



November 10, 2025

Events

[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](#)

Whitehouse Institute of Design Creative Illustration Workshop – Melbourne

Organisation: Whitehouse Institute of Design

Location: Whitehouse Institute of Design, Melbourne Campus

Date: November 22, 2025

This hands-on workshop introduces students to the fundamentals of illustration as a visual communication tool. Participants will experiment with drawing, composition, and storytelling through image-making before developing their own texture swatch using mixed-media materials. The session encourages creative exploration, cross-disciplinary thinking, and helps build folio-ready work to support future study in design.

The workshop focuses on the following areas of skill development:

- Illustration and composition techniques
- Visual storytelling and creative expression
- Mixed-media and texture experimentation
- Developing an individual design aesthetic
- A4 textile development swatch

At the end of this workshop, participants will have created original visual work suitable for inclusion in a creative portfolio and will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Resources will be provided, however please bring the following to participate: 2B pencil, eraser, sharpener, glue stick, scissors, ruler, coloured pencils, black fine line.

[Find out more](#)

Whitehouse Institute of Design Basics of Studio Lighting and Fashion Photography Workshop – Melbourne

Organisation: Whitehouse Institute of Design

Location: Whitehouse Institute of Design, Melbourne Campus

Date: November 22, 2025

This is a hands-on 1-day workshop designed for aspiring photographers eager to learn the fundamentals of camera settings, studio lighting, and fashion photography. Whether you're just starting out or looking to strengthen your technical foundation, this workshop will guide you through the essentials—from mastering manual mode to setting up professional lighting and capturing dynamic fashion portraits. Perfect for beginners looking to expand into the world of studio and fashion photography.

At the end of this workshop, participants will have created an original digital A4 editorial magazine applying images shot in the workshop. Layout, typography, flow and narrative will be exemplified via double page spreads. Students will also receive a Certificate of Completion.

Resources will be provided for you, however it is preferred that you bring the following equipment to participate:

- DSLR Camera / iPhone
- Laptop (to use Adobe Cloud)

[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
- The undergraduate selection criteria
- 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
- What, how and why about Gap Year?
- Alternative degrees and career choices
- Work experience advice
- Q&A

[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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

[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](#)

[JMC Academy Change of Preference Night, Melbourne](#)

Organisation: JMC Academy

Location: JMC Academy, Melbourne Campus

Date: December 11, 2025

Join us for an exclusive evening for Year 12 students to discover what makes JMC Academy one of Australia's leading creative institutions. Hear from current students and alumni about their study experiences, career journeys, and how they turned their passion into a creative career they love.

What's on:

- Enjoy performances from current JMC students while connecting with our community of emerging talent.
- Hear first-hand from graduates and current students about their study experiences, career journeys, and what makes JMC different.
- Find out everything you need to know about courses, campus life, and career outcomes.
- Chat with our Admissions Team about the application process and how to preference JMC through VTAC to secure your offer.

[Find out more](#)

[SAE University College Change of Preference Online Session](#)

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: Online

Date: December 12, 2025

No matter where SAE University College lands on your higher education preference list, our Change of Preferences Online Session will help you figure out exactly where you want to be. Come vibe with us to uncover the real deal about who we are, what sets us apart, and where a degree from SAE could take you!

- Explore the hands-on work placement opportunities available throughout your studies.
- Discover the endless career paths available after graduation.
- Learn more about our scholarship opportunities, student services, upcoming Info Night and more.
- Ask all your questions about our application and enrolment process (no ATAR required!).

[Find out more](#)

Discover the Path to Becoming Cabin Crew: Free Online Info Session

Organisation: Aviation Australia

Location: Online

Date: December 17, 2025

Are you curious about what it takes to work as cabin crew or flight attendant? Our 45-minute online information session (plus 15 minutes Q&A) will give you insider insight into the world of cabin crew, the training process, and how our course at Aviation Australia can set you up for success.

By the end of this session, you will:

- Understand the full structure of the Aviation Australia Cabin Crew Essential Course, and how it differs from other training options
- Learn the skills and certifications you will gain (e.g. first aid, customer service, emergency procedures)
- See real classroom and simulation facilities, and hear from instructors with industry experience
- Explore potential career pathways with major airlines
- Get your questions answered live during our Q&A

Who should attend?

