

## Fun stuff: quiz

# CAREERS

# WHAT NEXT?

**It's almost here—the end of your life as a school student. Wow! What an achievement. Do you have the next phase of your life sorted? Will you study some more, look for a job, or a bit of both? The options for your future are limitless and it's totally up to you where you go from here ...**

Your chances of finding a great job and satisfying career after school depends more and more on the education and training choices you make right now. Choosing what to study is a personal choice, but your decision should be based on what you enjoy, what you're good at and what you want to achieve. Choosing a course based on anything else—such as what other people want you to study, or what you think will earn the most money—is not a good idea. By the time you leave school, you should have an idea of your academic strengths and interests, and building on those strengths should lead you in the right direction.

- 1. How would you prefer to spend your holidays?**
  - a. Working so you can save up your money.
  - b. Volunteering for an animal shelter or other charity.
  - c. Shopping, partying and hanging with friends.
  - d. Writing poetry, song lyrics or learning an instrument.
- 2. How would you describe your personality?**
  - a. Organised and reliable.
  - b. Kind, thoughtful and helpful.
  - c. Popular and glamorous.
  - d. Creative and a little mysterious.
- 3. Your role models are mostly:**
  - a. Business tycoons and young entrepreneurs.
  - b. People who devote their time and energy to those less fortunate than themselves.
  - c. Hot-right-now celebrities.
  - d. Authors, painters, inspirational singers and actors.
- 4. What do you want most out of a job?**
  - a. Money and success.
  - b. To help others and make a difference.
  - c. To become famous or well known.
  - d. To inspire the world.

## results

### MOSTLY A'S

You are organised, great at planning and eager to succeed. Think about a career as an accountant, office manager, personal assistant, investment banker or even consider starting your own business.

### MOSTLY B'S

You are dedicated to helping those less fortunate than you and would work well with a charity or not-for-profit organisation. You'd be a great nurse, doctor, counsellor or vet.

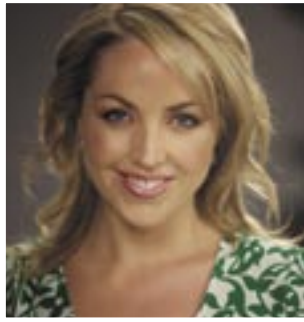
### MOSTLY C'S

You are bubbly, outgoing and get on well with anyone. You would be suited to a job in the hospitality industry—as a waiter, bar manager, or café owner—or in the media as a radio host, entertainment reporter, marketing or publicity manager.

### MOSTLY D'S

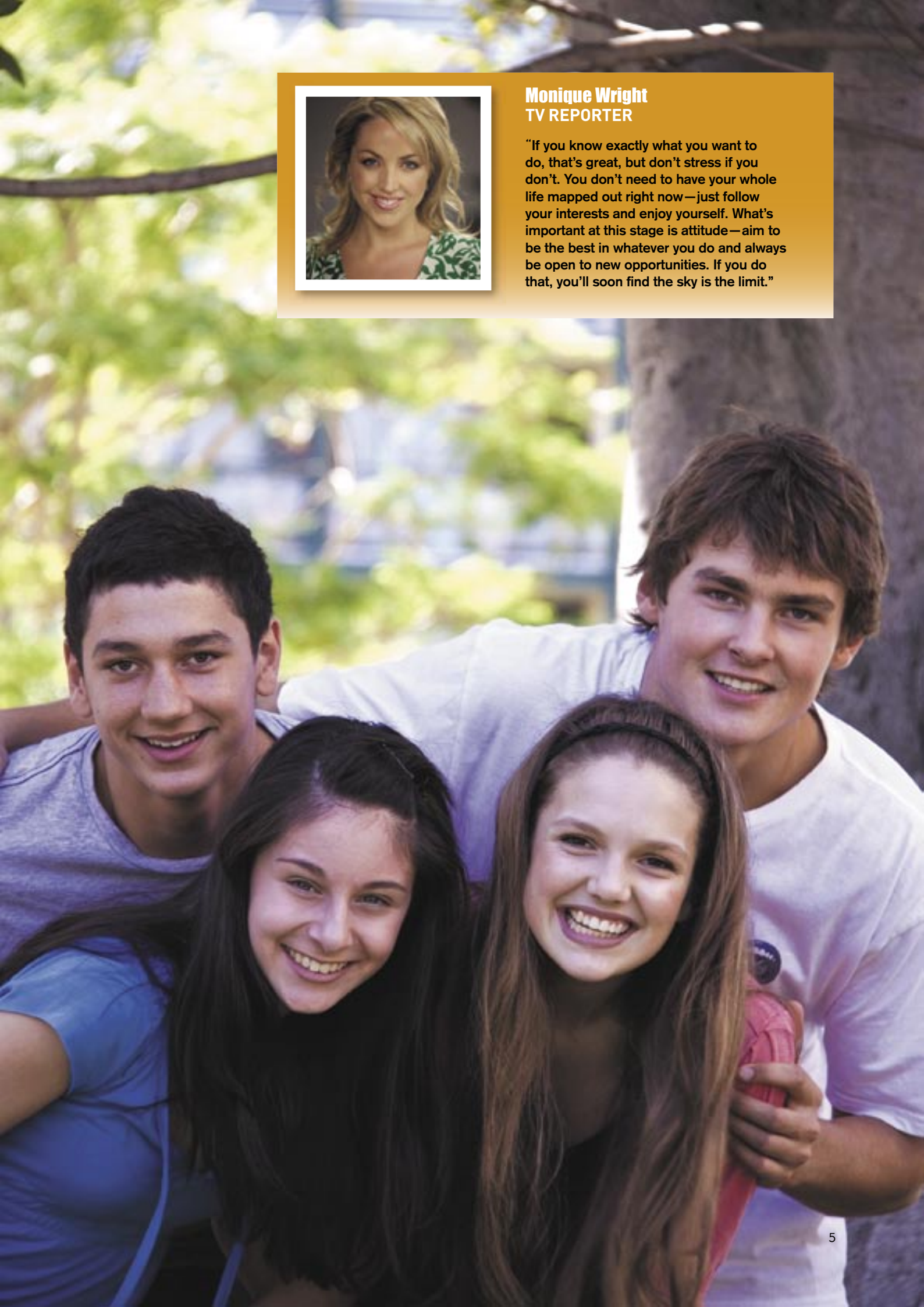
Your creative streak is undeniable and you should pursue your passion. While you're waiting for your record contract to come through, pursue a career as a journalist, gallery assistant or graphic designer.

Take another career quiz at [www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)—just go to the careers section and click on the quiz link.



**Monique Wright**  
TV REPORTER

"If you know exactly what you want to do, that's great, but don't stress if you don't. You don't need to have your whole life mapped out right now—just follow your interests and enjoy yourself. What's important at this stage is attitude—aim to be the best in whatever you do and always be open to new opportunities. If you do that, you'll soon find the sky is the limit."



## UNIVERSITY

For many people, that choice will be university. Uni isn't for everyone, but if you're interested in getting a job in professions like medicine, law, education, engineering, architecture or veterinary science, or if you want to study the traditional academic disciplines of humanities and the classics, university is the place to be.

Universities are a breeding ground for ideas, and courses are usually theory-based, so there's lots of information and ideas to digest in a fairly competitive environment.

If you're handy with computers, try a degree in Information Technology (IT), where you'll find work in software development or computer programming. If you're strong on maths and science but you also enjoy being outdoors, an engineering degree might work for you. Perhaps you want to flex your creative side? Try a creative arts degree if you like the sound of being an emerging visual or performing artist, while a journalism degree will suit those looking for a career in print, online, television or broadcast media.

## TAFE NSW

TAFE NSW offers training that is practical, hands on and provides you with the skills you need for the job you want. This training makes you job ready.

TAFE NSW courses are geared towards employment and are developed by industry professionals. Students learn in a dynamic environment with teachers who have years of practical industry experience. The opportunities for study are endless. Some of the more popular courses offered at TAFE NSW include digital media, horticulture, jewellery manufacturing, business, electronic engineering and computing, as well as those courses supporting the growth of emerging



**COOL COURSES**  
Communications  
ÜMIT HIBBERT

### What are you studying and why?

A Bachelor of Communications at the University of Western Sydney, majoring in public relations. I'm in my first year.

### Why did you choose that?

I feel that a career in public relations is all about people, and that's my passion. My aim is to help give a voice to minority multicultural groups in Western Sydney.

