

# CAREER NEWS



**By Raghda Gabr**

**No 1 - February 2017**

Welcome to a wonderful year of education and pathway planning at Al-Taqwa College.

We have a busy year filled with excursions, incursions, workshops and presentations for all the year levels, specifically our Year 12 students who will be deciding on their pathway planning, researching courses and Careers Action Plans with an introduction to some key websites to begin their research. Good luck to all our students as they embark on an exciting year of quality teaching and learning. I plan to continue a monthly Newsletter that will keep you in touch with career events, expos, courses, Open Days and so on. Attending career events will assist students to make wise career decisions. Students who do research, attend events, collect information, and talk to others about careers frequently find it easier to make their own decisions.

## **1. WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES UPON LEAVING SCHOOL?**

One option is university study. Research shows that those who have a university degree are (on average) less likely to be unemployed and are likely to earn more during their lifetimes than those who do not. Others will want to complete a vocational course (VET) like hospitality, childcare or graphic design. Another significant group will complete an apprenticeship or traineeship in areas such as plumbing, carpentry, mechanics, refrigeration or office administration. Those entering employment with no study plans need to understand that their career options and earning capacity are likely to be limited in the long term. Qualifications are VITAL. Thinking of University?

There are nine in Victoria:

- Australian Catholic University (ACU) has campuses in Fitzroy and Ballarat. It is a small but growing national university, publicly funded, open to those of any or no faith.
- Deakin University's largest campus is in Burwood, but it also has campuses in Geelong and Warrnambool. It is a large university offering a very broad range of degrees.
- Federation University has campuses in Ballarat and in Gippsland. It is a fairly small university serving two rural communities.
- La Trobe University's main campus is in Bundoora, but it also has campuses in Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo, Mildura and Shepparton. It is a large university.
- Monash University is very large; its main campus is in Clayton, but it also has campuses in Berwick, Caulfield, and Frankston (Peninsula Campus) (also in Malaysia and Prato in Italy).
- RMIT is a large dual-sector institution (a VET provider as well) in the City, with other campuses in Brunswick and Bundoora.
- Swinburne is a dual-sector institution with a university campus in Hawthorn, and VET campuses in the city, Croydon, Hawthorn and Wantirna.
- The University of Melbourne is the oldest University, its main campus being in Parkville. It also has specialised campuses in Burnley, Creswick, Dookie, Shepparton, Southbank and Werribee.
- Victoria University's main campus is in Footscray, but it also has campuses in the city, Melton, St Albans, Sunshine and Werribee. VU is a provider of higher education and VET courses. NOTE: Charles Sturt University is sometimes listed with Victorian Universities. It is a NSW university with a campus on the Victoria/NSW border (Albury-Wodonga). There are many providers of vocational education (VET) such as Bendigo, Box Hill Institute, Gordon, Holmesglen, Kangan, Melbourne Polytechnic, RMIT, Swinburne, VU.

At Al Taqwa College this year we are offering VET Year 1 Business as well as Sport & Recreation. With so many institutions available it is important that you do some research during senior years at school. This includes attending Open Days, Career Expos, school holiday programs and so on.

## **2. FOCUS ON SOME HEALTH DEGREES**

**MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY** - It is possible to study medicine/surgery at Deakin (Geelong), Monash (Clayton & Gippsland), and Melbourne universities. Many interstate universities offer medicine as well, and it is possible to study it in New Zealand (eg University of Otago in Dunedin) and have the qualification recognised in Australia. NOTE: Be aware that medical qualifications from many overseas universities are not recognised in Australia and further study in Australia is required.

The ONLY university in Victoria offering an undergraduate medical degree is Monash. Acceptance into this course is based on a combination of ATAR, UMAT result and a multi-mini interview. UMAT is short for the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test. This year the test will be held on Wednesday 26 July.

**Registrations are open now and close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 2 June, 2017. See: <http://umat.acer.edu.au>.**

The UMAT is a multiple choice assessment; it is possible to purchase practice tests at this website, and you are strongly advised to do so as the UMAT is very demanding and practice is vital. The only Victorian undergraduate degree which requires completion of the UMAT is Medicine at Monash.

La Trobe University requires it for Dentistry, but only for non-Year 12 applicants. Some interstate universities require it as part of the application process for medicine, dentistry and some other medical-related courses so you are wise to check this. Because of the competition for places, it is common for students keen to study medical courses to apply to interstate universities as well as Victoria.

Monash also offers a post-graduate degree in medicine, as do Deakin and Melbourne universities. Monash has very specific requirements for entry to this degree, including that from 2017, the undergraduate degree MUST be a Monash degree (preferably the B. Biomedical Science, or alternatively the B. Pharmacy or the B. Physiotherapy, or in a small number of cases the B. Science). Most applicants for the Melbourne degree would complete either the B. Biomedicine or the B. Science at Melbourne first.

Deakin does not specify the undergraduate degree. NOTE: Many postgraduate medical degrees require applicants to sit for a test known as the GAMSAT.

**See: <http://gamsat.acer.edu.au>**

Dentistry is only offered in Victoria as an undergraduate degree at La Trobe University (Bendigo) and as a postgraduate degree at Melbourne University. It is important for anyone thinking of studying medicine or dentistry to research and start preparing; the competition for university places is very considerable. Some universities offer information sessions about their courses (eg 'At Monash' Seminar Series and Focus On Melbourne – details later). Remember, of course, many students considering medicine or dentistry are well suited to several other occupations, not necessarily in the medical field, so explore these as well.

**BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES AT MONASH** – To whom is this degree suited? Are you passionate about health and keen to contribute to addressing real health challenges? This is a 'parent' course under which there are four possible specialisations. Students enrol in the course relevant to their specialisation: B. Emergency Health, B. Human Services (can lead to Masters in Social Work), B. Public Health Science and B. Radiation Science. Studies commence at the Caulfield campus where students from all specialisations apply scientific approaches to the study and improvement of health, considering physiological, behavioural, developmental, social and environmental aspects of human health and disease. After the first three semesters, you will develop an in-depth knowledge of the theory and practice of your specialisation. Prerequisites – Units 3/4 English and any Maths.

**WHAT IS PHYIOTHERAPY?** Physiotherapists assess, treat and prevent disorders in human movement caused by injury or disease and work in private practice, rehabilitation centres hospitals, health department, mental health, school systems and with sporting organisations. Most aspiring physiotherapists want to work as sport physiotherapists, however, you need to understand that many, in fact, work with elderly patients. Physiotherapy is taught at Monash, La Trobe, Charles Sturt and Melbourne Universities. ACU is introducing the course at the Ballarat campus in 2017. The ATAR required for all courses is very high, and admission to the Monash degree also requires an interview. The Melbourne degree is post-graduate. A science background and interest is required for successful completion of the course.

**WHAT IS MYOTHERAPY?** This is a remedial massage course which assists in rehabilitation, pain and injury management. The Advanced Diploma takes two to three years to complete. Some students who are interested in physiotherapy but who are not able to obtain the required ATAR find myotherapy a satisfying alternative. It is offered at a number of institutions such as Box Hill, Chisholm, Holmesglen, Melbourne Polytechnic, RMIT and Victoria University.

**WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?** Do you want to engage people to participate in activities to their full potential? Occupational Therapy involves working with individuals, groups and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do. It is taught at ACU, Charles Sturt, La Trobe, Deakin (Geelong), and Monash universities.

**WHAT IS PROSTHETICS?** Learn about artificial limbs (prostheses) for people with amputations and supporting devices (orthoses) for people with musculoskeletal weaknesses. In Victoria this degree course is taught only at La Trobe University.

**YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE: 25 SEPTEMBER TO 9 OCTOBER.** Students are reminded to secure a Work Experience place early to avoid missing out on quality places. See Ms R. Gabr in the Careers office for forms.