



Monday 26 August, 2024

Upcoming Events

[AIM | Open Day 2024, Melbourne](#)

August 31, 2024

Join us for Open Day, and experience everything AIM has to offer!

See our campus, get course advice, experience live performances, meet our teachers and students, and take part in activities that will give you a taste of student life here at AIM.

Whether you're ready to study now, or in five years' time, Open Day is open to all and a fantastic opportunity to discover how the Australian Institute of Music can help turn your passion for music into a career.

[Find out more](#)

[Collarts | Open Day 2024](#)

August 31, 2024

At Collarts, our Open Day is all about making this process simple and hands-on. Information sessions, workshops and the chance to chat with students, teachers and leaders are an important part of learning more about what sets us apart from the rest.

We invite you to come and experience life at Collarts: from our passion for creativity, close community, state-of-the-art facilities, expert faculty, and more.

[Find out more](#)

[VTAC | Pathways – How to get to your chosen course](#)

September 3, 2024

Pathways provide opportunities to use a qualification to get into another course. There may be more than one pathway to the qualification you want, in our webinar we will speak about the different types of pathways and provide some ideas in how you can get to your chosen course if you fall short of entry requirements.

You'll have the opportunity to ask questions throughout!

[Find out more](#)

Important Future Events

[Astrophotography Workshop](#)

September 14, 2024

The astrophotography workshop introduces concepts that will assist both the beginner amateur and professional photographer to take stunning photographs of the night sky. Night sky photography is very different to that done in daylight. The afternoon has an array of talks given by experienced and award-winning astrophotographers, with (weather permitting) practical hands-on sessions during the evening at our registered Observatory.

Topics include an introduction to smartphone photography, timelapses, capturing the Aurora Australis, nightscape imaging, deep sky photography and much more.

[Find out more](#)

[Youth Aviation Careers Expo](#)

September 14, 2024

Considering a career in aviation or aerospace? Come and talk to professionals from the industry and discover your future career.

Set among the incredible collection of aircraft at the Moorabbin Air Museum, this is a unique opportunity to learn about all aspects of aviation and pathways to achieve your career goals, from pilots to engineers, crew, and more.

Also meet the amazing youth and theatre groups that operate from the Museum on the day.

Free entry - bookings essential.

[Find out more](#)

[University of Sydney | Online Open Night](#)

September 19, 2024

Domestic students living in regional or interstate areas are invited to the University of Sydney's online Open Night. Find out about the new Regional and Remote Entry Scheme, the single scholarship application process, and other University of Sydney highlights.

You'll then have the chance to join dedicated breakout rooms and chat with staff from our faculties, admissions, scholarships, and accommodation, and have all your questions answered about life in Sydney.

[Find out more](#)

[Monash | VCE Revision Lectures](#)

September 23 to September 26, 2024

Completing VCE? Monash Science is excited to support students currently studying VCE through a series of on-campus revision lectures. These sessions are designed to reinforce key concepts in the curriculum and will be delivered by a qualified VCE teacher with extensive experience in their subject.

Time: 9.30 am -4.30 pm

Maths Methods: Monday 23 September

Biology: Tuesday 24 September

Physics: Wednesday 25 September

Chemistry: Thursday 26 September

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

[QUT Faculty of Science Indigenous Australian Scholarship 2025](#)

Value: \$7,500 AUD

This scholarship aims to support high-achieving Indigenous Australian students who are starting their first year of an undergraduate degree in science, mathematics or IT. The scholarship also aims to foster further opportunities by supporting and engaging students in other structured program opportunities for Indigenous Australian students in the Faculty of Science, like the [Indigenous Australian Research Training Scheme \(IARTS\)](#).

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

[KSP Short Fiction Competition – Youth Category](#)

Value: See perks

Closing date: September 6, 2024

The KSP Writers' Centre is proud to present this annual short fiction competition for Australian writers, which is FREE for youth to enter. Judges will be looking for good quality original, unpublished writing with engaging characters and a compelling narrative. All fiction styles and themes are acceptable.

[Find out more](#)

Work Experience

[Work Experience with Seeing Eye Dogs Australia](#)

Organisation: Seeing Eye Dogs Australia

Seeing Eye Dogs offers limited weekday work experience placements at our kennel site in Kensington, Victoria. This unique program offers students the chance to learn about the vital work that we do to support the blind and low vision community whilst gaining hands-on industry experience.

Due to operational requirements, we can only take two students per month.

Please note that our placements for 2024 are full.

Applications for placements in 2025 are now open, [visit this page to submit your application](#).

[Find out more](#)

University

[Do you need to change your preferences?](#)

So you've applied to university – congratulations! Perhaps you've applied through an admissions centre, or maybe you applied directly to the university of your choice. Either way, did you know that once you've submitted your applications, they're not set in stone? Right up until the very last offer round, you can always change your preferences.

Preferences – the basics

By the time you've submitted your applications, it's assumed that you understand 'preferences' and what it means for your application. But just in case you're still a bit uncertain, let's explain.

Preferences is just a term for the courses you want to apply for, listed in the order you'd like to study them. They're also sometimes called choices or selections.

We recommend that you list your dream course/s first, some more realistic options next, and one safe option last. That way, you'll increase the chances of receiving at least one offer in the main offer rounds. Listing the maximum number of possible preferences on your applications is also a good strategy.

Flexibility can be handy

If you're certain that you've applied to the best university and selected the best courses for you, that's great! All you need to do is move on and wait for an offer.

But if you decide you're not happy with your choices, or perhaps the order of your courses just isn't sitting right with you anymore, guess what? There's good news – the whole applications system is designed to allow you to change your preferences.

