2014 KPMG Cadetship Program

Each year KPMG recruits Year 12 students for its cadetship program in Sydney and Brisbane. The program is available to students intending to study for a commerce or business degree majoring in accounting or information systems. The cadetship program provides students with the opportunity to combine paid work and study. The structure of the cadetship program is:

- Years 1 and 2: work full-time and study part-time
- Years 3 and 4: study full-time and work during vacations

KPMG invites interested Year 12 students and their parents to attend a Cadet In-house Information Session from 5 – 6.30 pm on Tuesday 5 June 2013 at Level 16, Riparian Plaza, 71 Eagle Street, Brisbane. For more information about the session, telephone 3233 3111.

Applications for the 2014 program are open until 21 June 2013. Further information about the cadetship program can be found on the KPMG website at http://www.kpmg.com/AU/en/careers/Graduates-Students/Cadetships/Pages/default.aspx. More information will be on the website shortly.

Australian Jobs 2012

This publication is very useful for people exploring careers or education and training options. It presents information on labour market trends in Australia and in various industries and occupations. It also includes information on job prospects to help you identify where the jobs might be in the future. Access this booklet at www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/ResearchStatistics/Documents/AustralianJobs.pdf.
Australian Defence Force (ADF) Officer Entry

There are many different pathways to become an officer in the ADF. For example:

- Direct Entry Officer
- Graduate Officers
- Australian Defence Force Academy
- Defence University Sponsorship.

For more information about these pathways visit www.defencejobs.gov.au or telephone: 131901. Year 11 and 12 students interested in gaining entry to the ADF should begin their application as soon as possible.

Military College (RMC) Road Show

Defence Force Recruiting invites interested students to attend the RMC Road Show to be held at 6 pm on Monday 20 May 2013 at the Rail Room, Iceworks Paddington, corner of Given Terrace and Dowse Street, Paddington, Brisbane.

This is a great opportunity for interested students to learn about the RMC and the leadership training it offers. For more information about the RMC, visit http://www.defencejobs.gov.au. If you wish to attend this event, RSVP to Kristin by 17 May 2013 on telephone 3016 2424 or email kgiannasca@dfc.com.au.

Pre-enlistment fitness for the Australian Defence Force (ADF)

Many highly regarded applicants miss out on their ADF career opportunity because they do not meet the pre-enlistment fitness assessment. It is vital that applicants continue to maintain an appropriate level of fitness throughout their application process. A ‘Get fit for the ADF in just four weeks’ guide is available online at www.defencejobs.gov.au/fitness/fitnessPlan/.
Career factsheets


- *Stepping stones to your future – getting started* - one-page resource providing a four-step process for making career decisions
- *Making the big decisions – choosing courses* - useful tips on selecting a course of study post-school
- *Five steps for getting your career started* – provides similar information to *Stepping stones* using a different format
- *Maximise your employment prospects while you study!* – helpful tips to prepare for employment while you complete your post-secondary study
- *Where do you want to be in 5 years?* – this worksheet takes you through a process to visualise your future.

There are many more resources on this site that you might find helpful when exploring your options for the future.
A competition for poets

The Ipswich Poetry Feast Poetry Writing Competition is now open to aspiring poets of all ages. Applications close on Friday 26 July 2013. For more information, visit http://www.ipswichpoetryfeast.com.au/entry.htm.

Accounting can be fun and you can win prizes

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia has developed a high school student competition focused on changing the perceptions students have of accounting. The competition website is at http://www.crazysmart.com.au/. There are prizes for winners!

Live outdoors 2013 - short film competition

This film competition asks you to create a vision of outdoor activity and nature that is inspiring and creative. For more information, see http://www.visioningtheoutdoors.com/film-competition. The competition closes on 21 June 2013.

