



BEENLEIGH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

***LIFE AFTER YEAR 12
Further Study***



When selecting a further study or training pathway, you need to consider:

- 1 your occupational/employment goals;
- 2 the level and length of study that suits you;
- 3 financial considerations; and
- 4 employment opportunities.

This booklet provides some information about these factors, as well as links to numerous resources that you may find helpful.

Wherever you're at with your decisions, please remember that there are family members, teachers and education staff who can help.

1 Your occupational/employment goals

Use these websites to find study/training pathways for the occupations you are considering:

<https://myfuture.edu.au/>

myFuture is Australia's career information service. This website offers information about occupations, courses and training pathways.

<https://joboutlook.gov.au/>

You can access the Job Outlook site to learn about the future outlook, pay, main tasks, and physical and other demands of careers that interest you. It also provides information about the skills, knowledge and abilities you may need to get and keep a job.

<https://tafeqld.edu.au/>

This site is a portal to all TAFE institutes in Queensland. It offers information on all accredited courses offered by each institute.

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/>

This Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) website provides information on tertiary courses offered in Queensland.

If you are unsure about your occupational interests, you might consider:

- studying a generalist course (e.g. arts, science, business) and specialising later;
- doing a combined/dual course that will give you several job options; or
- deferring formal studies until a future time.

2 The level and length of study that suits you

In Australia we have a national system of qualifications called the Australian Qualifications Framework. Table 1 provides a list of the qualifications that are accredited nationally.

Table 1: The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)		
Schools Sector	Vocational Education and Training Sector	Higher Education Sector
		Doctoral Degree
		Masters Degree
	Vocational Graduate Diploma	Graduate Diploma
	Vocational Graduate Certificate	Graduate Certificate
		Bachelor Degree
	Advanced Diploma	Associate Degree / Advanced Diploma
	Diploma	Diploma
<i>Senior Secondary Certificates of Education</i>	Certificate IV	
	Certificate III	
	Certificate II	
	Certificate I	

The different levels of qualifications on the AQF are a bit like a ladder. You can use one level to help you gain entry to a higher level of study in the future, depending on your results and the rules of the institution to which you wish to gain entry. This progression is called articulation.

Table 2 provides information about the length, content (theoretical or practical) and competitiveness for qualifications that are available to Year 12 graduates.

Table 2: Features of different qualifications			
Level	Length	Content	How competitive is entry?
Bachelor Degree	Usually 3-5 years full time	Theoretical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entry is usually competitive - Usually need to meet prerequisites
Associate Degree / Advanced Diploma	Usually 2 years full time	Combination of theory and practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May need to meet prerequisites - May need to complete a diploma first
Diploma	Can be 1-2 years duration full time (depending on the institution and the course)	Tends to be practical with some theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entry to many diplomas is not competitive although there are some that are very competitive - May need to meet prerequisites
Certificate I, II, III, IV	1 month - 1 year full time	Usually very practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Usually not competitive

To decide on the best level of qualification for you, it is useful to consider:

- the study/training requirements of your occupational goal;
- your previous study results;
- whether you are a hands-on or theory person;
- the cost of the course; and
- the length of time you are prepared to study.

3 Financial considerations

The costs associated with further studies can include:

- accommodation if living away from home;
 - living expenses (food, clothes, personal requirements, etc.);
 - phone/internet;
 - study expenses (laptop, text books, photocopying, stationery, etc.);
 - travel expenses (public transport, car, parking); and
 - course fee considerations (full-fee, partially government funded, Commonwealth Government loan schemes – e.g. HECS-HELP).
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4 Employment opportunities

Attempting to accurately predict future labour demands is a complex task. One way of identifying future opportunities is to examine labour market trends. The 'Job Outlook' website provides labour market trend information.

Visit <https://joboutlook.gov.au/>

Information about Universities and Colleges

In Australia, tertiary level education is provided by:

- Government-funded universities;
 - private universities and colleges; and
 - TAFE institutes.
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What types of courses are offered?

- Postgraduate courses - graduate certificate, graduate diploma, masters degree, doctoral degree
- Undergraduate courses - diploma, advanced diploma, associate degree, bachelor degree.

See the Australian Qualifications Framework website at www.aqf.edu.au to find out more about these qualifications.

Do I have to pay for these courses?

Most undergraduate courses at government-funded universities are subsidised by the Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth Supported Places program. For these courses you only pay a portion (student contribution) of the full cost of the course.

Private universities and colleges offer courses on a full-fee basis. This means that you pay the full cost of the course.

Courses offered at TAFE institutes can be government subsidised, partially government funded or full-fee.

