be the person they're looking for. Most employers, when you cut through the corporate language, are looking for people who:

- **Can get up to speed with reasonable efficiency.** They don't expect you to know everything immediately, but they do want someone who can learn their systems and approach without requiring excessive hand-holding. This is particularly true outside of formal graduate programs where extensive training is expected.
- **Communicate professionally across different mediums.** Whether it's email, video calls, instant messaging, or in-person conversations, they want someone who can express themselves clearly, respond in appropriate timeframes, and adjust their communication style to the situation.
- **Accept and implement feedback without drama.** This doesn't mean accepting unfair criticism silently, but it does mean being able to hear that your work needs improvement without becoming defensive or requiring extensive emotional support from your manager.
- **Show initiative on problems within their scope.** They want people who, when they spot an issue or opportunity, will either address it themselves or flag it appropriately rather than just waiting for someone to notice and tell them what to do. However, there's a balance here - they don't want someone who constantly oversteps or makes decisions that aren't theirs to make.
- **Stay reliable and consistent.** This means showing up (physically or virtually), meeting deadlines, and maintaining quality even when work isn't particularly exciting. Consistency is often valued more highly than occasional brilliance accompanied by frequent unreliability.
- **Adapt when priorities shift.** Very few jobs involve unchanging priorities, and employers value people who can adjust their focus and approach when circumstances change without becoming frustrated or rigid.

Importantly, none of these qualities require you to sacrifice your wellbeing or accept poor conditions. You can be all of these things whilst still maintaining boundaries, advocating for fair treatment, and expecting reasonable support from your employer.

### **Using this knowledge to your advantage**

Understanding what's happening behind the scenes in recruitment doesn't just satisfy your curiosity - it gives you practical advantages throughout the job search and negotiation process.

### **Ask direct questions about what you've observed**

If an employer mentions flexibility, describes a fast-paced environment, or emphasises cultural fit, ask them to be specific about what that means in practice. Good employers will appreciate thoughtful questions and give you straight answers. Evasive responses or corporate speak that doesn't actually answer your question is itself useful information. You might ask things like: "You mentioned flexible working - what does that typically look like for people in this role?" or "Can you describe what makes the culture here distinctive and how new people typically adjust to it?" or "When you say fast-paced, what does that mean for daily workload and how priorities are managed?"

### **Assess them whilst they're assessing you**

Recruitment is often presented as a one-way evaluation where the employer decides if you're good enough. In reality, you're also deciding if they're good enough for you. Pay attention to how they treat you during the process - their responsiveness, clarity, respect for your time, and professionalism are all previews of what working there would be like. Red flags during recruitment might include poor communication, repeatedly rescheduling interviews, being unwilling to answer reasonable questions about pay or conditions, pressuring you to make quick decisions, or being disrespectful of your current employment situation.

### **Request specifics about important factors**

Don't accept vague answers about salary ranges, working hours, growth pathways, or other factors that matter to you. It's reasonable to ask for concrete information before accepting an offer, and employers who are being fair should be comfortable providing it. If they say salary is "competitive," ask for the specific range. If they mention growth opportunities, ask about typical progression timelines and examples. If flexibility is offered, ask about the specific parameters. You're not being difficult by wanting clear information - you're being sensible.

### **Don't oversell your passion**

Whilst you should demonstrate genuine interest in the role and company, be cautious about overemphasising your passion, especially if other aspects of the offer aren't particularly strong. Your enthusiasm shouldn't be used to justify lower pay, poor conditions, or unrealistic expectations. It's completely fine to be interested in a job primarily because it pays well, offers good work-life balance, or provides valuable experience - you don't need to pretend every application is your dream role.

### **Remember your own value**

Modern recruitment processes can make you feel like you're competing desperately for scarce opportunities, but good employers know they're also competing for good candidates. You have skills, potential, and the ability to contribute value. That gives you more power in the process than you might think.

This doesn't mean being arrogant or entitled, but it does mean recognising that recruitment should be a two-way conversation about mutual fit, not a one-sided evaluation where you're just grateful for any opportunity.

### **The bottom line**

Understanding what employers are thinking and what their recruitment practices reveal doesn't make you cynical - it makes you informed. You can be positive about finding good opportunities whilst still being realistic about what to watch for and what questions to ask. The best employment relationships are built on mutual respect, clear communication, and reasonable expectations on both sides. Employers who are worth working for will welcome your questions, respect your need for specific information, and treat you professionally throughout the process. Those who don't probably aren't workplaces where you'd thrive anyway. As you navigate recruitment processes, remember that every interaction is giving you information. Pay attention to what you're seeing and experiencing, ask questions when things aren't clear, and trust your instincts when something feels off. You're not just looking for any job - you're looking for the right job for you.

## University - Do you need to change your preferences?

So you've applied to university – congratulations! Perhaps you've applied through an admissions centre, or maybe you applied directly to the university of your choice. Either way, did you know that once you've submitted your applications, they're not set in stone? Right up until the very last offer round, you can always change your preferences.