### Why did you want to go down that path?

I grew up overseas with Turkish-speaking gypsies, and focused on performing arts throughout high-school. I'm really passionate about what other cultures have to offer. And I'm keen to use the performing arts to do that.

### How did you afford Uni?

My plan was not to go to university at all. I

wanted to take a gap year and work in the real world. However after three months of working full time I became desperate for the opportunity to keep learning. I got the Vice Chancellors Leadership Scholarship, and I felt I couldn't pass up the opportunity. It puts you in the Aspire Program, so it was perfect for what my idea of my career was.

### What do you do away from your studies?

I have been involved with the Australian Girls Choir, which has given me the chance to further my development in the performing arts, do many different performances and travel around Regional Queensland (and the islands above) doing workshops and performances with regional, remote, Indigenous and Islander communities.



**COOL CAREERS**  
Global studies  
ELIZA PERCIVAL

### What are you studying and where?

I'm doing a Bachelor of Global Studies at the University of Sydney and have just finished my first year.

### Tell us more about your course.

Global Studies is a new degree that requires you to study a language, major in an area of the world (for me it's Europe) and offers you the chance

to study abroad. I chose this course because I am interested in international affairs and global awareness.

**What do you like about uni?** I have met lots of interesting people, been challenged by my studies, learnt to depend on my own resources (for example, make \$5 go a really long way!) and adapt to rapid change.

**Have you done any work experience while at uni?** This field is more about volunteer opportunities rather than work experience. I was involved with a group

called the High Resolves Initiative, which runs courses for high school students to raise awareness on justice, poverty and climate change. I also had the opportunity to be a part of UNICEF last year as a facilitator at the Junior Roundtable which offered youth a voice during APEC.

**What do you want to do when you finish uni?** I'd like to work for a non-government humanitarian organisation like UNICEF, Oxfam or Amnesty International. But at this stage I'm keeping my options open.

technologies like bioinformatics, genomics and nanotechnology. Many arrangements exist between TAFE NSW and Universities, so there is a real pathway for school leavers. One of the best things about TAFE is its range of support services for students, including career counselling, learning assistance, access to resources and tutorial support. Flexibility is another major plus. You can choose to complete your course through either part time or full time study to suit your lifestyle. You can also study by distance education, which allows you to learn through videos, audio and online tutorials, satellite broadcasts and printed lesson notes, with email or networked support from teachers. For more information on how you can TAFE it! in 2010, contact your local TAFE NSW campus, visit [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au) or call the TAFE NSW Information Centre on 131 601.



**COOL COURSES**  
**Certificate III in Commercial Cookery, TAFE NSW Excellence Award winner, Gold Medallist in Cookery at the 2008 National WorldSkills Competition**  
**NENAD DJURIC**

**What are you studying and where?** I've completed the Commercial Cookery Certificate III at Ryde TAFE.

**What does the course cover?** In a nutshell, the course covers all the skills and tools you need to work successfully in a commercial kitchen. It includes basic skills to complex dessert-making and everything in between. In the theory classes, you learn how to cost recipes, how menus come together and about special dietary requirements. You also learn how to deal with customers and colleagues.

**What's the best thing about TAFE?** The support you get from the teachers and staff. All the teachers have worked in the industry and have great practical experience. A lot of the time when you are working in the industry, the boss doesn't have time to train you or answer your questions like they do at TAFE. So you can come to TAFE with your question and the teacher will have the answer.

**What have been some of the challenges?** I guess being selected for the WorldSkills competition was a great opportunity and a challenge. TAFE NSW was really supportive—they provided all my training for the competition and all the equipment I needed and paid for all my training-related expenses. The teachers that trained me have been training competitors for many years, so they knew exactly what I needed—they hammered in the cookery aspects and they knew what the judges were actually looking for, so they were able to guide me in the right direction. Going into the competition was pretty intense and nerve-racking—I don't think anyone can get training in that, it's something you get used to, but being organised and well prepared keeps you relaxed going into the competition, otherwise you'd fall to bits. Winning the gold medal was one of the most exciting things I have done, the realisation that the hard work had paid off was fantastic. I will be competing in the International WorldSkills Competition in Calgary Canada September 2009.



**COOL COURSES**  
**Diploma in Information Technology (Software Development)**  
**Gold Medal, IT programming 2008 National WorldSkills Competition**  
**RICHARD RACHOWSKI**

**What are you studying and where?**

Information Technology Diploma (Software Development) specialising in games design and development.

**What does the course cover?**

The course teaches you all the skills and knowledge you need to design and develop software for interactive games. You learn how to determine overall feasibility, design user interfaces, write and compile code, manage development and test the complete or partially completed games system.

**What's the best thing about TAFE?**

What I like the most about studying at TAFE NSW is the incredibly high quality of work that the students create in their time in the college. Even though we work as hard as we can, we still manage to find time to have fun in our classes. The teaching experience at NSI is the best I have known. From programming to design

theory, the teachers are of the highest quality and are always ready and willing to give students whatever support they need at any point in their study.

**What have been some of the challenges?**

The most difficult aspect of my course is learning to work as a team, working with other people to achieve a goal, especially when creating something as complex as a video game. There is nothing easy about games design or development and a lot of people do not realise this when they apply for the course. They may think that it is just a bunch of people hanging out all day and playing video games—in reality it is hard work from the get go, but the rewards are definitely worth it.

**What do you want to do when you finish TAFE?**

My career goal is to be a lead programmer for a prominent games studio, working on the latest and greatest video game blockbusters.

## APPRENTICESHIP

Many school students go on to some kind of further study. That's because it's very hard to find long-lasting employment if you don't have any formal qualifications. This might be quite alarming—especially if you don't consider yourself suitable for study. But gaining useful skills doesn't just have to be about hitting the books at university.

If the thought of burying yourself in paperwork or being stuck in an office doesn't really appeal, there's a very viable option for you that still means you'll be continuing your education.

An apprenticeship is an opportunity to earn while you learn. You can develop new skills or a trade that will give you an industry-recognised qualification, and earn you money while you're at it. Most apprenticeships will usually take four years to complete, although there are some 12-month traineeships on offer for certain industries or positions. All apprentices are required to attend TAFE to learn more about the trade they are pursuing, but attendance is generally only required one day a week.

There are dozens of apprenticeships on offer, and the trade you end up choosing all depends on what interests you. Things like cabinet-making, furnishing, roof tiling, plastering or painting, decorating, hairdressing, information technology, aircraft engineering, hospitality, sport and recreation, boating, landscaping and many, many more.

Some of those apprenticeships identified on the national skills needs list (which means there are not enough skilled workers in that industry, so jobs are easy to get) are

refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics, sign writers, vehicle body makers, motor mechanics, bakers and aircraft maintenance engineers.

## OTHER OPTIONS

If uni, TAFE or an apprenticeship is not for you, what are your other options? Private education and training institutions offer a wide range of courses, either non-accredited or short courses, and accredited courses. Short courses may whet your appetite for a particular area or give you a better idea of what you're suited to, while accredited courses are a good way to gain qualifications in your area of interest.

Unlike TAFE or uni, most courses at private institutions are generally full-fee paying, but deferred payment initiatives similar to those offered at TAFE and uni are now being introduced. Here is a list of some of the more recognised private education facilities in NSW:

## FASHION

- FBI Fashion College: [www.fbifashioncollege.com.au](http://www.fbifashioncollege.com.au)
- Whitehouse Institute: [www.whitehouse-design.edu.au](http://www.whitehouse-design.edu.au)

## HOSPITALITY

- School of Tourism and Hotel Management: [www.asthm.com.au](http://www.asthm.com.au)

## FILM AND TV

- Film, Television and Radio School: [www.afters.edu.au](http://www.afters.edu.au)
- National Institute of Dramatic Art: [www.nida.edu.au](http://www.nida.edu.au)



**COOL CAREERS**  
Electrician  
DEAN SPARKE

**What are you studying?** I'm in my second year of an electrotechnology apprenticeship and working towards becoming a systems electrician.

**What's the best thing about doing an apprenticeship?** You get loads of hands-on experience, while learning both the practical and theoretical sides of your career. It's also great to be able to finish

work in the afternoon and not have to race home and study for hours on end and compile assignments.

**What are some drawbacks?**

The main one would be the money side, but there are government incentives for young apprentices that can help with TAFE fees, tools and wage top-ups.

**Tell us more about the apprenticeship you are doing ...**

The company I work with is involved with high-end home automation. I am helping to plan, install and program things like multiple-room audio systems, home cinemas and

elaborate security networks with fingerprint scanners and surveillance systems.

**Do you go to TAFE?** I have classes one day a week for the first three years of the apprenticeship. TAFE is great because you learn the background theory behind the work you do on-site. It's important to know why certain things go wrong, what they do and how to fix any problems that occur. TAFE is actually really interesting once you're working in the field because everything you learn is relevant for the trade you are doing.

**Why did you choose to do this apprenticeship?** I chose the electrical trade because I had done previous work experience with an electrician and loved every minute of it. I found it interesting and challenging and wanted to learn more. I've always been involved in doing hands-on work and couldn't see myself sitting in an office all my life.

## MUSIC

□ Australian Institute of Music: [www.aim.edu.au](http://www.aim.edu.au)

□ Conservatorium of Music: [www.aicm.edu.au](http://www.aicm.edu.au)

## JOURNALISM

□ Macleay College: [www.macleay.edu.au](http://www.macleay.edu.au)

□ The Sydney Writers' Centre: [www.sydneywriterscentre.com.au](http://www.sydneywriterscentre.com.au)

□ Australian Centre for Independent Journalism: [www.acij.uts.edu.au](http://www.acij.uts.edu.au)

## Study when it suits you!

**N**ow that you're nearly at the end of your school life, you'll be starting to think about what's next. This is a huge step, and at this point, you may be feeling unsure about what to do next.

You could already be busy pursuing your dreams, maybe in sport or music. Alternatively, you might be thinking about taking a gap year and perhaps getting involved in volunteer work or travelling overseas.

Whatever your plans, you can fit study into your busy lifestyle. How?

OTEN, the Open Training and Education Network, delivers courses by distance. This means you can fit studying into your busy lifestyle and study when it suits you, wherever you are. OTEN offers courses designed to help you achieve your academic goals or improve your prospects of finding the right job. With over 200 courses to choose from, you'll be certain to find something that will interest you. The range of courses includes hospitality, tourism, accounting, agriculture, property, childcare and information technology.

Your study materials are provided to you in a variety of ways including online, CD, print and DVD. If you need any help with your studies, then all you have to do is phone your teacher or send an email to your teaching section. OTEN also accepts enrolments during most of the year.

For more information about studying with OTEN, visit [www.oten.edu.au](http://www.oten.edu.au), or call 1300 362 346 or (02) 9715 8333, 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.



### COOL COURSES Certificate III in Property (Real Estate)

BRITTANY BURGE

#### What did you study and where?

Certificate III in Property (Real Estate) through distance education at OTEN, the Open Training and Education Network.

#### Why did you choose Property?

Mid-way through my high school life, I had become very interested in real estate. At that stage my chosen career was merely a dream, and at the time seemed a long way out of my reach. After completing some practical work at a real estate office in Tamworth in 2006, I later realised this was exactly where I wanted to be after year 12. I was thrilled when I found out I could study real estate as part of my HSC.

#### What did you cover in this course?

My course covered everything from property regulation, licensing and legislation, to dealing with people and communicating with the public, property computing and office equipment. It gave a basic understanding of all aspects of real estate, ideal for a young person taking the first step out of high school.

#### Why did you choose OTEN?

OTEN gave me an opportunity to study what I was most interested in while I was still at school, in my own environment and time.

#### What's the best thing about studying by distance?

For me the key benefit of studying by distance was not having to travel to a TAFE campus (which is 60km from where I live).

#### What kind of support did OTEN offer you?

I always felt welcome to contact my teacher with any queries. I would usually do this via email, but always had the option to phone as well if needed. The On-line Support site was also very handy to find details about modules, my progress and student information.

#### What have you been doing since you left school?

I am currently employed in real estate as a property officer at V J Flett Pty Ltd, in my hometown, Manilla. I thoroughly enjoy my work and am putting my property course into action.

#### What advice would you give to HSC students thinking about studying by distance education?

Be sure that you choose a subject that you are interested in and stick with it. The HSC years fly by, so make sure you look beyond the HSC exams and prepare yourself for the future. Distance education is a great way to fast track you straight into a career.