Is financial assistance available?

There are two main ways of funding your tertiary education:

- 1 Commonwealth Government loan schemes (such as HECS-HELP); visit the Study Assist website to find out about the Commonwealth Government loan schemes: <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/>.
- 2 Scholarships – most universities, colleges and institutions have a scholarship section in their websites.

How can I find out about tertiary courses?

The university and college websites provide information about their courses. Brochures, handouts and open days are also excellent ways of finding out about courses. The following are the website links for a selection of tertiary institutions in Queensland:

Australian Catholic University	www.acu.edu.au
Bond University	www.bond.edu.au
CQ University	www.cqu.edu.au
Griffith University	www.griffith.edu.au
James Cook University	www.jcu.edu.au
Queensland University of Technology	www.qut.edu.au
SAE Institute	www.sae.edu
Southern Cross University	www.scu.edu.au
TAFE Queensland	www.tafeqld.edu.au
The University of Queensland	www.uq.edu.au
University of Southern Queensland	www.usq.edu.au
University of the Sunshine Coast	www.usc.edu.au

Which is the best university?

All Australian universities offer accredited courses that can lead to employment. Consequently, the better question is 'Which is the best university for me?' Consider the following when researching universities:

- Is the course offered at this university a pathway to the job I eventually want?
- Where is this university located? Can I realistically travel there? What are the transport options?
- Will the university help me gain work experience in my career area of interest while I do the course?
- How hard is it to get into this university?
- Are the courses at this university full-fee or are they subsidised by the Commonwealth Government and eligible for HECS-HELP?
- Where do graduates of this course at this university go after they graduate?
- What support services are available at this university?
- What co-curricular activities (sport, clubs, etc.) are available at this university?
- What is the 'atmosphere' or working & social environment of the university like?
- Is it important to me to go to the same university as my friends?

The **Good Universities Guide** website may help you with your research: www.gooduniguide.com.au/. On this site you can search for courses, institutions, careers, and scholarships. You can also compare these options through the university ratings section on the site.

How do I apply for tertiary courses?

You apply through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) for most Queensland tertiary courses. The QTAC website (www.qtac.edu.au) has information about courses, institutions, and the application process.

You can apply for most interstate courses through the respective state admissions centres:

NSW courses www.uac.edu.au
VIC courses www.vtac.edu.au
SA and NT www.satac.edu.au
WA courses www.tisc.edu.au

For all other courses in Australia, you apply directly to the institution.

TAFE Courses

What courses are offered at TAFE?

TAFE offers a wide range of nationally recognised qualifications such as:

- Certificates I, II, III and IV
- Diplomas
- Advanced Diplomas
- Vocational Graduate Certificates
- Vocational Graduate Diplomas.

Find out more about these qualifications from the TAFE Queensland website at <https://tafeqld.edu.au/study-with-us/our-qualifications/index.html?>

Study areas at TAFE institutes may include the following:

- Arts, entertainment and design
- Building and construction
- Business and financial services
- Community services
- Engineering, automotive and mining
- General education and training
- Health, science and beauty
- Horticulture, primary industries and environment
- Hospitality, travel and tourism
- Information and communication technology
- Sports and recreation

You can search for courses on the TAFE Queensland website at www.tafeqld.edu.au.

Using TAFE to gain entry to university courses

Upgrading

At the end of Year 12, if you do not receive the rank you need to gain a place in the university course you want, you can consider a number of upgrade pathways. One of these is upgrading through advanced diplomas and diplomas at TAFE. For information about this pathway, see the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) website at <https://www.qtac.edu.au/applying/application-resources/upgrading-pathways>.

TAFE/university pathways

Several TAFE institutes have negotiated partnerships with universities. The form of these partnerships can include:

- Dual TAFE/university qualifications - normally you apply for these through QTAC;
- Negotiated credit into a degree course from a TAFE diploma or advanced diploma; and
- Partnerships with universities to deliver degree programs on site at the TAFE institute.

You can find out more information about TAFE and university pathways from the TAFE Queensland website <https://tafeqld.edu.au/study-with-us/university-pathways.html?>

Applying for TAFE courses

Apply for full-time (and some part-time) TAFE diplomas and advanced diplomas through QTAC. These courses will be listed in the *QTAC Guide* and on the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au.

Apply directly to a TAFE institute for all other TAFE courses. You can contact TAFE Queensland admissions via website enquiry, in person or by phone (1300 308 233) to discuss your potential enrolment.

Visit <https://tafeqld.edu.au/how-to-apply/index.html> for step-by-step information on applying for a TAFE course.

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