Each year in August and September, vocational and tertiary institutions open their doors to the public to showcase the amazing features they have to offer, including courses, scholarships, student services, facilities, and accommodation etc.

Open days are exciting with lots of activities going on including live bands, BBQs, competitions, information sessions, art displays and drama performances.

If you are considering studying a vocational (e.g., TAFE) or higher education (e.g., university) course after school, it is essential that you attend open days, as you will be able to:

- Get a feel for the culture of the campus
- Learn about courses and career options
- Undertake campus and accommodation tours led by current students
- Speak directly to students and lecturers about the courses or careers you are interested in
- Compare the course areas you are interested in at different institutions
- Learn about student sports and societies you can join and be active in
- Get course counselling and guidance
- Attend information sessions and workshops
- Watch live demonstrations
- Listen to bands, eat lots of food, participate in activities and have fun!

Further, attending open days will prepare you for courses you may apply for that require you to undertake an interview as part of the selection process.

By now you should have identified institutions you would like to visit, found out their open day dates and downloaded their open day programs.

Once you have the programs, make a list of the information sessions you would like to attend.

If you have time, try and attend information sessions on topics like pathways, VTAC, scholarships, accommodation and overseas exchange programs.

If you are unsure what to ask on the day, Victoria University has developed some questions you can ask:

- Are there any prerequisite subjects I need to study for this course?
- What study scores/ATAR do I need to achieve to get into this course?
- Do I need to attend an audition, have an interview or present a folio as part of the selection process?
- Are there any other ways into this course other than through a VTAC application?
- Can I do a vocational course first which might then lead into a university course?
- What is the difference between TAFE and university study?
- If I can’t get into this course, is there a similar course at this institution I can apply for?
- What are the core subjects for this course and are there any electives?
- How many hours per week are spent in class and can I study part time?
- Can I defer the course?
- What kind of jobs do graduates of this course generally get?
- Are there any scholarships available?
**OPEN DAYS – 1 & 2 AUGUST**

- **Monash University**: Berwick and Peninsula campuses, Saturday 1st. Clayton, Caulfield and Parkville campuses, Sunday 2nd. [http://monash.edu/open-day](http://monash.edu/open-day)


- **Deakin University**: Warrnambool campus, Sunday 2nd, [http://openday.deakin.edu.au/](http://openday.deakin.edu.au/)

**COMPETITIONS**

**UNSW New Innovators Competition**: Are you a female high school student who has a passion for technology and science? You should consider entering the New Innovators Competition being run by the UNSW Science Faculty. All you have to do is submit your innovative ideas for scientific and technological solutions to real world issues. For information on the competition, go to [http://bit.ly/1Tnf6v6](http://bit.ly/1Tnf6v6)

**UNSW Bragg Student Prize for Science Writing**: For students in Years 7 – 10. Do you have a favourite science experiment conducted in class or seen on YouTube? Have you been inspired by a great scientific discovery in history? Perhaps you’ve had your own eureka moment building a volcano or levitating an object across your bedroom. If so, you should participate in this competition by writing about your chosen experiment or scientific discovery and discuss what impact it has had, or could have, on society. [http://bit.ly/1CzztOy](http://bit.ly/1CzztOy)

**Swinburne University Ultimate Study Pack- win prizes!** Students can enter online to win one of seven iPad Minis or the Ultimate Study Pack, including a MacBook Pro 13” with Retina Display and a Mojo Urban bike. All you have to do is register your details at the following website: [www.swinburne.edu.au/2015/win/](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/2015/win/)

**DO YOU LOVE PHOTOGRAPHY?** If you are in Years 7 – 12, you have the opportunity to enter The Pixel Prize photography competition, run by the Australian Catholic University. The 2015 theme is ‘Freedom’. For information on the entry requirements and the theme, go to [www.thepixelprize.com.au/](http://www.thepixelprize.com.au/) Entries close on 31 August 2015.

**Missed out on applying for the Defence Force Army Gap Year Program?** Don’t worry because applications will re-open for the positions of Unit Quartermaster, Administration Clerk and Driver Specialist between Friday 17 – Friday 31 July. For information and to apply, go to [http://bit.ly/1dVvxxV](http://bit.ly/1dVvxxV)

**UMAT preparation day**: Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 interested in Medicine, Dentistry, or Optometry will need to sit the compulsory Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT) when applying for one of the above courses. Current Year 12 students will sit the exam on Wednesday 29 July. NIE will be conducting two final UMAT preparation workshops on Saturday 25 July at St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne. For more information and to apply, go to [www.nie.edu.au/](http://www.nie.edu.au/)

**VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS**
New Master of Food and Packaging at the University of Melbourne: The Master of Food and Packaging combines food science, packaging and product design with business skills like project management and entrepreneurship. Over the next 40 years, the world will need to produce 50% more food to feed a rapidly increasing world population.

Graduates of this course will be addressing this demand by learning the skills necessary to develop valuable and innovative food products that address key issues such as transportability, durability, tamper proofing and perishability issues. This course will suit students who love science, design and business. Applicants will need to complete a Bachelor degree first. For information about this exciting new program, go to [http://bit.ly/1HYlQed](http://bit.ly/1HYlQed)

Study tips by Monash University students: Sign up to the Destination Monash Tumblr to get tips on how to study effectively. Current topics include:

- The importance of taking time out – balancing school and life
- A job worth doing? Balancing school and employment
- Brain food- stay healthy this year!
- How to stop comparing yourself to other people
- Coping with a heavy workload

To read the articles, go to [http://bit.ly/1eW1gzL](http://bit.ly/1eW1gzL)

### August Events

- **18, 27:** At Monash Seminar Series, Theatre, Performance & Music (18) and Science (27), [http://bit.ly/1LbfvwR](http://bit.ly/1LbfvwR)

### September Events

- **1, 3, 8, 17:** At Monash Seminar Series, Teaching (1, 3, 8) and Engineering (17), [http://bit.ly/1LbfvwR](http://bit.ly/1LbfvwR)
- **8:** Industrial Design for 2020 and Beyond, Engineering and Design Information Evening, Deakin University, Geelong Waurn Ponds campus, sebe-events@deakin.edu.au
- **9:** Architecture and Built Environment Information Evening, Deakin University, Geelong Waurn Ponds campus, sebe-events@deakin.edu.au
- **14 – 16:** The Swinburne–ConocoPhillips Science Experience, Year 9 and 10 students, Hawthorn Campus, [http://tinyurl.com/kno5vhm](http://tinyurl.com/kno5vhm)