

WHICH CAREER IS RIGHT FOR ME?

JESSICA, GRADUATE, MASTER STYLIST



presented by



What's the Difference Between a Job and a Career?

SE By Student Edge



Max, VET Graduate, Dairy Farmer

Wondering which career is right for you? There's one question you probably need answered first: What even is a career, and how is it different from a job?

It all depends on your perspective.

A 'job' could mean a part-time shift at the supermarket, or, it could mean a full-time office job. Maybe it helps pay the bills, or maybe it's an opportunity to network and learn skills through some hands-on experience. Or, it could mean a 'dream job': something for which you studied and trained, and are now being paid to do, professionally. (Sound like your job? Huge, if true. Congrats!)

So, if a 'job' can mean all those different things, how does 'career' come into it? Well, a 'career' is the long-term professional journey on which you'll embark, usually with a specific end-point or aspiration.

On this journey, you'll make stops at different kinds of jobs along the way. You may begin with casual or part-time jobs (especially while you're studying) that have little to do with your long-term career goals. However, there are still plenty of valuable lessons to take from these opportunities.

Later, you will likely apply for and accept jobs that perhaps aren't exactly what you want to do for the rest of your life, but provide you with the chance to climb the corporate ladder or gain further expertise in your chosen field. You will ideally progress towards your 'dream job', though, this goal may change as you get older and learn more from each workplace and experience. Most importantly, don't be disheartened if you don't land your 'dream job' immediately after leaving school. A 'career' is not something you can define or complete immediately; it could take an entire lifetime to figure out!

However, it's important you spend some time considering which career is right for you, as the pursuit of it will take up most of your working life. It's natural to find yourself in the occasional job you don't enjoy—for a variety of reasons—but you don't want to be stuck pursuing a career that never feels right. Ultimately, your 'dream career' is meant to be rewarding—and not just financially (though that helps too)!

In this guide, you'll learn about the most promising careers of the future and—hopefully—figure out which career is right for you too!



Australian Government

real skills for
real careers

“Dad suggested that I maybe should do an apprenticeship and that's pretty much when my whole life changed.”

Jessica
Wooley

High Voltage
Electrician
VET Graduate



To find the skills you need for
the career you want visit
www.myskills.gov.au

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra

Here Are the Most Promising Careers of the Future

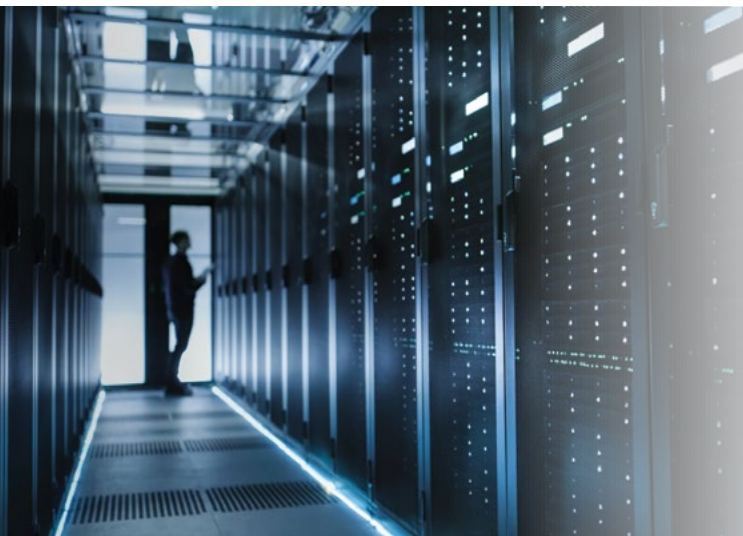
 By Student Edge

Don't be alarmed, but the robot takeover is coming.

Okay, it's probably a little difficult to remain chill after hearing that, but honestly, it's not all bad.