### Preferences - the basics

By the time you've submitted your applications, it's assumed that you understand 'preferences' and what it means for your application. But just in case you're still a bit uncertain, let's explain.

*Preferences* is just a term for the courses you want to apply for, listed in the order you'd like to study them. They're also sometimes called choices or selections. We recommend that you list your dream course/s first, some more realistic options next, and one safe option last. That way, you'll increase the chances of receiving at least one offer in the main offer rounds. Listing the maximum number of possible preferences on your applications is also a good strategy.

### Flexibility can be handy

If you're certain that you've applied to the best university and selected the best courses for you, that's great! All you need to do is move on and wait for an offer. But if you decide you're not happy with your choices, or perhaps the order of your courses just isn't sitting right with you any more, guess what? There's good news – the whole applications system is designed to allow you to change your preferences.

### When can you change your preferences?

Most universities and admissions centres provide plenty of opportunities to change your preferences. After submitting your application and before the first offers are released, you can usually log in to your application and adjust your preferences. Changing your preferences is usually free, but some institutions may charge a fee. In some cases, you might need to pay a fee if you change them more than two or three times.

If you're applying through an admissions centre, here are the change of preference cut-off dates for the main rounds of offers:

| Admission Centre      | Results date     | Offer date        | Change of preference cut-off |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <a href="#">UAC</a>   | 18 December 2025 | 23 December 2025  | 18 December 2025             |
| <a href="#">VTAC</a>  | 11 December 2024 | 23 December 2025  | 13 December 2024             |
| <a href="#">QTAC</a>  | 18 December 2025 | 23 December 2025  | 19 December 2025             |
| <a href="#">TISC</a>  | 19 December 2025 | 24 December 2025  | 20 December 2025             |
| <a href="#">SATAC</a> | 15 December 2025 | 15 January 2026   | 5 January 2026               |
| <a href="#">UTAS</a>  | 17 December 2025 | Mid December 2025 | Contact UTAS                 |

*Note:* If you've received an early offer for one or more of the courses on your preferences, and you'd still like more offers during other rounds, it's best to call the admission centre directly if you're unsure about what to do next. Once the main round of offers are released, another window usually opens up. You'll have the chance to change your preferences again and possibly receive more offers, then choose which one to accept. Or, if you didn't get an offer in the first round, you can wait and see if you receive one in a subsequent round.

### What if I'm applying directly to the university?

If you're submitting your application direct to the university, you'll need to check with them if:

1. They allow you to change your course choices after your application has been submitted, and
2. Whether there is any cut-off dates you need to change your preferences by.

Some universities will let you swap your course choices right up until you receive an offer. Others might ask you to complete a separate application if you change your mind about your course. We recommend you check the details on their website or contact them directly to confirm your options.

### **A note about quota and high-demand courses**

If all the places in a course have been filled after the first offer round, you won't be able to add it to your list in subsequent rounds. If a course has an earlier closing date than the regular deadline, it's highly likely you won't be able to add it to your list once this date has passed, even if change of preference is still open.

If you want to apply to a course that is in high-demand or has caps on places, you should get your application sorted ASAP to ensure you don't miss out.

### **When might you decide to change your preferences?**

Consider adjusting your preferences if:

- Your results are better than you expect. If there's a competitive course you looked over because you didn't think it was a realistic option before, move it to the top of your list.
- Your results aren't as good as you had hoped for. To increase your chances of receiving an offer, put any courses you're eligible for at the top of your list.
- You have a change of heart about the best course or university for you.
- A new course has become available and you think it would be perfect.
- You discover a course you didn't know about when you applied.
- You find out that the prerequisites for a course you had on your list have changed.
- The course you applied for has been dropped by the university.
- You're looking back over your application and realise you didn't put your preferences in the right order.

### **Is changing your preferences really necessary?**

If you get higher results than you expected (yay you!), *don't* immediately rush off and change your preferences just because you can. If you're happy with your preferences, the best thing to do is stick with them – there's no such thing as 'wasting' good grades. You might feel pressured into thinking you should change your list, particularly if your friends are talking about changing theirs and cut-off dates are coming up. Take a breath, spend some time researching any changes you're thinking of making, and make sure you're doing it for all the right reasons. Finally, double check any prerequisites and eligibility requirements before you add or move a course. It would be a real shame to miss out on an offer because you didn't take a few minutes to read the entry criteria.

### **Don't panic**

If you miss the change of preference cut-offs for the first round, that's OK – you'll get the chance to change them again before the next offer round. If all the rounds are over and you have an offer, but it's not for the course you really wanted, call up the university and find out what your options are. You might be able to start a different degree then transfer after completing a few subjects.

Most importantly, if you don't receive any offers at all, please remember that you still have lots of options. Most institutions have at least one alternative pathway, from bridging courses to experience-based entry options. You may be surprised to learn about the number of choices available to help you get into the university of your dreams.