- Aspiring cabin crew candidates aged 18+
- Recent school leavers looking for a unique career path
- Individuals wanting to pivot into aviation or customer service roles
- Anyone who wants a realistic view of what it takes to become cabin crew
- Anyone who wants to learn about our graduate outcomes

Whether you're just exploring or ready to commit, this session is your opportunity to see if cabin crew training is for you.

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

International Songwriting Competition

Organisation: International Songwriting Competition

Location: All

Value: Up to US\$25,000

Close Date: November 24, 2025

[Find out more](#)

Anthology Nature Writing Competition 2026

Organisation: Anthology

Location: All

Value: €300

Close Date: September 30, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Skills for Work

Why high school students should create a LinkedIn profile

You probably already have an Instagram and TikTok account, but have you ever thought about [LinkedIn](#)? LinkedIn is designed specifically for building your professional network and future career opportunities. Even as a high school student, creating a LinkedIn profile now can give you a head start on your career journey and help you find part-time work opportunities. Let's look at how to create a LinkedIn profile that stands out.

Choose the right profile picture

Your LinkedIn profile picture needs to be different from your other social media accounts. While that beach selfie might look great on Instagram, LinkedIn calls for something a bit more professional.

Here's what makes a great LinkedIn profile picture:

- A clear head-shot or shoulders-up photo
- Simple, neat clothing (like what you might wear to a job interview)
- A plain or uncluttered background
- Good lighting and a friendly smile

Pro tip: If you don't have a professional photo, ask a friend or family member to take one for you using your phone. Just stand in front of a plain wall with natural lighting and you're good to go.

Write an engaging summary

The summary section is your chance to tell your story and share what matters to you. Think of it as your elevator pitch – a quick introduction that helps people understand who you are and what you're interested in.

Include things like:

- What you're passionate about
- Your career interests or goals
- Any achievements you're proud of
- The kinds of opportunities you're looking for

Remember to proofread carefully – spelling and grammar matter on LinkedIn.

Showcase your skills

LinkedIn has a special section just for skills, and it's more important than you might think – even as a high school student, you probably have more skills than you realise. Consider including:

- Technical skills (like using specific software or programming languages)
- Language skills
- Leadership experience (from school or community activities)
- Communication skills
- Teamwork abilities

The best part? Your connections can "endorse" your skills, which helps verify your abilities to potential employers.

Keep it updated

Your LinkedIn profile isn't a "set and forget" thing. Make sure you:

- Add new skills as you learn them
- Update your experience when you volunteer or get a new job
- Add any awards or achievements you receive
- Connect with new people you meet through school, work, or activities

Ready to get started?

If you'd like to learn more about why LinkedIn can be valuable for students, [you can check out some more information here](#).

[Or you can also find more advice about preparing for your future career on our website.](#)

First Jobs, University

Earn uni credit for working at Maccas

McDonalds Australia have [just announced that employees can earn credit towards a university degree](#) in Business, Commerce, Management, HR, Technology, and IT, just by turning up to work and completing their training.

If you're a Maccas worker, then all you need to do is earn up to 8 microcredentials, each of which counts for up to one university subject. You can even stack the microcreds together and score direct entry into an MBA program (Masters of Business Administration), potentially saving you up to \$20,000 in fees.

Maccas have partnered with the following universities at this stage (Nov 2025):

- University of Technology Sydney (UTS)
- Torrens University Australia
- Adelaide University
- James Cook University
- Curtin University
- Charles Darwin University
- University of Tasmania
- University of Canberra
- University of New England
- Swinburne University, and
- William Angliss Institute

University

Do I need to defer my university offer?

If you're not ready to start university when your offer arrives, you might be wondering whether you need to officially defer your place or if you can just not turn up. The answer depends entirely on your situation, and getting it wrong could mean losing your spot or creating unnecessary paperwork for yourself.

The good news is that working out whether you need to defer is actually pretty straightforward once you understand when it's required and when it's not. Here's what you need to know.

