

**VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY**

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# WHAT'S NEXT AFTER SCHOOL?

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**A guide to  
studying at VU**

*JASON  
Bachelor of  
Biomedicine*

**THE  

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NEW WAY  

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TO DO UNI**



# WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU FINISH SCHOOL?

You're at a stage in life where you might be starting to think about your future. It can be overwhelming, but also exciting. We've created this guide to help you work out what you want to do and how to get there.

Predictions about the future tell us that 90% of new jobs will require either a TAFE or university qualification\*. Research also tells us that people with those qualifications earn more over a lifetime than those without them. So maybe you shouldn't be asking, "Will I do further study after school?" but instead, "What will I study after I finish school?"

## TAFE OR UNIVERSITY?

### WHAT IS TAFE?

TAFE, also known as vocational training, offers a hands-on, practical approach to study. At VU, our TAFE division is called Victoria University Polytechnic. At TAFE you learn by doing, so once you demonstrate you can do a task, you've gained that skill. Classes are similar to school with mostly the same group of students, and around 20-30 hours per week.

At VU Polytechnic, you learn the theory of the subject via interactive and flexible e-learning and then practise your skills in a workplace or a simulated work environment. This is called Blended Learning, and it gives you the real-world skills to start your career. The TAFE qualifications you can get are:

- **Certificates I-IV** – technical or job-specific skills (take six to 12 months).
- **Diplomas and advanced diplomas** – more specialised knowledge for support roles in professional fields or higher skilled areas. These courses can take one to two years full-time to complete. They can also prepare you for degree study at university – we call this a pathway.
- **Apprenticeships and traineeships** – combine classroom and practical training and paid employment, and take three to four years.
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### WHAT IS UNIVERSITY?

University, also known as higher education, has a more independent learning style than TAFE. At uni you are the one directing your study and you will typically need to do more study outside of the classroom. While VU still offers a lot of practical learning at university, there is a balance of theoretical learning.

University courses are called bachelor or undergraduate degrees and take three or four years. You can even do two degrees at once. Called double degrees, they take up to five years to complete. Degrees prepare you to go into professional areas of employment or further study.

At VU you'll study under our revolutionary VU Block Model, where you'll focus on one subject at a time over four weeks before you move onto the next subject. You'll learn in small, collaborative classes and get lots of time with your teacher. See page 13 for more about the Block Model.



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I CAN MANAGE MY WORKLOAD AND PLAN OUT MY WEEK MORE EASILY WITH VU'S BLOCK MODEL.

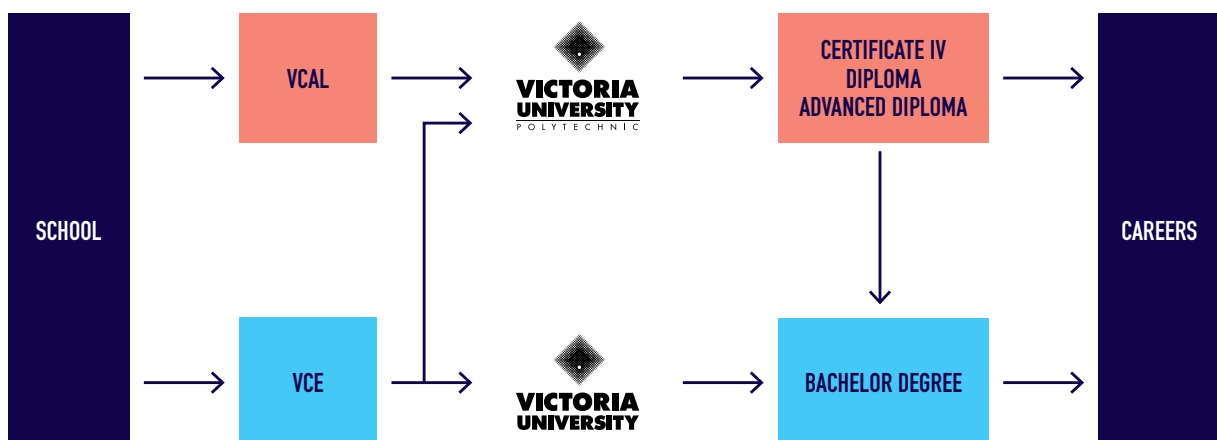
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“I'm not juggling multiple subjects and there's more free time. I have felt supported – if we need extra help it's always there.”

DANIEL  
Bachelor of Business

## WHAT ARE PATHWAYS?

Pathways allow you to move between TAFE and university courses to reach your work or study goal, regardless of your starting point. You can begin your pathway at the level suited to your education and experience, and move into your destination course and career.



## VCAL OR VCE?

You might be wondering whether to study VCE or VCAL. Both of these options lead to a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education completion, but there are some differences.

In general VCE graduates are more academically prepared to study a university degree directly after completing school.

A VCAL program will typically give students another set of skills – many of them practical – and often students who choose VCAL have planned to study at TAFE. But not all VCAL students stay with this plan and it's very common for a student to change their plans over time.

Luckily the program you choose in Year 10 for your senior years does not dictate what you can study later on. By using a pathway course from TAFE to university, all students can make their way towards their dream course, regardless of where their study starts.

## GETTING INTO TAFE AND UNI

Whether you want to go to TAFE or uni, you'll need to meet certain requirements to get into your course. For TAFE these are broad and generally focus on your literacy and numeracy skills.

Entry into a uni course will depend on what subjects you studied in VCE and sometimes, your grades. The study of a subject that is required for entry into a course is called a prerequisite.

All uni degree courses have English or EAL (English as an Additional Language) as a prerequisite. Since this is a requirement to achieve your VCE, you will have that in your studies.

Many uni courses have additional prerequisites. Knowing the prerequisites you may need in advance will help you during subject selection time, so be sure to do your research.





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## GROWING UP I ALWAYS KNEW I WANTED TO WORK IN SPORT.

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“During my diploma I did my placement with the Western Jets Football Club as a trainer, which gave me direction to pursue the business side of sport.

After completing my diploma I enrolled in the sport management degree. During my time studying the bachelor degree I looked for as many volunteer opportunities as I could – at Collingwood Football Club and Softball Australia – before gaining paid roles at the Australian Grand Prix and into my current paid position at Melbourne Victory.”

### LAURA

Diploma of Sport Development  
Bachelor of Sport Management/  
Bachelor of Business



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**EVEN AT SCHOOL,  
I KNEW I WANTED TO  
WORK WITH PEOPLE, I  
JUST DIDN'T KNOW  
WHICH COURSE WOULD  
GET ME THERE.**

”

“I chose VU to study Youth Work for its multiculturalism and because I was an inner-west local, but I soon discovered it's amazing!

The compulsory professional placements at VU helped me build up skills in my field. I also learned so much from the teachers who had a lot of industry experience.

I got to attend a UN leadership symposium in Thailand, which opened a lot of new opportunities and connections for me.”

**ZENAB**

Certificate IV in Youth Work  
Bachelor of Youth Work



# WHERE DO I START?

Let's make a list about you – all the things you're good at, what you like and don't like. This can help you focus and narrow down your interests and strengths.

Write down three positive words that describe you, e.g. happy, kind, fun.

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Write down your three best skills, e.g. helping people, solving problems, creativity.

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List your top three interests, e.g. sport, technology, music.

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List your top three values, e.g. honest, hardworking, caring.

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What are your best or favourite subjects and why do you like them?

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What are your least favourite subjects and why?

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List the career/s you're interested in and why.

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List the skills you think you'll need for the career field you're interested in.

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List the type of education or training you think you'll need for the career you're interested in.

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If you don't think you'll get into the career you want, write down why and what you can do to change that.

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# SO MANY CHOICES

## LET'S START WITH THE TYPES OF CAREERS OUT THERE

A good way to approach this is to ask yourself, 'can I see myself doing this every day and enjoying it?' Then use the tables to find a job or a field that appeals to you.