The Bruce Dawe National Poetry Prize

This competition, administered by the University of Southern Queensland, is open to established and emerging Australian poets. It closes on 30 June 2013. Visit http://www.usq.edu.au/arts/awards/bruce-dawe-prize for more information.
Accessing course and application information from CQUniversity (CQU)

- Student Contact Centre – ring 13 27 86
- ASK CQUni at http://askcquni.cqu.edu.au/selfservice/microsites/microsite.do - Q & A service
- Course and career information www.cqu.edu.au/careers
- How to apply www.cqu.edu.au/apply
- Open days and information sessions – click on ‘News and Events’ on the home page at http://www.cqu.edu.au/
- Access programs (alternative pathways to tertiary entry) www.cqu.edu.au/access
- Scholarships www.cqu.edu.au/scholarships
- SUN (Start Uni Now) program (Year 11 and 12 students can experience uni by studying a uni subject) www.cqu.edu.au/sun

Australian Catholic University (ACU) bonus points schemes

ACU has a number of bonus points schemes. Through these schemes eligible applicants are given bonus ranks when they apply through QTAC (see http://www.qtac.edu.au/Applying-CurrentYr12/InterstateAdmissions.html for a comparison of OPs and ranks). ACU bonus points schemes include:

- **Access ACU** – under this scheme, applicants can be given up to five bonus points depending on their results on Year 12 subjects relevant to the course they are applying for. These bonus points are allocated automatically when applying through QTAC.
- **Campus bonus** – applicants may receive up to five bonus points automatically through QTAC depending on their geographic location (as indicated by their postcode).
- **Education Access Scheme** – this is a QTAC scheme which allocates bonus ranks based on educational disadvantage. Applicants apply for this scheme as part of their QTAC application.

Further information about these schemes can be found at http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/alternate_entry/accessacu.

**Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) short course in Brisbane**
AFTRS will hold a one-day ‘Introduction to Television’ seminar at the Queensland State Library on Saturday 25 May 2013. The seminar will provide insights into the structure of the TV Industry today, and explain the different production models and jobs within the industry. For more information and to enrol, visit http://www.open.aftrs.edu.au/course/T548?utm_source=QLDMAY2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=QLDMAY2013.

**Bubble Dome school holiday workshops**

Bubble Dome Education will be offering workshops in Brisbane on the following topics in the June/July school holidays.

- Minecraft Inventions and Challenges
- Ultra Minecraft – Java + Plugins
- Minecraft Tekkit


**CATC Design School open night**

CATC Design School offers accredited diploma level courses in graphic design, interior design and photography. VET FEE-HELP is available to students. The School will hold an open night at its Brisbane campus on 16 May 2013. CATC will also hold a two-day ‘Design Discovery’ workshop on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June 2013. For details of both events, visit http://www.catc.edu.au/events.

**Changes in QUT courses**

As with all institutions, The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) reviews its courses regularly and makes changes if appropriate. To find out the latest course changes at QUT visit http://www.qut.edu.au/study/changes-to-courses.

**Courses for the media and entertainment industry**

JMC Academy is a private college that offers diplomas, associate degrees and degrees in:

- Audio engineering and sound production
- Film and television production
- 3D animation
- Contemporary music and performance
- Game Design
- Entertainment business management.
JMC Academy will hold an open day on Saturday 1 June 2013. Bookings are essential if you want to attend this event. Go to http://www.jmcacademy.edu.au/News/2013-02-11/REGISTER-FOR-OUR-NEXT-OPEN-DAY-2-13.cfm to register.

Experience USC Days for Year 9 and 10 students

The University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) will hold these days on 5 and 6 June 2013. Students will be involved in hands-on activities in the process of exploring their career opportunities at USC. See http://www.usc.edu.au/study/study-at-usc/information-for-career-advisers-and-teachers/opportunities-for-schools.htm#expUSC for more information. Students should talk to their guidance officer/counsellor about attending this event.

Interested in design?

