

Choosing Programs (Courses)

This quick tip explains the steps you should take in choosing a program.

When choosing a program you should consider the following:

- Your interests: what do you enjoy doing inside and outside of school/work?
- Your skills: what are you good at? (Academics, sports, music, creativity).
- Your goals: what do you hope to achieve in life?
- Your values/ethics? What is important to you and what do you want from your work?

Ask yourself

- What kind of person am I? Do I like to work with my hands, work outdoors, work alone or work with people?
- Do I learn best by doing, or am I more comfortable in an academic environment?
- What sort of assessment do I prefer e.g. essays, experiments, exams, projects?
- Would I be happier with on-the-job learning e.g. an apprenticeship/traineeship?
- If you need help with your exploration, make a time to see a careers counsellor or visit www.myfuture.edu.au It may also help to talk to people who know you well, for example family members, teachers or friends.

Finding information to help you make a decision

Once you have considered what direction you want to take, look at programs that are available in that area. Work through the following steps and you will be better placed to make an informed decision.

Step one: What career or jobs are you interested in?

- Explore your career direction using www.myfuture.edu.au
- Read the careers guide for information on building your career at: www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/careers-guide
- Visit a careers counsellor or careers teacher.
- Use the internet to research relevant professional associations or employer groups.
- Speak to someone working in an area that interests you or spend some time watching someone doing that kind of work (this is called 'work shadowing').
- Obtain related work experience.

Step two: Choosing the course

Explore different courses available using the following tools:

- VTAC website - using the Course Search facility. www.vtac.edu.au
- Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching - www.qilt.edu.au/
- Visit RMIT Connect or the Future Students www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us www.rmit.edu.au/students/contact-and-help/connect
- Attend Open Days, talk to the program selection officers and obtain program brochures.
- Talk to people who have completed or are currently doing the program.

Think about the following:

- Check that you have the appropriate prerequisite subjects and selection requirements for your year of entry using the Course Search function on the VTAC website. www.vtac.edu.au

- Consider the structure, content and flexibility of the course using the information in the program details on the University website.
- Compare programs and campuses. Does the environment and location suit you?

Questions to ask course selectors

- What do they look for when they select students, e.g. good marks, related experience or a folio of relevant work?
- What are the different pathways into the program e.g. TAFE Diplomas, work experience, single semester subjects, Open Learning?
- Where are previous graduates from the program working now?

Step three: Ask yourself these questions

- Am I choosing this career because of expected employment outcomes or because I think I will enjoy the work?
- Who am I trying to please in making this choice?
- Am I focusing too narrowly on one or two subjects I am good at and ignoring the big picture—what I will actually be doing when I finish?
- Am I studying maths/science subjects at VCE only to maximise my score, or because I really enjoy them?
- Am I choosing a program because it has a high ATAR score or because it really interests me?
- Am I ready for tertiary study or would I benefit from time off to work or travel first?

Step four: Consider the costs

- Compare courses/programs in TAFE with the cost of Higher Education courses.
- Remember there are different types of tertiary places e.g. Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) or fee paying places.
- For comprehensive information about costs go to www.studyassist.gov.au
- Investigate scholarships offered by Universities. Are you eligible? What is the application process and closing dates?

Key dates and information

- Full-time degree and TAFE programs (for entry into the first year) require an application to be made through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). These programs are listed in the VTAC Guide and on the VTAC website. Applications through VTAC close towards the end of September. Check www.vtac.edu.au for exact dates.
- Make sure you check the VTAC website for any new courses/programs not listed in the guide.
- Read the VTAC course entry carefully for any extra requirements and closing dates for these. For example, additional application forms, interviews, folios.
- Direct applications are necessary for programs not listed in the VTAC Guide/website including postgraduate courses. Visit RMIT Info Corner or go to www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us


If you are an international student, you need to contact RMIT International for information about how to apply, transfer or withdraw from programs.

Go to www.rmit.edu.au/international

Further information

Visit rmit.edu.au/students and search Jobs and Career advice for career tips, videos and other careers information.

For information about applying for programs at RMIT, visit rmit.edu.au/infocorner



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