Career decisions are some of the most important ones of your life, so getting help in making those decisions is vital. CareerNews is one source of information available to you. CareerNews will be published fortnightly throughout the year, providing information about how to choose a career, about information sessions being held on various courses and careers, Open Days at institutions where you might want to study, career expos, insights into a number of careers, and where you can get help. Students who do their research during Year 10-12 usually find it easier to make some career decisions at the end of Year 12.

1. HOW CAN I CHOOSE A CAREER? Many people say that basically they would like a career they enjoy, with the possibility of earning a reasonable income. So how do you choose that career? Firstly, keep in mind that there isn’t just one perfect job for you. There are several jobs that would suit you well, so you need to explore the possibilities.

First, think about what you enjoy doing. For example, is it sport-related, scientific, reading/writing-related, helping people, information technology-related?

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? What subjects do you excel in at school?

How important is income?

Answering questions such as these will set you on a path to making some decisions. If you like science, what type of science do you prefer – physics, chemistry, biology? If you are creative, what is your speciality – music, drama, art, design? If it is geography, perhaps you could be interested in urban planning, mapping or surveying. If it is health, perhaps it is nursing, nutrition or public health. If it is physics and maths, perhaps engineering.

Don’t look too far ahead – you are not deciding on a life-time career. You are likely to have several careers.

2. WHERE CAN I STUDY IN VICTORIA?

After completing Year 12, there are many options. If you are considering university, hoping to get a degree, these are the universities available in Victoria:

- Australian Catholic University (ACU) with campuses in Melbourne (Fitzroy) and Ballarat
- Deakin University with campuses in Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool
- Federation University with campuses in Ballarat and Gippsland
- La Trobe University with campuses in Melbourne (Bundoora), Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Mildura and Shepparton
- Monash University with campuses in Melbourne (Clayton, Caulfield, Berwick, Parkville)
- RMIT University with campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick, Bundoora)
- Swinburne University has a campus in Melbourne (Hawthorn)
- University of Melbourne in Melbourne (Parkville, Burnley, Southbank, Werribee), Creswick, Dookie and Shepparton
- Victoria University is in Melbourne (City, Footscray, St Albans, Melton, Sunshine)

You can check out their facilities and courses by attending their Open Days, usually held on Sundays in August.

If you plan a VET course (pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, certificate, diploma and a limited number of degrees), institutes offering courses in the Melbourne area are:

- Box Hill Institute
- Chisholm (Dandenong, Frankston, etc)
- Holmesglen (Moorabbin, Chadstone)
- Kangan (Broadmeadows, Richmond, etc)
- Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Collingwood, Epping, Preston, Prahran, etc)
- RMIT (City, Brunswick)
- Swinburne (Hawthorn, Croydon, Wantirna)
- Victoria (Footscray, City)
- William Angliss (City) and several others.

There are also independent institutions offering degrees, diplomas and certificates. Examples are:

- Academy of Design (Port Melbourne)
- Australian Institute of Fitness (Bendigo, City, etc)
- Footscray City Films
- JMC (South Melbourne)

Independent colleges are full-fee paying institutions, whereas the government generally offers financial assistance to study at universities and VET providers like Box Hill Institute.

NOTE: The government will only fund courses of study that are at a higher level than what they have funded already. For example, if you have a bachelor’s degree, the government will not fund you to complete a VET diploma as it is at a lower level than the degree.
3. WHAT IS THE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST (UMAT)? Results from this test are used as part of the selection process for some Australian and New Zealand university degrees. In Victoria the only university degree now requiring this test for Year 12 selection is Medicine at Monash (Clayton). However, some interstate and NZ universities also use it. Registrations for UMAT2015 are now open, and close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 5 June. The test will take place on Wednesday 29 July 2015. The UMAT Information Booklet is available from the UMAT website: www.umat.acer.edu.au.

NOTES:
- Practice materials are available through the UMAT website and can only be completed online. There are currently four practice tests available: UMAT Practice Test 1, UMAT Practice Test 2, UMAT Practice Test 3 and Additional Practice Questions. UMAT Practice Test 1 will be included with the UMAT2015 registration. In addition, candidates will have access to some free preparation videos once registration to sit UMAT2015 is completed.
- Candidates with a disability or other health-related needs and who wish to apply for special testing conditions must do so by Friday 19 June. This includes candidates who have diabetes and require food during the test.
- Some tutorials and a quiz are now available on the UMAT website. Candidates should watch these tutorials and complete the quiz questions before registering for the test.

4. WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS TEST (ISAT)? This a test used by Australian universities to assist their selection of international students for certain undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Courses include Monash University Medicine. It is delivered by Prometric; there are over 5000 Authorised Testing Centres around the world. You may select a test date and location convenient to you. Register at http://isat.acer.edu.au.

5. WHAT KIND OF ENGINEER ARE YOU? Are you interested in engineering but not sure which type is the best fit for you? You can find out with the new RMIT online quiz at http://trueengineer.com.au.


7. AVALON AIRSHOW – Students interested in a career in the aviation industry might wish to attend the Avalon Airshow. Among other things, you will be able to find out about RMIT’s flight training program, aerospace and mechanical engineering programs. When: 24 Feb – 1 Mar, 2015; Where: Avalon Airport; Info: www.airshow.com.au/airshow2015/.

8. VETERINARY NURSING ASSOCIATE DEGREE – Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT) (Epping) is offering a 2-year associate degree, the first para-professional veterinary nursing qualification in Australia. It is designed to produce highly skilled clinicians with exceptional levels of practical skill, knowledge and in depth understanding gained through an exploration of the academic underpinnings of the field. Graduate employment will include veterinary practices as veterinary nurses and practice managers and large organisations (veterinary pharmaceutical, veterinary nutrition companies and research facilities). Prerequisites: Successful completion of VCE or recognised equivalent with a study score of at least 20 in any English and a study score of at least 20 in one of any Mathematics, Chemistry or Biology; OR successful completion of a Diploma course in Veterinary Nursing or a related area; OR at least two years of related industry experience.

9. ANU TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIPS – The vision behind these Australian National University Scholarship is to help you make an impact on your community and the world by offering unique educational opportunities and personal experiences. The Scholarship allows you to study any discipline offered at ANU for up to five years. Information night: When: 6-7.30pm, Wed 18 Feb; Where: ANU House, 52 Collins St, Melbourne; Enquiries: student.recruitment@anu.edu.au. Register to attend: http://www.anu.edu.au/study/events/anu-tuckwell-scholarship-roadshow-melbourne

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