Sure, due to increases in workplace automation (which is the use of automatic equipment in the place of humans), the [Foundation of Young Australians](#) estimates 60 per cent of students are studying or training for jobs that won't even exist in 10 to 15 years, because those pesky robots will have stolen them.

However, this means you are in the exact right position to start getting skilled-up in the most promising, not-robot-dominated jobs of the future, particularly in some of the sectors with a high demand for skilled workers, including veterinarians, electricians, stonemasons and more!



Cyber Security

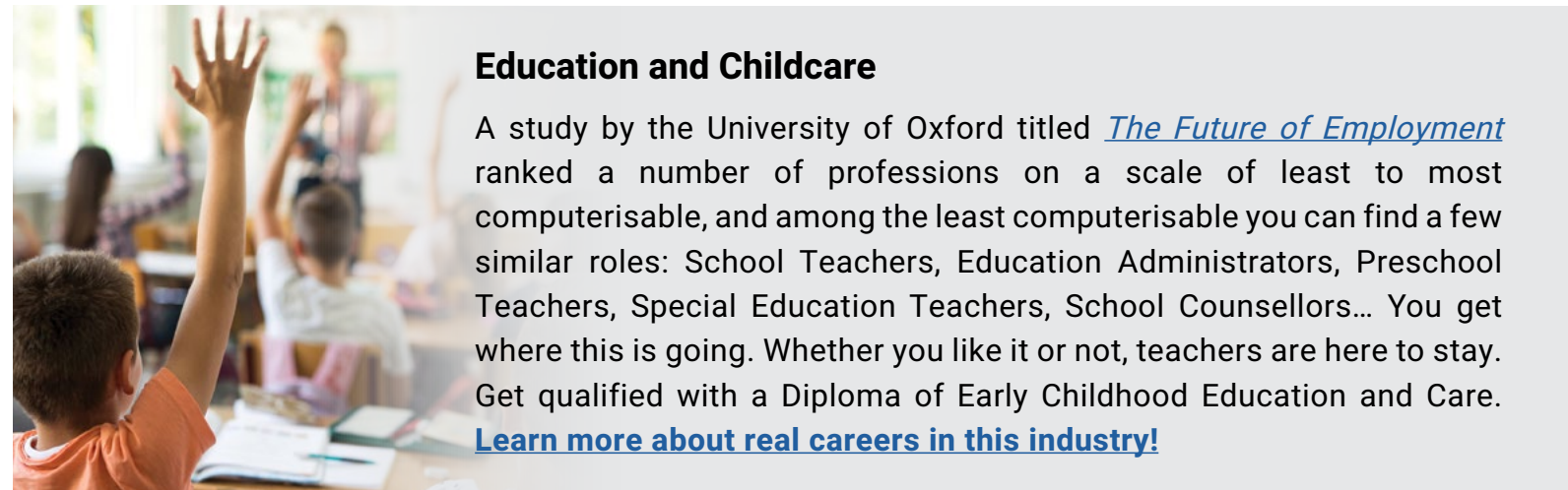
Yep, with all these automated devices, we're gonna need plenty of protection from hackers (and any potential artificial-intelligence uprisings). Studying in the field of technology and cyber security will likely open plenty of career paths in almost every industry. You could start getting qualified with a Diploma of Information Technology or a Diploma of Computer Systems Engineering. [Learn more about real careers in this industry!](#)

Delivery, Logistics, Transport, Warehousing and Storage Services

Trade—both across the nation and globally—will continue to be a major industry for Australia, and someone's gotta make sure the trains run on time (literally) and that all deliveries are safely, smartly and securely transported. Get qualified with a Diploma of Logistics. [Learn more about real careers in this industry!](#)



Patrick, VET Graduate

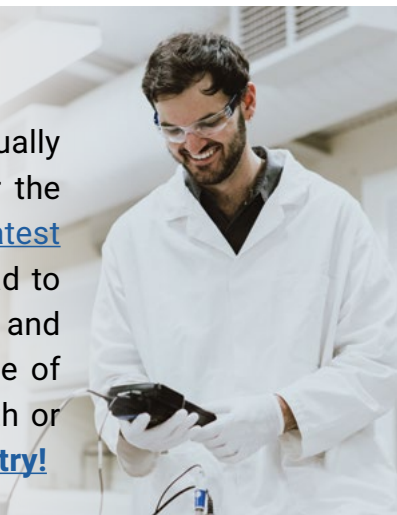


Education and Childcare

A study by the University of Oxford titled [The Future of Employment](#) ranked a number of professions on a scale of least to most computerisable, and among the least computerisable you can find a few similar roles: School Teachers, Education Administrators, Preschool Teachers, Special Education Teachers, School Counsellors... You get where this is going. Whether you like it or not, teachers are here to stay. Get qualified with a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. [Learn more about real careers in this industry!](#)

Social and Healthcare

Australia has an ageing population, which means our median age is rising (usually due to a decline in fertility rates and an increase in life expectancy). Over the last two decades our median age rose from 34 to 38, and according to the [latest census](#) more than 15 per cent of the population is 65 or older. This will lead to a growing demand for caregivers, recreational therapists, registered nurses and other healthcare roles, including social workers and psychologists (because of that invaluable human touch). Get qualified with a Diploma of Mental Health or Diploma of Community Services. [Learn more about real careers in this industry!](#)



Kyle, VET Graduate



Tiffany, VET Graduate, Baker

Hospitality

Australia's somewhat-snobby foodie culture means we don't want to eat robot cuisine for a little while yet. That said, we're facing a [shocking shortage of kitchen and front-of-house staff](#). From chefs to bakers to pastry chefs, the time is ripe to realise your culinary dreams. Get qualified with a Diploma of Hospitality Management or Certificate in Commercial Cookery. [Learn more about real careers in this industry!](#)

Something Creative

The *Future of Employment* report says the occupations of Choreographer, Set Designer, Curator, Floral Designer, Music Composer, Makeup Artist, Writer, Author, Graphic Designer, Hairdresser and Dancer are all highly unlikely to be computerised, which is great news for everyone with a creative streak. Still, we all agree we'd one day like to see a dancing robot with a penchant for hairstyling. Get qualified with a Diploma of Graphic Design, a Certificate in Hairdressing or Barbering, a Diploma of Music, and more!

Learn more about real careers in these industries and many others at myskills.gov.au

Know Yourself: Sixteen Questions to Ask Before Choosing Your ‘Dream Career’

 By Student Edge

Deciding on a ‘dream career’ is a difficult task, but the only way to find the answer is to get all deep and meaningful with yourself.

Be sure to ask the following questions, and use the answers to pick a career that you’re not only suited for, but that you’d get a kick out of. Remember, it’s not always about the final destination. Sometimes it’s best to think of the pathway you’d most enjoy too. You gotta love the journey!

Questions About Myself

What am I good at?

What do I like doing?

How do I like to learn (practically, theoretically or on-the-job)?

What do I value?

What are my life goals?

Am I...

Analytical?

Creative?

Helpful?

Practical?

Physical?

Organised?

What About the Workplace?

What would I like in a colleague?

Would I want to work at home or in an office?

Would I want to work indoors or outdoors?

How many hours a week would I like to work (and when)?

How much of my life do I want to devote to my career?

Laura, VET Graduate

What’s the Best Pathway to My ‘Dream Career’?

 By Student Edge

Phew. Hopefully we’ve made the daunting task of choosing the right career a little bit easier with this guide.

If you’ve settled on a career (impressive!), you’re probably now wondering, “How do I get there?”

Some careers require a specific qualification, from university or from a vocational education and training (VET) Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

If you need to get to university—say, to become a doctor or to study law, or perhaps for another field you want to specifically explore on a uni campus—you’ll have to make sure your grades are on track for the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) necessary for the appropriate degree.

If your grades don’t meet the minimum requirements for your preferred course, you can potentially take a Bridging Course after graduating. These courses can range from a few weeks to a full year, and can offer an alternative route from high school to vocational education and uni.

A VET qualification refers to the different study opportunities that can help you gain real skills for real careers across a range of industries, through undertaking courses at TAFE and RTOs or through an Australian Apprenticeship. VET courses aren’t just for trades and can be tailored to suit individual needs for your chosen career. TAFE and RTOs, for instance, offer Certificate I courses through to Advanced Diplomas, which let you gain practical skills so you’re ready to enter the workforce. An apprenticeship, meanwhile, offers you hands-on experience in your chosen profession while you study.

As a VET graduate, you can explore pathways to your career and options you may not have considered.

For some, the transition to work right after high school will be a permanent one, and that can be another pathway to your ‘dream career’.

If your ‘dream career’ doesn’t require any specific qualifications or training, you can try and get started in the workforce right away. You may start casual, which means flexible, usually minimal hours. There’s also part-time, which is for roles that only require you to work a few hours or days a week, and full-time, which means you’ll be working around 38 hours a week in your role. Some contract positions will limit the length of time you’re employed. There are also Fly-In, Fly-Out work opportunities, usually on mining sites, and shift work, which can mean work for multiple days in a row or at unusual hours.

Whatever you decide, just remember, a satisfying career journey requires perseverance and hard work. However, you are also allowed to change your plans and your goals if the reality of your ‘dream career’ isn’t what you imagined. This may mean going back to university, or retraining at a VET institute, or gaining some paid or unpaid work experience in a totally different profession.

This journey is yours alone to take—even if you’ll have plenty of help along the way—so make it count!

For more information, visit studentedge.org/study

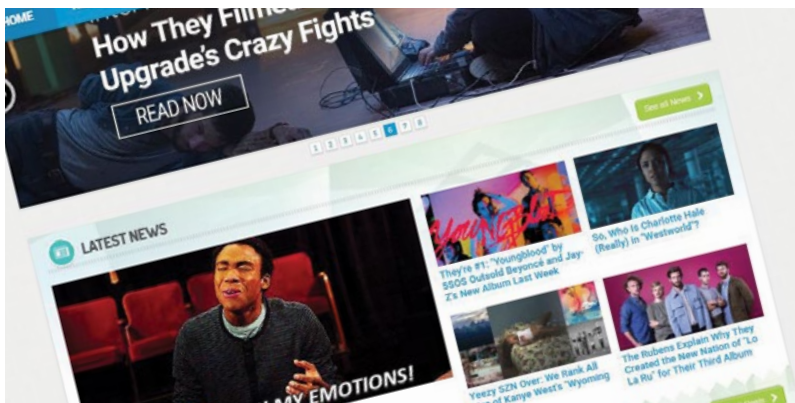
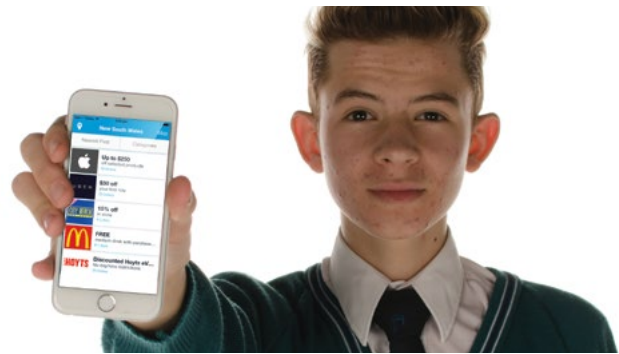
To learn more about VET, visit myskills.gov.au



Student Edge is Australia's largest member-based organisation of high school, VET and university students in Australia.

By allowing students to form and feel part of a larger collective, Student Edge is able to harness the power of the student community to support each other and give Australia's youth an advantage.

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