The Billy Blue College of Design is a private college with campuses in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. It provides tertiary and certificate level accredited courses in various aspects of design (e.g. communication, interior, fashion, digital media). The Brisbane campus will hold an open night on Thursday 13 June 2013. It will also hold a ‘Day in the Life of a Designer’ workshop on Saturday 29 June 2013. For more information about both of these events, visit http://www.billyblue.edu.au/events.

Investing in your future - Bond scholarship seminars

Bond University will present the following scholarship seminars to provide students and parents with information about the full-fee and part-fee scholarships available:

- 4 June 2013 – Rockhampton Grammar School
- 12 June 2013 – Sofitel Brisbane
- 17 June 2013 – Toowoomba Grammar School
- 18 June 2013 – Basil Sellers Theatre, Bond University, Gold Coast.


Occupational Therapy coming to Griffith in 2014

Griffith University will offer a B Occupational Therapy in 2014 at the Gold Coast campus. To find out more about the course, visit the website at http://www.griffith.edu.au/health/occupational-therapy.

To read about other new courses at Griffith in 2014, go to http://www.griffith.edu.au/future-students/new-programs.

Pathways to medicine information evenings at Griffith University
Griffith will hold these information evenings on the following dates:

- 21 May 2013 at the South Bank campus
- 22 May 2013 at the Gold Coast campus.

For more information and to register to attend, visit www.griffith.edu.au/medicine.

Selected upcoming career/course events in May 2013

14 May  
James Cook University information evening in Mackay  

15 May  
James Cook University information evening in Rockhampton  

23 May  
Jobs and Skills Expo in Bundaberg  

24 – 25 May  
Careers and Employment Expo at the Brisbane  

29 May  
CQUniversity Online Information Session  

29 May  
FOGS Indigenous Employment and Careers Expo in Mt Isa  

29 May  
University of Southern Queensland Information Evening at Springfield Campus  
http://www.usq.edu.au/news-events/events/2013/05/usq-information-evening-usq-springfield

Details about the above events have been listed in previous career bulletins.

Short courses at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

QUT Creative Industries is offering short courses commencing in July 2012. Many of the courses are held in the evening. The following are titles of some of the courses offered.

- Beginning acting
- Fashion illustration for beginners
- Introduction to social media
- Stepping off a cliff: starting your first novel
Snippets from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

TAFE/USQ pathways - Through a new agreement between Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE (MSIT) and USQ, TAFE students who successfully complete a diploma in business (including events and hospitality) can articulate directly into external undergraduate business degrees at USQ. Tutorial and other support will be provided at MSIT, Mt Gravatt campus.

Head Start Information Evening – Springfield Campus will be the venue for this event to be held on Wednesday 22 May 2013. See http://www.usq.edu.au/news-events/events/2013/05/head-start-information-evening-springfield for details.

USQ Information Evening at the Toowoomba Campus – This event, to be held on 30 May 2013, will provide students and parents with an opportunity to find out about the programs offered at USQ. See http://www.usq.edu.au/news-events/events/2013/05/information-evening-toowoomba for details.

USQ Information Day at Fraser Coast Campus – Students and parents are invited to this day on 2 June 2013 for answers to their questions about the courses offered. Visit http://www.usq.edu.au/news-events/events/2013/06/information-day-fraser-coast for more information.

Life at USQ - Follow student blobs at http://usqedu.wordpress.com/ to learn about life as a student at USQ.

Southbank Institute of Technology (SBIT) news

Health and science courses - SBIT offers a number of courses related to health and science careers. These include studies in Diversional therapy, Nursing, Occupational health and safety, Operating theatre, Oral health, Sterilising technology, Workplace health and safety, Food testing and Laboratory technology. For information about these courses and more, go to the Courses and Careers page on the SBIT website at http://www.southbank.edu.au/site/programs/category.asp.

Southbank Tertiary Entrance Program (STEP) – STEP offers senior secondary students an opportunity to study towards a diploma while still at school. Students apply in mid-Year 10 for STEP and commence the two-year program in Year 11. Study areas include beauty, business, graphic design, children’s services, events, hospitality, tourism, justice studies, visual arts, health service assistance, photoimaging and fitness. Find out more at http://www.southbank.edu.au/site/schools/STEP/index.asp. Applications open for Year 10 students on Monday 22 July 2013 and close on Monday 19 August 2013. See your guidance officer/counsellor for more information about STEP.
TAFE round up

- Find out about the D Events (Surf) offered at the Sunshine Coast TAFE from the website at [http://www.sunshinecoasttafe.edu.au/courses/diploma_events_surf-238.html](http://www.sunshinecoasttafe.edu.au/courses/diploma_events_surf-238.html).

The Engineering Link Group (TELG) Project

The TELG program provides students in Years 11 and 12 an opportunity to check out engineering before making final decisions about their future study pathway. During the program students use their knowledge of Physics, Mathematics B/C and Chemistry to solve engineering problems. In 2013 the TELG Projects are:

- South Queensland Engineering Link Project - Tuesday 25 June to Thursday 27 June at the University of Queensland, St Lucia
- Central Queensland Engineering Link Project - Tuesday 25 June to Thursday 27 June at CQUniversity, Rockhampton.


The QIBT pathway to Griffith University

The Queensland Institute of Business and Technology (QIBT) offers full-fee diploma and associate degree courses that provide an alternative pathway into Griffith University undergraduate degrees. QIBT diploma courses are equivalent to the first
year of a Griffith bachelor degree. QIBT has campuses in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. Fields of study include:

- Commerce
- Biosciences
- Criminology and criminal justice
- Engineering
- Graphic design
- Hotel management
- Information technology
- Health sciences
- Health care
- Media and communication

QIBT students can access financial assistance through FEE-HELP. Find out more about QIBT and its courses at www.qibt.qld.edu.au. The 2013/14 QIBT brochure can be downloaded from the website.

**University of Queensland (UQ) updates**

**What is Architectural Design?** – This two-day workshop will give you a taste of studying architecture at university. It will be held on 27 and 28 June 2013. For more information, visit http://www.eait.uq.edu.au/activities-for-high-schools#a.

**Robotics holiday workshops** – ‘Introduction to Robotics’ will be held on 24 June 2013 and ‘Artificial Intelligence’ will be on 25 June 2013. See http://www.eait.uq.edu.au/activities-for-high-schools#a, for details and to register.

**UQ’s OP Guarantee Scheme** – This scheme offers guaranteed entry into the majority of UQ’s undergraduate programs to students who achieve an OP of 1 – 5 and have completed prerequisite subjects. The scheme applies to the major QTAC offer round in January 2014. Find out more at http://www.uq.edu.au/study/index.html?page=194794. This site also lists the courses that are exempted from this scheme.

**UQ Interaction Design Exhibit** – This event will present the work of Multimedia Design students. It will be held at The Edge in South Bank (State Library of Queensland) on Friday 31 May 2013. Visit http://www.itee.uq.edu.au/interaction-design for more information.

**Want to be a UQ Science Ambassador?** – Through this program, teachers nominate Year 11 students to participate in science updates and events at UQ. Talk to your science teacher if you are interested. Nominations are made on the website at http://science.uq.edu.au/ambassadorform. The due date for nominations is 1 June 2013.

**Economics information day** – The UQ School of Economics is hosting this day on 18 July 2013 for students in Years 11 and 12 who are currently studying Economics.
Topics such as real world events/issues, current research and career opportunities will be presented. See the program at [http://www.uq.edu.au/economics/economics-schools-day-2013](http://www.uq.edu.au/economics/economics-schools-day-2013). Talk to your Economics teacher about attending this event.

**Have you registered for Careers that shape the world?** – This event, to be held on Thursday 11 July 2013, is excellent for exploring a range of study options and careers in fields such as Business, Economics, Tourism and Law, Engineering, Architecture, Information Technology, Health Sciences, Humanities, Social Science, Education, Arts and Science. This is a very popular event, so get in early or put your name on the wait list for sessions that are already full.

**Year 10 Student Guide** – The guide can assist students with exploring their future career and with selecting prerequisite subject choices as part of the SET Planning process. You can download the guide at [http://www.uq.edu.au/schools/online-publications](http://www.uq.edu.au/schools/online-publications).

**Want help to prepare for a music audition?**

The Open Conservatorium, within the Queensland Conservatorium at Griffith University, offers a range of different programs for all ages. See [http://www.griffith.edu.au/music/open-conservatorium](http://www.griffith.edu.au/music/open-conservatorium) for details about these programs.

One of the programs of interest to students wanting to go on to study music at tertiary level is the tertiary preparation workshop. This workshop is designed to prepare students for the theoretical and practical aspects of the audition process. The workshop is from 24 - 28 June 2013. The registration due date is 24 May 2013. A brochure and application form can be downloaded from [http://www.griffith.edu.au/music/open-conservatorium/tertiary-preparation-workshop](http://www.griffith.edu.au/music/open-conservatorium/tertiary-preparation-workshop).

**Want to study engineering but don’t have the prerequisites?**

Griffith University offers a pathway into its engineering courses through the Aptitude for Engineering Assessment examination. Registrations to sit the exam are now open and will close on 10 September 2013. The exam will be held on 21 September 2013 in Brisbane. Exam dates differ for other test centres. Visit [http://www.griffith.edu.au/engineering-information-technology/griffith-school-engineering/future-students/aptitude-engineering-assessment](http://www.griffith.edu.au/engineering-information-technology/griffith-school-engineering/future-students/aptitude-engineering-assessment) to find out more.

**Want to study engineering while still at school?**

Through the Griffith Eng program, Griffith University offers Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to study a first year engineering subject. Griffith Eng is a two-stage program:
• Stage one – ‘A Taste of Engineering’ is offered to selected Year 11 students in semester two.
• Stage two – Successful students from stage one can continue on to stage two of the program in semester one of Year 12.

To be eligible for the program students should be high achievers and are required to be studying Maths B, English and at least one of Maths C, Physics, Chemistry, Technology Studies or Engineering Studies. Applications for Griffith Eng close on Friday 21 June 2013. See http://www.griffith.edu.au/engineering-information-technology/griffith-school-engineering/future-students/griffith-eng-year-11-year-12-program for more information.

Weekend video workshops

The Queensland School of Film and Television in Brisbane will deliver the following workshops in May 2013.

• 18 and 19 May – HD Video Production workshop. This workshop covers the basics you need to know when working with digital cameras, lighting and sound on a production.
• 25 and 26 May – Apple Final Cut Pro Editing workshop. This workshop focuses on taking camera footage captured and creating a coherent, entertaining story.

Go to www.qsft.qld.edu.au/hd-video-workshop.html for more information and to download an application form.

Winter audition workshop for musical theatre

This workshop is for students in Years 11 and 12 and above who want to develop their auditioning skills for potential admission to the Queensland Conservatorium Musical Theatre program. The workshop will be held from 1 – 5 July 2013. For enquiries and an application form, ring 3735 3224 or email musical.theatre@griffith.edu.au.
What is FEE-HELP?

FEE-HELP is an Australian Government study loan scheme similar to HECS-HELP. It is designed to assist eligible full-fee paying Australian students to pay all or part their tuition fees at approved institutions.

Eligible students can borrow up to the FEE-HELP limit to pay their tuition fees. For 2013, the FEE-HELP limit is $116,507 for students undertaking medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses and $93,204 for all other students. A 25% loan fee is imposed on this scheme.

As with HECS-HELP, repayments of the FEE-HELP loan are made through the taxation system once the student’s taxable income reaches $49,095 (for 2012-13 income year). For further information, see http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help.

What is HECS-HELP?

In Australia eligible students can apply for Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) at public universities and accredited private institutions. A CSP is an Australian Government subsidised place. This means that the Australian Government pays a substantial amount of the cost of the course and the student pays a smaller amount called a ‘student contribution’. The amount of the student contribution varies according to the course being studied.

HECS-HELP is an Australian Government study loan program to help students pay their student contribution. Students repay their HECS-HELP loan through the taxation system once their income is above the compulsory repayment threshold, even if they are still studying. The compulsory repayment threshold is adjusted each year. For the 2012-13 income year, it is $49,095. There is no interest charged on HECS-HELP loans. However the debt is subjected to changes in the Consumer Price Index.


What is VET FEE-HELP?
VET FEE-HELP is an Australian Government study loan scheme available to eligible students studying higher level vocational education and training (VET) qualifications at diploma level or above (not certificate level courses). The amount students can borrow is the same as for FEE-HELP. A 20% loan fee applies for VET FEE-HELP loans. Repayment for this loan scheme is the same as for HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP. Read more at http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/vet-fee-help/pages/vet-fee-help.
Cultural Care Au Pair

Cultural Care Au Pair is currently looking for young men and women interested in spending their Gap Year in the USA as an au pair. Au pair students spend one year living as part of an American host family. In return for providing childcare, the students receive room and board plus a wage. For more information on this organisation and the programs it offers, visit [http://aupair.culturalcare.com.au/](http://aupair.culturalcare.com.au/).
A book for students interested in medicine

*So you want to be a doctor?* is written specifically for young people who are considering embarking on a medical degree. The guide covers:

- what to expect as a qualified doctor in Australia today
- life as a student, from the application, selection and interview process, to the pressures of study, advice on managing stress and distress, and where to get help if needed
- the 18 medical schools in Australia, their similarities and differences and particular focus or strengths
- the Australian health care system and career paths for medical graduates.

The book includes advice about study methods, financial support, and balancing study with part-time work and a social life, as well as information that is relevant to specific groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, international students and students with a disability.


**Careers in Music**


**Directory of performing arts courses in Australia**

The 2013 *Stage Whispers Directory of Performing Arts Courses* can be viewed at [http://stagewhispers.com.au/showcase](http://stagewhispers.com.au/showcase). This publication lists courses in Australia that focus on the following creative fields:

- Acting/Drama
- Arts Management
- Circus
- Costumes/Props/Sets Design and Making
- Dance
- Directing
- Make-up
• Music
• Sound and Light
• Stage Management
• Voice

The directory includes brief articles of interest to creative performers including ‘How to prepare for drama course auditions’.

Information for future pilots

PATS is a private organisation that prepares people for aptitude tests and interviews that are used by the Australian Defence Force and airline pilot cadetships (Jetstar, Qantas, Cathay Pacific and Rex). For more information see www.pilotaptitude.com/.

Like science but unsure about jobs?

The University of Queensland has produced a booklet, Careers that started in science that can be downloaded from www.science.uq.edu.au/careers. Other websites that provide information on science careers are:

How to make the best use of a career expo

To make the most of your visits to career expos, you need to have a plan before you go. Career expos can be a total waste of time without one. The following are resources that may help you organise your information gathering at the expo.

- Career market: Student questionnaire
- You + Careers expo = Your future
Registration deadlines for UMAT

To meet the prerequisites for some medical/health science undergraduate courses applicants are required to sit for the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT). The 2013 UMAT information booklet can be downloaded from the UMAT website at [http://umatweb.acer.edu.au](http://umatweb.acer.edu.au). The timeline for UMAT in 2013 is:

- Friday 7 June – the on time registration due date
- Friday 21 June – the late registration due date (a late fee applies)
- Wednesday 31 July – UMAT test date
- Late September – results released.

Should I do a dual degree at university?

A dual or double degree enables you to study two degrees at the same time. This is becoming an increasingly popular option with approximately 10% of students in Australian universities opting to study a dual degree. The following are some of the advantages of a dual degree.

Dual degrees:

- can be completed in a shorter time than it would take to complete them one after the other e.g. most dual B Engineering/B Science degrees take five years to complete instead of seven years if these degrees are completed separately.
- provide you with a broader range of skills.
- may give you a competitive edge in the job market as you have more to offer an employer. It could also indicate to an employer that you are committed and have a strong work ethic.
- give you an opportunity to try two study areas. This is especially useful when you are uncertain about the career you most wish to pursue.

The disadvantages of a dual degree are that they cost more and take longer to complete. Students undertaking a dual degree need to have good time management skills and the ability to switch between different modes of study.

Whether you decide to undertake a single or a dual degree, it is important to research your choice thoroughly to ensure you understand what you will be studying. Also, it is important to have a good knowledge of the employment outcomes of your studies.

**Student Connect – magazine for Year 12s from the Queensland Studies Authority**

The latest issue of *Student Connect* has been released and is available online at [http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/9209.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/9209.html). This issue contains information on:

- the QCS Test
- OP myths
- VET pathways
- key dates
- tips from Year 12 graduates.

The Queensland Studies Authority is offering Year 12 students the chance to win an iPad mini. To be in the running, you need to log on to your learning account at [www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au) between 1 June and 31 August 2013 and complete a quick online survey. Find out more in *Student Connect.*
Some hints on preparing for exams

Find out exactly what is required for the exam.

- When is the exam? What is the length of the exam? How many questions will be on the exam?
- What content will be covered?
- What kind of questions will be asked (multiple choice, short answer, true or false, essay, etc.)?
- If an essay exam, how many questions will be asked, what number of words is expected, will the questions be weighted equally?
- Will you be penalised for guessing answers?
- What equipment do you need to bring to the exam?

Organise yourself mentally and physically for the exam.

- Eat healthy food regularly. Don’t skip meals.
- Spend some time exercising. A short walk and a stretch are better than no exercise.
- Get enough sleep.
- Think about taking time off from your part-time job a couple of weeks before the exam block.
- Take a temporary break from socialising, social networking, TV and other time-consuming leisure activities.
- Review the strategies for taking different types of exams.
- Think positive thoughts. With a good revision program and motivation to do your best, you will succeed.

Revise, revise and revise – use a revision technique that suits you. The following are some suggestions.

- Make a revision timetable. Include short breaks.
- Summarise the content to be examined.
- Some kind of diagrammatic representation of notes can be helpful.
- Ask your teacher about any content you don’t understand.
- Review by reading your summaries aloud.
- Test yourself. Do revision sheets if your school provides these.
- Revise with a friend if possible. This can be helpful to both people in understanding topics and building confidence.
- Do a timed practice test.
- Be honest with yourself. Are the revision strategies you are using effective? If not, seek help from your teacher or learning support person in your school.

Keep things in perspective.

- The exams might seem like the most important thing in your life at the moment, but in reality they are only a small part of your life.
- Avoid panicking. It is normal to be nervous before an exam. Some stress actually helps you achieve your best. However, too much stress will hinder your ability to do your best.
- Focus on some deep breathing for a few minutes if you feel yourself start to panic or if your mind goes blank. If you have prepared well, the information is there, you just have to get to it. If after relaxing for a few minutes, you still can’t remember the answer, move onto the next question and come back to this one later.
- Answer as many questions as you can. If you don’t know the answer to a question, then just pop anything down as the answer. Having a stab at a question is better than just leaving the space blank. Who knows, what you put down may even be correct!
The above information has been gathered from a range of sources including publicly available websites, institutional and organisational newsletters, student and career advisers and guidance officers. Every effort has been made to ensure the information provided is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication.