



# 1

## IS UNIVERSITY RIGHT FOR ME?

It's important to research what is involved in coming to university before deciding whether it's the right option for you.

There are some jobs that require a university degree and others where a degree will increase your long term career prospects. Choosing to come to university should be based on whether:

- It's the study option needed for your chosen career plan.
- You want the university lifestyle.
- You are going to enjoy what you will learn at university.
- You want to keep your career options open.
- You have the academic requirements to get into university.

If you do not want to go to university now, you can choose to explore the option later on. Industry experience and time spent working can open up opportunities for university studies as well as help you identify your career goals.

You can contact universities for information about their culture and entry pathways to determine whether they will suit your needs.

# 2

## HOW IS UNIVERSITY DIFFERENT TO HIGH SCHOOL?

University is very different to high school. Among other things, you may be required to:

**COMMUNICATE MORE:** Lecturers manage hundreds of students. They do not work with you closely enough to be able to tell if you are struggling. If you are having a hard time, you need to tell someone.

**EXPLORE DIFFERENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:** At university you will have to learn independently. You may also be required to learn through a variety of different formats including online classes, laboratory learning, group work and/or field work.

**ENGAGE AT UNIVERSITY:** You will not only have to manage your studies at university but you will (and should) be involved in social activities too. You may also have the opportunity to get involved in volunteering and work experience.

**ADJUST TO YOUR UNIVERSITY TIMETABLE:** Classes at university can start as early as 8am and can run as late as 9 or 10pm. Students do have some choice in when they schedule their classes.

# 3

## WHAT IF I DIDN'T GET INTO THE UNIVERSITY OR COURSE I WANTED?

There are many pathways you can take to get into university if your initial application is not successful. Contact the university you want to go to and ask for their advice.

Some examples of alternative entry pathways can include:

- Studying a similar course at **another university**. If you begin study somewhere else you may still be able to apply to transfer to the university of your choice later on.
- Enrolling into a **broad degree**. If you begin studying a broad degree you may be able to apply to transfer into a more specialised degree further down the track.
- Enrolling into a **preparation course or enabling program**, will help you meet course admission requirements.
- You might also consider studying at **TAFE** in order to gain a qualification that will provide a pathway into university.

There are staff at universities which are specially trained and very knowledgeable about your options. All you need to do is contact the university and **ask for help**.

# 4

## I'M NOT CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY TO GO TO UNIVERSITY

If you are not sure about your ability to study at university, consider doing a preparation course to help raise your confidence.

**You may like to study a TAFE course first.** TAFE classes are smaller and the type of learning is more hands on. TAFE could prepare you for university and provide entry into university.

Doing a TAFE course and then a degree in the same area may be an advantage as you would have gained some knowledge in the area already. You could potentially work and study in the same field at the same time.

**Universities offer 'preparation courses'** which can get you into the degree you want. These courses are often held at university campuses so you can get a feel for what university is like before you start a degree.