When you definitely need to defer

You'll need to formally defer your university offer if you want to delay starting your degree but keep your place secured for a future intake. This typically applies in these situations:

- **You've accepted an offer for the upcoming semester but want to start later instead.** If you've received and accepted an offer through a Tertiary Admissions Centre (TAC) or directly from a university and you've decided you don't want to start in that semester, you'll need to request a deferral. Simply not enrolling won't preserve your place – the university will assume you're no longer interested and your offer will lapse.
- **You're a school leaver taking a gap year.** If you're finishing school and want to take a year off before starting university, you'll need to defer your offer. Most universities allow gap year deferrals quite readily, but you do need to formally request it rather than just accepting the offer and disappearing.
- **You need to delay for longer than one semester.** If you're planning to be away for a full year or multiple semesters, deferral is your best option to guarantee your place will be waiting when you're ready to return.
- **You have circumstances that prevent you from starting on time.** Whether it's health issues, family responsibilities, financial constraints, or unexpected life events, if you can't begin your studies as planned but want to keep your place, a formal deferral is necessary.
- **Your course has limited places or is highly competitive.** In competitive programmes where places are precious, you absolutely need to follow the proper deferral process. These courses often have stricter policies and you can't afford to be casual about the process.

When you might not need to defer

In some situations, you don't need to go through the formal deferral process – or deferral might not even be the right option for you.

- **You only want to take one semester off after you've already started your degree.** Many universities don't require you to formally defer if you've already commenced your studies and just want to skip one semester. You can simply not enrol for that semester, then resume in the following one. However, this varies significantly between institutions and courses, so you should check your university's specific rules. Some courses with strict progression requirements might still require you to apply for leave.
- **You haven't actually accepted an offer yet.** If you've received an offer but haven't accepted it, you don't need to defer – you can simply let that offer lapse and apply again in a future intake. This might be simpler than deferring if you're very uncertain about your plans or if the course you want will be easier to get into next time around.
- **You're considering changing your mind completely about your course choice.** Deferral locks you into a specific degree, just like accepting an offer. If you're having serious doubts about whether it's the right course for you, it might be better to let the offer lapse and reapply to something different later, rather than deferring something you're not sure you want.
- **Your university doesn't permit deferrals for your particular course.** Some courses – particularly in postgraduate study, competitive professional degrees, or courses with clinical placements – don't allow deferrals at all. In these cases, you'd need to decline your current offer and reapply in a future intake. This is relatively rare, but still worth checking.
- **You want flexibility to start at a different institution.** Deferring commits you to that specific university and course. If you'd rather keep your options open to apply to different institutions, you might be better off declining the current offer rather than deferring it.

The grey areas worth checking

Some situations aren't as clear-cut, and you'll need to investigate the specific rules at your university:

Taking time off mid-degree. If you've completed a semester or more and need a break, some universities call this "intermission" or "leave of absence" rather than deferral. The process and rules might be different from deferring an initial offer. You'll typically need to maintain your enrolment status in some way, and there might be limits on how long you can be away before you'd need to reapply.

International travel or exchange that conflicts with study. If you're planning overseas travel or an exchange programme, check whether you need to defer or whether your university has other arrangements. Some institutions have specific provisions for students on approved exchanges that don't require full deferral.

Financial or personal circumstances. If you're facing difficulties that might affect your studies, it's worth talking to student support services before making a decision about deferral. There might be alternative arrangements, like part-time study or special consideration, that could work better than a full deferral.

Every university is different

This is crucial to understand: policies around deferrals vary significantly between institutions, and even between different faculties or programmes within the same university. What's true at one university might not apply at another. Some institutions are very accommodating with deferrals, while others have more restrictive policies. Before making any decisions, you need to check the specific deferral policy for your course at your university. This information is usually found on the university website, in your offer letter, or by contacting the admissions office directly. Don't rely on what worked for your friend at a different institution, or what happened to your sibling a few years ago – get the current information for your specific situation.

Travel

Types of overseas experiences for students: Which one is right for you?

If you're thinking about heading overseas during or after school, you've probably realised there are a lot of different options out there. [Exchange programs](#), [gap years](#), volunteering, study abroad – they all sound appealing, but what's actually different about them? And more importantly, which one suits your goals, timeline, and circumstances?

This guide breaks down the main types of overseas student experiences so you can figure out what might work for you. We've organised them by when they typically happen – while you're still at school versus once you've left – and listed them from shortest to longest duration within each section.

