Each year in August and September, vocational and tertiary institutions open their doors to the public to showcase the amazing features they have to offer, including courses, scholarships, student services, facilities, and accommodation etc.

Open days are exciting with lots of activities going on including live bands, BBQs, competitions, information sessions, art displays and drama performances.

If you are considering studying a vocational (e.g., TAFE) or higher education (e.g., university) course after school, it is essential that you attend open days, as you will be able to:

- Get a feel for the culture of the campus
- Learn about courses and career options
- Undertake campus and accommodation tours led by current students
- Speak directly to students and lecturers about the courses or careers you are interested in
- Compare the course areas you are interested in at different institutions
- Learn about student sports and societies you can join and be active in
- Get course counselling and guidance
- Attend information sessions and workshops
- Watch live demonstrations
- Listen to bands, eat lots of food, participate in activities and have fun!

Further, attending open days will prepare you for courses you may apply for that require you to undertake an interview as part of the selection process.

By now you should have identified institutions you would like to visit, found out their open day dates and downloaded their open day programs.

Once you have the programs, make a list of the information sessions you would like to attend.

If you have time, try and attend information sessions on topics like pathways, VTAC, scholarships, accommodation and overseas exchange programs.

If you are unsure what to ask on the day, Victoria University has developed some questions you can ask:

- Are there any prerequisite subjects I need to study for this course?
- What study scores/ATAR do I need to achieve to get into this course?
- Do I need to attend an audition, have an interview or present a folio as part of the selection process?
- Are there any other ways into this course other than through a VTAC application?
- Can I do a vocational course first which might then lead into a university course?
- What is the difference between TAFE and university study?
- If I can’t get into this course, is there a similar course at this institution I can apply for?
- What are the core subjects for this course and are there any electives?
- How many hours per week are spent in class and can I study part time?
- Can I defer the course?
- What kind of jobs do graduates of this course generally get?
- Are there any scholarships available?
FOCUS ON OPEN DAYS

Please find below dates for upcoming open days.

July

• 31: Australian College of Sports Therapy, Melbourne, http://bit.ly/1UgYWkV

Below: two of the events running at the Swinburne University Open Day.

COMPETITIONS

Do you love photography? If you are in Years 7 – 12, you have the opportunity to enter The Pixel Prize photography competition, run by the Australian Catholic University. The 2016 theme is ‘My Generation’. Entries close on Monday 1 August 2016. For information on the entry requirements and the theme, go to www.thepixelprize.com.au/

Meet world famous scientist Professor Brian Cox: What's inside a black hole? When will humans get to Mars? Do you have a burning question you’d love to ask Brian Cox about space? Film yourself asking your question and enter a competition run by Australia’s Science Channel and Lateral Events to have Brian Cox answer it in person during his 2016 Australian tour. For information and to apply by Monday 18 July, go to http://bit.ly/29ttHHf

Interested in hotel management and tourism? The Hotel School Melbourne in partnership with InterContinental Melbourne The Rialto is offering 50 Year 12 students the opportunity to go behind the scenes of this 5 star luxury hotel for a day on Wednesday 30 July. By attending the InterContinental Insights Day, you will also be eligible to apply for a $40 000 scholarship to study at The Hotel School Melbourne in 2017. Applications will be accepted in the order received. For information and to apply, go to http://bit.ly/1sGEFy6

UNSW Bragg Student Prize for Science Writing: For students in Years 7 – 10. To enter the competition, choose a great Australian scientific invention or discovery (e.g., Google Maps, penicillin, wi-fi) and write about the discovery, discuss its importance and what it means for the world today and in the future. Entries close on 26 August. For information and to apply, go to http://bit.ly/1efcIWA

Science news: Be inspired by the latest stories featured on RIAUS – Australia’s Science Channel. Some of the topics covered this week include:

- How ciggie butts could be poisoning your seafood
- Happy 20th birthday, Dolly the sheep – the first cloned mammal
- Scientists have discovered a new shade of blue
- Interview with Dr Alan Duffy – Juno Mission to Jupiter

Interested in studying business in the future? Australian Catholic University (ACU) believes passion and commitment to learning are important. Their Passion for Business program enables current Year 12 students studying a business related subject at school to gain an early offer into an ACU Business Degree. You will need to obtain an ATAR of at least 55 and pass Units 3 + 4 English (any). You will have access to mentoring and leadership programs. For more information, go to http://bit.ly/1Ghg8hX

Have you considered a career in natural health? Endeavour College of Natural Health offer courses in the following areas: Acupuncture, Myotherapy, Naturopathy, Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine, and Complimentary Medicine. They have produced a fantastic resource for young people called Health + Wellness Careers Viewbook. It features interviews with Endeavour College students who are leaders in the natural health industry. To view the online book, go to http://bit.ly/29AMRwg

There are also 5 scholarships available for Year 12 students planning to study at Endeavour in 2017. Applications open on 25 July. http://bit.ly/29KEGvx

Are you a girl who loves gaming, animation, programming and computer science? Ally Watson and Marcellina Mardian, who both have a passion for encouraging females to engage with IT, run the ‘Code Like a Girl’ initiative. They run events for girls in the Melbourne area. The next event - Level Up! Girls in Games will be held on Thursday 21 July at Zendesk. For more information on Code Like Girl, go to http://bit.ly/11AoO7H

Why is completing a vocational or higher education qualification after school so important? According to the My Career Match website:

- Of the 13 million jobs in Australia in 2020, 11 million (85%) will require a Certificate III or higher. Four million (30%) will require a Bachelor degree or higher.
- Many of the careers and jobs that are around today will disappear by the time students get their first job and many new careers will be created.

To read more about the future automation, globalisation and collaboration of the future workforce, read the following report by the Australian Foundation for Young Australians - http://bit.ly/29ARTcf

Learn about science and engineering at Victoria University: A group of passionate scientists and engineers working at Victoria University have developed an initiative called Skunk Control. They provide community based outreach programs. To learn about the initiative and to join the mailing list, go to http://www.skunkcontrol.org/

Are you interested in pursuing a career in the Defence Force? The following information sessions are running in July at the Defence Force Recruiting Centre, Melbourne:

- 19: Defence Careers Information Session
- 28: Trade Careers Information Session

To book your place, email your name, date and title of the session you wish to attend and the number of seats you would like to reserve to CPTVIC@dfr.com.au

Do you have a passion for design? Whitehouse College of Design is a private College in Melbourne. The institute offers courses in Fashion Design, Interior Design and Creative Direction and Styling. For a list of upcoming portfolio workshops, secondary school workshops and summer holiday programs go to http://bit.ly/1WmcXQf

JULY

- 19: Defence Careers Information Session, Defence Force Recruiting, Melbourne, book your seat by emailing CPTVIC@dfr.com.au
- 20, 27: Health Sciences Information Sessions, Deakin University, Geelong (20), Melbourne (27), more information to come.
- 28: Trade Careers Information Session, Defence Force Recruiting, Melbourne, book your seat by emailing CPTVIC@dfr.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS