IS UNIVERSITY RIGHT FOR MY CHILD?

It’s important for you and your child to research what is involved in coming to university to assist them in deciding whether it’s the right option for them.

Choosing to come to university should be based on:

- If it’s the study option needed for your child’s chosen career path.
- If your child wants to keep their options open.
- If your child has the academic requirements to get into university.
- If your child will enjoy what they can study at university.
- If a university lifestyle is suited to your child.

If your child chooses not to go to university now, they can later if they desire. Experience in the workplace and TAFE courses for example, can open up opportunities for university studies later.

You can contact the universities to find out more information about university culture and pathways that would suit your child’s needs.

HOW IS UNIVERSITY DIFFERENT TO HIGH SCHOOL?

Going from high school to university can be a shock for some young people. It’s important to be realistic and find as much information as you can about going to university to help your child determine if it’s the right pathway for them.

COMMUNICATE MORE

At university, your child will be treated as an adult and they will need to be responsible for their own learning. If your child is having problems, they will need to ask for help. There is a lot of support available to assist them.

EXPLORE DIFFERENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

At university your child will have to learn independently. Your child 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

Your child should get involved in social activities on campus and participate in volunteering and work experience. These experiences will help your child make new friends and be exposed to new and exciting opportunities and will help to improve your child’s career prospects.

UNIVERSITY TIMETABLE

In some cases, classes at university can start as early as 8am and can go up until 9 -10pm at night. Full time study is about 20 hours of classes a week and then there is study on top of that. Depending on the course your child is studying, contact hours may vary.

University isn’t for everyone. Depending on your child’s chosen career pathway, university may not be the right option for them right now, but it could be down the track.
In the past, university has been seen solely as an option for those who are academically gifted. This is no longer the case.

To do some degrees at university, your child may need to study prerequisite subjects such as physics, maths and chemistry. They will also need to pass ATAR English/Literature in high school. If your child is unable to do these subjects at school but still wants to come to university, your child can:

- Study a TAFE course first. TAFE classes are smaller and the type of learning is more hands on. TAFE could prepare them for university and provide entry into university. Doing a TAFE course and then a degree in the same area may be an advantage as your child would have gained some knowledge in the area already and could also potentially work and study at the same time.
- Some universities credit TAFE courses as an entry pathway. It's important to check this first if your child wants to take this option.
- Complete a ‘preparation course’ or ‘enabling program’. These types of courses can help your child raise their level of academia so they can get into the degree they want. These courses are often held at university campuses so your child can get a feel for what university is like before they start a degree.

You and your child can visit the university and talk to staff, such as the Student Services Team of the area they are considering studying or the Course Co-ordinator about what your child will need to do during their study.