### FIND OUT MORE

Visit the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority website for the full list of VCE and VCAL subjects.

[vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://vcaa.vic.edu.au)

## ARE YOU GOOD WITH NUMBERS?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Accountant Business analyst IT technician Teacher Engineer	Business Information Technology Education Engineering Science	Accounting, Mathematics, Digital Technologies, Science, Physics, Computing.

## ARE YOU A CREATIVE THINKER OR DOER?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Make-up artist Artist Designer Writer Editor Web designer Musician Filmmaker Art director	Beauty Design Writing, communications, visual art, digital media, literary studies, sociology, history Music Screen Media Marketing	Visual Communication Design, Studio Arts, Music, Media, Literature, Theatre Studies, Performing Arts, Art, Sociology, Philosophy, Politics, History.

## DO YOU LIKE WORKING WITH YOUR HANDS?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Builder Electrician Plumber Carpenter Hairdresser Chef Surgeon Osteopath	Engineering Science Hair, Make-up & Beauty Hospitality Trades Biomedicine	Automotive, Building and Construction, Electrical Industry, Engineering, Mathematics, Woodwork, Food Tech, Biology, Physics.

## ARE YOU GOOD WITH COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Developer Programmer Software engineer Information security analyst	Computer Science Engineering Information Technology Cyber Security Screen Media	Computing, Digital Technologies, Mathematics.



## DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH KIDS?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Childcare supervisor Kindergarten Teacher Primary school teacher Secondary school teacher Teacher's assistant	Education Youth Work Social Work Psychology Early Childhood Education	Mathematics, Health and Human Development, Psychology, Physical Education, Environmental Studies.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING PEOPLE?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Lawyer Social worker Youth worker Psychologist Nurse Paramedic Teacher Aged care worker	Law Health Community services Education Nursing Paramedicine Psychology	Psychology, Politics, Legal Studies, Health and Human Development, Mathematics, Sociology.

## DO YOU ENJOY DESIGNING OR BUILDING?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Engineer Industrial designer Architect Software engineer Property developer Builder	Engineering Computer Science Information Technology Building and Construction Management Building Surveying	IT, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Design, Business Management, Industry and Enterprise.

## DO YOU LOVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Fitness instructor PE teacher Remedial massage therapist Sports coach Sport scientist Outdoor educator	Health Exercise and Sport Science Sport Management Education Outdoor Leadership	Physical Education, Health and Human Development, Outdoor and Environmental Studies, Mathematics.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HEALTH?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Osteopath Nurse Speech therapist Paramedic Dietician Wellness consultant Fitness instructor	Health Paramedicine Nursing Midwifery Nutrition Biomedicine Speech and Language Sciences	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Health and Human Development, Physical Education.

## DO YOU LOVE TRAVELING AND MEETING PEOPLE?

DREAM FIELD/JOB	FUTURE AREA OF STUDY	SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER
Tour guide or travel agent Events coordinator/manager Sponsorships coordinator Hotel or resort manager	Tourism and Hospitality Management Event Management Cookery	Geography, History, Sociology, Psychology, Business Management, Industry and Enterprise, Food Tech.

# WHAT'S NEXT?



**NOW THAT YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF THE TYPES OF THINGS YOU'RE GOOD AT AND WHAT YOU LIKE, HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT.**

## 01. GET ADVICE

- Take your list to your parents and teachers and ask for their feedback.
- Talk to friends and get their thoughts on what your strengths are.
- Speak to your school's career practitioner about your list and see what they suggest.

## 02. ATTEND CAREER EXPOS, COURSE INFORMATION SESSIONS AND VU OPEN DAY

Get the inside info on what it's like to study at uni and career options at events and expos. You'll get to chat with teachers, people from industry and current students to find out what to expect. Visit our events site to find out what's on:  
[vu.edu.au/events](http://vu.edu.au/events)

## 03. VOLUNTEER

Find a place you'd like to work and offer to volunteer there for a few days. It will give you a feel for how things operate in that profession and whether you want to make a career out of it. Consider emailing businesses you'd love to work for to get an insider's perspective. Ask your teacher, parents or school career practitioner to help you.

## 04. RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH

There's loads of websites out there to help you make the right choices. Here are some to get you started:

- [vtac.edu.au](http://vtac.edu.au)
- [myfuture.edu.au](http://myfuture.edu.au)
- [youthcentral.vic.gov.au](http://youthcentral.vic.gov.au)
- [youtube.com/myfutureAustralia](https://youtube.com/myfutureAustralia)
- [studyassist.gov.au](http://studyassist.gov.au)
- [vu.edu.au/courses](http://vu.edu.au/courses)
- [vu.edu.au/year-10](http://vu.edu.au/year-10)







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**BLOCK MODEL GIVES YOU MORE TIME TO FOCUS ON EACH SUBJECT SO YOU CAN REALLY GET IT RIGHT.**

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“I’ve always loved figuring out how things work so engineering was the perfect fit for me.

I find the hands-on, problem-based style of learning and smaller classes at VU really beneficial.

With the Block Model being three classes per week I’ve got lots of free time to do other things outside of uni.”

**NUNU**  
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)  
Civil Engineering



# WHY CHOOSE VU?

VU is the New Way To Do Uni. We believe there's more than one way to get a world-class education, and we're committed to helping you reach the career that's right for you.

At VU you'll have access to state-of-the-art facilities and learn from teachers who are experts in their field.

## FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

VU is one of only six universities in Australia to offer TAFE and higher education in one institution.

We've designed our courses so you can easily move between courses at Victoria University Polytechnic and at VU to make sure you get the right qualifications for your dream career.

Find out more, visit [vu.edu.au/pathways](http://vu.edu.au/pathways)

## STUDY UNDER OUR REVOLUTIONARY BLOCK MODEL

We've changed the way we teach to better set you up for success. Our Block Model of teaching allows you to complete one subject at a time, with more one-on-one time with teachers and greater overall support.

You'll achieve the early wins and confidence you need as you start university, to set you up for success in your studies and beyond.

Find out more, visit [vu.edu.au/block-model](http://vu.edu.au/block-model)

## GRADUATE WORK READY

These days, employers are searching for graduates with industry experience. At VU we're well connected with lots of high profile industry leaders who not only help us design our courses, but offer students work experience too. We regularly hold career fairs on campus to help you network with potential future employers.

The way we incorporate this real experience into our courses is called work-integrated learning. It gives you the confidence and experience to prepare you for the workforce before you even graduate.

Find out more, visit [vu.edu.au/work-ready](http://vu.edu.au/work-ready)

### ONLY GOT A MINUTE?

Check out our  
Block Model  
explained in  
60 seconds video



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**I COMPLETED AN INDUSTRY PLACEMENT, WORKING ALONGSIDE ONE OF VU'S ECOLOGY RESEARCHERS, AND CONTRIBUTED TO HELPING CRITICALLY-ENDANGERED GRASSLAND SHRUB. IT WAS SUCH A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE.**

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“I graduated from secondary school knowing that I loved learning, and writing about what I'd learned. After first pursuing degrees in screenwriting and architecture, I realised that I missed being in touch with nature. VU's Bachelor of Science was perfect because it allowed me to study the environment while also exploring other disciplines, including ecology.”

**BRADY**  
Bachelor of Science



# WANT TO

# KNOW MORE?

## CONTACT US

[vu.edu.au/keep-in-touch](https://vu.edu.au/keep-in-touch)

03 9919 6100 or  
1300 VIC UNI

## COURSE FINDER

[vu.edu.au/courses](https://vu.edu.au/courses)

## VISIT

[vu.edu.au/year-10](https://vu.edu.au/year-10)

## FOLLOW US

#VICUNI



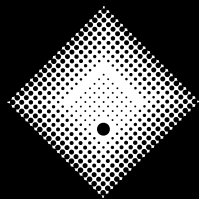
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