When can you change your preferences?

Most universities and admissions centres provide plenty of opportunities to change your preferences. After submitting your application and before the first offers are released, you can usually log in to your application and adjust your preferences.

Changing your preferences is usually free, but some institutions may charge a fee. In some cases, you might need to pay a fee if you change them more than two or three times.

If you're applying through an admissions centre, here are the change of preference cut-off dates for the main rounds of offers:

Admission Centre	Results date	Offer date	Change of preference cut-off
UAC	18 December 2024	23 December 2024	18 December 2024
VTAC	12 December 2024	23 December 2024	14 December 2024
QTAC	13 December 2024	23 December 2024	18 December 2024
TISC	15 December 2024	21 December 2024	17 December 2024
SATAC	16 December 2024	10 January 2024	2 January 2025
UTAS	18 December 2024	Mid December 2024	Contact UTAS
UCAS	TBC August 2025	Up to 14 May 2025	Contact the university
CAO	TBC August 2025	TBC August 2025	TBC July 2025
OUAC	TBC April 2025	Up to late May 2025	Contact the university

Note: If you've received an early offer for one or more of the courses on your preferences, and you'd still like more offers during other rounds, it's best to call the admission centre directly if you're unsure about what to do next.

Once the main round of offers are released, another window usually opens up. You'll have the chance to change your preferences again and possibly receive more offers, then choose which one to accept. Or, if you didn't get an offer in the first round, you can wait and see if you receive one in a subsequent round.

What if I'm applying directly to the university?

If you're submitting your application direct to the university, you'll need to check with them if:

1. They allow you to change your course choices after your application has been submitted, and
2. Whether there is any cut-off dates you need to change your preferences by.

Some universities will let you swap your course choices right up until you receive an offer. Others might ask you to complete a separate application if you change your mind about your course. We recommend you check the details on their website or contact them directly to confirm your options.

A note about quota and high-demand courses

If all the places in a course have been filled after the first offer round, you won't be able to add it to your list in subsequent rounds.

If a course has an earlier closing date than the regular deadline, it's highly likely you won't be able to add it to your list once this date has passed, even if change of preference is still open.

If you want to apply to a course that is in high-demand or has caps on places, you should get your application sorted ASAP to ensure you don't miss out.

Top tips for changing preferences

1. Spend some time considering *why* you want to change your preferences before you go ahead and do it.
2. Check if any fees or cut-off dates apply.
3. If you're unsure about what to do, contact the admissions centre or university for advice.

When might you decide to change your preferences?

Consider adjusting your preferences if:

- Your results are better than you expect. If there's a competitive course you looked over because you didn't think it was a realistic option before, move it to the top of your list.
- Your results aren't as good as you had hoped for. To increase your chances of receiving an offer, put any courses you're eligible for at the top of your list.
- You have a change of heart about the best course or university for you.
- A new course has become available and you think it would be perfect.
- You discover a course you didn't know about when you applied.
- You find out that the prerequisites for a course you had on your list have changed.
- The course you applied for has been dropped by the university.
- You're looking back over your application and realise you didn't put your preferences in the right order.

Is changing your preferences really necessary?

If you get higher results than you expected (yay you!), *don't* immediately rush off and change your preferences just because you can. If you're happy with your preferences, the best thing to do is stick with them – there's no such thing as 'wasting' good grades.

You might feel pressured into thinking you should change your list, particularly if your friends are talking about changing theirs and cut-off dates are coming up. Take a breath, spend some time researching any changes you're thinking of making, and make sure you're doing it for all the right reasons.

Finally, double check any prerequisites and eligibility requirements before you add or move a course. It would be a real shame to miss out on an offer because you didn't take a few minutes to read the entry criteria.

Don't panic

If you miss the change of preference cut-offs for the first round, that's OK – you'll get the chance to change them again before the next offer round.

If all the rounds are over and you have an offer, but it's not for the course you really wanted, call up the university and find out what your options are. You might be able to start a different degree then transfer after completing a few subjects.

Most importantly, if you don't receive any offers at all, please remember that you still have lots of options. Most institutions have at least one alternative pathway, from bridging courses to experience-based entry options. You may be surprised to learn about the number of choices available to help you get into the university of your dreams.

Need more information?

If you're still after more information, we have heaps of other blogs on university applications to check out [here](#).

Entrepreneurship

[Recipe for easy money: how to become a young entrepreneur](#)

Ever dreamt of making your own money without having to rely on your parents or getting paid minimum wage at some big company? It's easier than you think. All it takes is a bit of skill, some motivation, and a good idea. Being a young entrepreneur doesn't mean you need a ton of cash to start—it's all about finding a smart way to earn, with low startup costs, that can grow over time.

Here's the recipe:

- **Skillset:** What are you good at? Whether it's art, organisation, or just a willingness to roll up your sleeves and work hard, identify your strengths.
- **Drive:** Got the energy? Turning a side hustle into a money-maker takes motivation. If you're ready to put in the work, you're already halfway there.
- **Simple marketing:** Get the word out with minimal effort. Use social media, tell your friends, or make flyers. You don't need to spend big bucks on ads.
- **Business model:** Think about how your business will make money. Focus on something that people need regularly, so they keep coming back to you.
- **Low startup costs:** Start small and scale up. Choose a business idea that doesn't need a lot of money to get going.
- **Meet a real need:** Find something people actually need. Whether it's cleaning, creating, or helping out, the more useful your service or product, the more money you can make.
- **Room to improve:** Look for areas where you can be better than the competition. If you can do something a little differently or offer something extra, people will choose you.