Want to find out more about your travel options? [Check out our other articles here](#).

Experiences available while you're still at school

If you're currently in high school, there are several ways to get international experience without waiting until you finish Year 12. These programs are designed to fit around your studies, though some do require taking time out during the school year.

Summer programs and camps (2-8 weeks)

These are intensive programs that run during school holidays, typically over summer break. You might attend an academic program at a university overseas, participate in a sports camp, join a cultural immersion experience, or take part in leadership development programs.

Summer programs work well if you want international experience but can't commit to missing school. They're often run by universities, educational organisations, or specialist providers. Costs vary widely depending on the program and destination, but expect to pay anywhere from a few thousand to over ten thousand dollars when you factor in flights, accommodation, activities, and meals.

Popular destinations include the USA, Canada, Europe, and the UK, though programs exist worldwide. Some focus on specific interests like STEM, arts, or sport, while others offer broader cultural experiences.

International volunteering (1 week to 12 months)

Volunteering overseas can happen during school holidays or, for longer commitments, by taking time out from school. Programs range from week-long projects during your term break to multi-month placements that might require deferring part of your studies.

You could work on environmental conservation, teach English, support community development projects, help with animal welfare, or assist with construction and infrastructure projects. The experience varies enormously depending on where you go and what you're doing.

It's worth noting that many volunteering programs charge significant fees to participants, which can feel counterintuitive when you're donating your time and labour. These fees typically cover accommodation, food, support staff, and program administration. Research organisations carefully and look for those with genuine community partnerships and sustainable approaches rather than "voluntourism" operations.

Common destinations include developing countries in Africa, Asia, South America, and Pacific Islands. Some students volunteer closer to home in places like Papua New Guinea or Timor-Leste.

Language immersion programs (2 weeks to 6 months)

If you're studying a language at school, immersion programs let you live in a country where it's spoken while attending classes and staying with a host family or in student accommodation. Most programs for high school students run during holidays, though some longer options exist.

You'll attend language classes, usually in the morning, then spend afternoons and weekends experiencing the culture, exploring the city, and practising your language skills in real-world situations. The improvement in your language ability can be remarkable when you're using it constantly rather than just in classroom settings.

You can find programs wherever your target language is spoken – France and Spain are popular for European languages, Japan and South Korea for Asian languages, and various Latin American countries for Spanish immersion.

School exchange programs (3 months to 1 academic year)

A school exchange means attending school in another country, living with a host family, and fully immersing yourself in a different education system and culture. Unlike summer programs where you're clearly a visitor, exchanges put you in the daily life of a local student. These programs typically run through your own school's established partnerships with schools overseas, though you can also arrange exchanges independently through organisations. You'll need your school's support either way, as you'll be missing normal classes – though many schools incorporate exchange grades into your academic record. Most exchanges happen in Years 9-12, with Year 10 or 11 being common timing since it avoids final year exams. Some exchanges are reciprocal, meaning a student from the overseas school comes to stay with your family as well, while others are one-way arrangements. Common destinations include the USA, Europe, Japan, Canada, and New Zealand, though options depend on what your school or chosen organisation offers. Costs vary significantly – some programs are heavily subsidised while others require substantial family contribution.

Cultural exchange programs like Rotary (3-12 months)

Organisations like [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) run long-term cultural exchange programs where you live with host families overseas and attend local school. These differ from school-to-school exchanges because they're organised through community organisations rather than educational institutions. Rotary exchanges are well-established and include significant support networks in both your home country and destination. You'll typically live with multiple host families during your exchange, giving you different perspectives on life in that country. The program runs worldwide through Rotary's international network. You don't need to have any connection to Rotary to apply, though having a Rotary club sponsor you can help. These exchanges are generally more affordable than commercial programs because Rotary clubs subsidise costs, though you'll still need to budget for flights, insurance, spending money, and program fees.

Experiences available once you've left school

After finishing Year 12 or while at university, you have access to longer-term options and more flexibility in timing. Many students use these experiences during a gap year before starting university, between undergraduate and postgraduate studies, or during breaks from their degree.

Language immersion programs (2 weeks to 6 months)

These work the same way as the school-age programs but with more flexibility in timing and often more intensive study options. Once you've left school, you can choose when to go and how long to stay based on your own schedule rather than school holidays. Many post-school language programs also include internship or work experience components, cultural activities, and accommodation options beyond homestays. Some universities offer language preparation programs for students planning to study abroad later.

International internships (6 weeks to 6 months)

Internships let you gain work experience in your field of interest while living overseas. These can be paid or unpaid, and typically happen during university studies or immediately after graduating. Some internships are formal programs where you apply through an organisation that places you with a company. Others you arrange independently by applying directly to companies overseas. Industries like business, engineering, science, medicine, hospitality, and creative fields commonly offer international internships. Major cities worldwide host international interns, though opportunities vary by industry. Tech internships might be concentrated in places like Silicon Valley, Singapore, or Berlin, while hospitality internships exist anywhere with significant tourism. Visa requirements can be complicated for internships, so research this early. Some countries allow internships on student visas, others require specific work authorisation, and some have special intern visa categories.

Study abroad (4-6 months or full academic year)

Once you're at university, study abroad programs let you spend a semester or year at a partner institution overseas while remaining enrolled at your home university. Your grades usually count towards your Australian degree, and you keep your domestic student status.

The big advantage of study abroad is that you're making progress on your degree while living overseas, rather than taking time out. Many degrees now build in or encourage study abroad opportunities, and some courses even require international experience. Universities have established partnerships that make this process relatively straightforward. You'll pay fees to your home institution, and they handle the academic side of things. You're responsible for living costs, flights, and insurance, though scholarships often help cover these expenses. Where you can go depends entirely on your university's partnerships. Most Australian universities have connections in Europe, North America, and Asia. The [Fulbright Program](#) offers prestigious scholarships for study and research in the United States, while the [Rhodes Scholarship](#) funds exceptional students to study at Oxford University. It's worth checking out what study abroad opportunities and scholarships your institution offers.

Gap year experiences (3-12 months)

Gap years have become increasingly popular, and they can take many different forms. You might choose structured programs, independent travel, or a combination of both. The common thread is taking time between finishing school and starting university (or between undergraduate and postgraduate study) to do something different.

Structured gap year programs offer organised experiences that might combine volunteering, work experience, skill development, and travel. These programs handle logistics, provide supervision and support, and create a framework for your year. Costs vary widely but expect to pay thousands for programs lasting several months. Organisations like [Global Work and Travel](#) can help you find and organise these experiences. Some programs focus on specific areas like environmental conservation, teaching, community development, or adventure activities. Others offer a mix of experiences across multiple countries. The advantage is having structure and support; the trade-off is less flexibility and usually higher costs than organising things yourself. **Independent gap year travel**, often called backpacking, means planning and funding your own travels. This gives you complete freedom to choose where you go, how long you stay, and what you do. You'll need to be more self-reliant, but you'll also develop considerable independence and problem-solving skills. Popular backpacking routes include Southeast Asia (generally the most budget-friendly), Europe, and South America. Many people combine countries into longer trips, moving between places as their interests and budget allow. You might mix tourism with short-term work, brief volunteering stints, or language learning. Independent travel requires thorough planning around visas, budgets, safety, and logistics. However, you'll find established backpacker trails with good infrastructure, plenty of other travellers, and countless online resources. This option typically costs less than structured programs, though expenses vary enormously depending on your destinations and travel style.

Au pair programs offer a middle ground between structured programs and independent travel. You live with a host family, provide childcare for set hours each week, and receive accommodation, meals, and pocket money in return. This gives you a home base in another country while experiencing daily life as part of a local family.

Most au pair placements last 6-12 months, though some extend to two years. Popular destinations include European countries (France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain), the USA, Australia, and New Zealand. You'll typically work 25-30 hours per week with children, leaving you free time to explore, take classes, or socialise.

The lifestyle suits people who enjoy working with children and want to experience living in a country more deeply than typical travel allows. However, you'll need to be comfortable with the sometimes challenging dynamics of living with a family and being responsible for children. Research families carefully and ensure the program offers proper support structures.

If you're considering a gap year and want something truly unique, the [Australian Defence Force Gap Year](#) offers a different kind of experience. You'll earn money while gaining skills, though you'll stay in Australia rather than travel overseas.

Working holiday visas (up to 1-2 years)

Working holiday visas let you live and work in another country for extended periods, typically up to two years depending on the destination. Australia has reciprocal working holiday agreements with many countries including Canada, the UK, Japan, South Korea, and various European nations.

These visas give you the right to work legally, which means you can fund your travels as you go rather than needing all the money upfront. Many people combine several months of work with periods of travel, moving between

different cities or regions as opportunities arise. Common jobs for working holiday makers include hospitality, fruit picking, retail, tourism, and seasonal work. Some people find work in their field of study or career interest, though this varies by location and qualifications. The work often isn't glamorous, but it funds your travels and provides insight into working life in another country. To be eligible, you typically need to be aged 18-30 (or 18-35 for some countries), though exact requirements vary by destination. You'll need to demonstrate you have sufficient funds to support yourself initially, and you may face restrictions on how long you can work for any single employer. Working holidays work well for university graduates who want to travel before starting their career, or as a break during your degree. They're also considerably more affordable than other long-term options since you're earning as you go.

Choosing what's right for you

With so many options, how do you decide? Start by considering your goals. Are you looking to improve language skills, gain work experience, challenge yourself, explore different cultures, or simply take a break from formal education? Different programs serve different purposes. Your timing matters too. Some experiences work better during school holidays, while others require taking time out or waiting until after you finish Year 12. Think about how much time you can realistically commit and when that time is available. Budget plays a significant role in what's feasible. Structured programs typically cost more but offer support and organisation. Independent options require more planning but can be more affordable. Working options like au pair programs or working holiday visas let you fund yourself as you go. Consider your comfort level with independence and uncertainty. Some people thrive on organising everything themselves, while others prefer having support structures and clear frameworks. Neither approach is better – it depends on your personality and experience. You don't have to choose just one type of experience, either. Many students combine different options over time – perhaps a short volunteering trip during school, followed by a working holiday after graduation, and study abroad during university. Your overseas experiences can evolve as you do. Whatever you choose, make sure you research thoroughly, plan carefully, and ensure you're physically and mentally prepared for the experience. International experiences offer incredible opportunities for growth, learning, and adventure, but they require realistic expectations and proper preparation to make the most of them.

Jobs & Careers

9 jobs that didn't exist 10 years ago (and what they pay)

The job market is changing faster than ever before, and some of the roles that are hiring right now simply didn't exist a decade ago. Technology advances, social changes, and new industries have created career paths that weren't even on the radar when today's university students were in primary school. If you're thinking about your future career, it's worth knowing that you're not limited to traditional paths. Many of the most interesting opportunities are emerging right now, and understanding what these roles involve and what they pay can help you spot possibilities you might not have considered. Here are nine jobs that have emerged in Australia over the past decade, along with what you can expect to earn and where to learn more about each field.

Music Therapist

Music therapy sits inside the health, care and medical emerging space, using music as a therapeutic tool to help people with physical, emotional, cognitive, or social needs. Most therapists earn between \$800 and \$2,000 a week (roughly \$41,600 to \$104,000 a year), with a smaller group earning above that range. Recent job advertisements show full-time roles in the \$90,000 to \$95,000 range, and Jobs and Skills Australia has identified it as an emerging role. If you're interested in both music and helping people, this relatively new profession combines both in meaningful ways. Where to learn more: [Australian Music Therapy Association](#)

NDIS Support Coordinator

This role barely existed before the National Disability Insurance Scheme rolled out across Australia, which is why it appears as an emerging occupation. NDIS Support Coordinators help people with disabilities navigate the scheme, connect with services, and make the most of their funding.

Census data shows that 89% of workers in this role earn at or above the national average of \$805 a week (about \$41,860 a year), with 5% earning \$2,000 or more per week (\$104,000+ a year). Current Australian job advertisements and industry guides put most Support Coordinators in the \$75,000 to \$90,000 range, with specialist coordinators able to charge higher hourly NDIS rates. Where to learn more: [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#)

Climate Change Analyst

As organisations and governments work to understand and respond to climate change, the need for people who can analyse data, model scenarios, and develop strategies has exploded. This is one of the clearest examples of the sustainability and net-zero career stream that's emerged recently. Australian roles advertised for climate or decarbonisation analysts in government and large organisations commonly sit around \$145,000 to \$155,000 plus superannuation. For example, NSW EPA's Principal Climate Change Analyst role starts at \$148,230 plus super. Wider salary datasets put the typical range from about \$102,000 to \$181,000, making this one of the better-paid emerging fields. Where to learn more: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#)

Electric Vehicle Technician

As Australia's electric vehicle fleet grows, there's increasing demand for technicians who understand batteries, electric motors, and high-voltage systems. This role builds on traditional automotive skills but requires completely different technical knowledge. Australian job advertisements for EV technicians and mechanics tend to run from about \$55,000 a year at entry level up to \$90,000 or more for council, utility, or fleet work. Field service roles can pay even higher. Job boards list hourly rates of \$37.75 to \$48.05 for local government workshop positions. Where to learn more: [Electric Vehicle Council](#)

Battery Design Engineer

This is one of the most future-facing roles to emerge recently. As renewable energy storage becomes crucial for Australia's energy transition, engineers who can design and optimise battery systems are in high demand. Census analysis shows that 41% of workers in this field were already earning \$2,000 or more per week (at least \$104,000 a year) back in 2021. Current Australian battery and energy-storage engineering roles sit roughly in the \$105,000 to \$155,000 range, with senior positions paying considerably more. This field combines electrical engineering, chemistry, and sustainability in ways that simply weren't needed a decade ago. Where to learn more: [Future Battery Industries CRC](#)

Quantum Computing Scientist

Quantum computing represents a completely different approach to processing information, and Australia is investing heavily in this emerging technology. The 2021 Census found that 69% of people in quantum computing roles were earning \$2,000 or more per week, meaning most were already over \$104,000 annually. Current Australian figures show salaries ranging from about \$100,000 to the mid-\$160,000s, depending on whether you're working in a university, with organisations like CSIRO or in defence, or in commercial development. This is highly specialised work that requires advanced physics and mathematics knowledge. Where to learn more: [UNSW Centre for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology](#)

Machine Learning Engineer

Machine learning engineering was rare a decade ago but is now firmly established as an emerging field. These engineers build and deploy systems that learn from data, powering everything from recommendation algorithms to medical diagnostics. The Census shows that 67% were already earning \$2,000 or more per week, so over \$104,000 annually. Australian job market data currently has machine learning engineers earning about \$135,000 to \$150,000, with senior roles pushing towards \$180,000 or more. As artificial intelligence continues to develop, this field is only likely to grow. Where to learn more: [CSIRO's Data61](#)

Robotics Engineer

Robotics engineering sits within advanced manufacturing and automation, designing systems that can sense, think, and act in physical environments. Census data from 2021 showed that 35% of robotics engineers were already earning \$2,000 or more per week (\$104,000+ annually).

Current Australian job listings show typical robotics engineer salaries in the \$120,000 to \$130,000 range, with specialist or senior positions reaching about \$170,000. This field combines mechanical, electrical, and software engineering in ways that are becoming increasingly important across industries.

Where to learn more: [Australia's Robotics Strategy](#)

Bioinformatician

As health, medical research, and genomics push further into data analysis, bioinformaticians have emerged to bridge biology and computing. These professionals analyse genetic and biological data to help understand diseases, develop treatments, and advance medical knowledge. Census data shows that 43% of bioinformaticians were already earning \$2,000 or more per week (\$104,000+ annually). Current Australian salary sources put bioinformaticians mostly between \$95,000 and \$120,000, with senior research or clinical bioinformatics roles in WA and VIC health services at around \$105,000 to \$110,000 plus superannuation.

Where to learn more: [Australian Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Society](#)

What this means for your future

If there's one clear message from these emerging roles, it's that the job market is constantly evolving. Many of the careers that will be common in ten years' time don't exist yet, and the skills that matter most might be ones you're still developing. The fields represented here span health, technology, sustainability, and social services – areas where Australia is investing heavily and where problems need solving. If any of these roles spark your interest, it's worth exploring the organisations linked above to understand what pathways exist and what qualifications you might need. Want to explore more career possibilities? Find more job spotlights [here](#).