Uni and you
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Uni and you

As a Year 10 student, you are probably beginning to think about your future after high school. Some of you might have a clear idea of where you want to go and what you want to do. Some of you might have more questions than answers! This booklet is here to talk to you about uni as an option.

Why go to uni?

You will earn more
People who go to uni earn more money. Their first year salaries are usually higher than those just leaving high school, and they increase more over time.

You will have a better choice of careers
Going to uni allows you to access a bigger and better range of jobs. There are lots of professions that require a degree, including: teaching, medicine, engineering, law and others. There are other professions where a degree is strongly recommended for better job opportunities and better pay, including: IT, business, publishing, design and others.

You can study what you love!
If you have an interest or a passion, uni can help you to study this and to eventually get paid to do what you love!
Who goes to uni?

Some people may think that only a certain ‘type’ of person ends up going to uni. However, these days it is very difficult to say that there is a ‘type’ at all, as a very wide range of people attend uni. This includes students of all ages who are poor, rich, female, male, and from all kinds of cultural backgrounds.

The attributes listed below better describe a typical uni student:
- a career goal
- an interest in a particular field
- an ability in their chosen area
- the willingness to work hard to get into uni and to succeed when they get there

Some people complete a ‘university pathway’ program at or after high school, and then decide to go to uni. The traditional way of getting into uni usually depends on the marks you get in Year 12, however university pathways programs help students get into uni in a range of ways that do not necessarily depend only on their final marks.

A few examples include:
- **Direct university entry programs**
  These can allow entry by taking into account other achievements, such as community service
- **Bonus points schemes**
  These usually allow students to study a uni subject at high school and then get direct entry to the uni if they do well enough. The subject is credited towards the degree
- **Enrolling in a foundational studies, bridging or enabling course**
  These are usually preparatory courses run by TAFEs or uni’s that allow students who do well enough in them to apply for entry to a uni degree course afterwards
- **Equity Scholarships**
  These offer financial support, or entry to uni, to students with lower Year 12 marks who have experienced some kind of educational disadvantage
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander alternative entry programs**
  These can offer special entry to those applying to uni who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Many uni students didn’t just finish high school last year...

Many people today come to uni through a variety of different ways. Around 50% of students start uni soon after high school and are around the same age, meaning that the rest go to uni later on in life.

Some people go straight into work after Year 12 and go to uni later. Some of the benefits of this are:
- You can make some money to support yourself better while at uni
- You can take more time to find out what your passions and interests are
- You can have a rest after the stress of Year 12
What is uni like?

You have more control over what you study
At uni you can choose a course that you like and that is better suited to your skills. Also, once enrolled in your course, although there will always be some subjects that are compulsory, there will also be many that you can choose between.

You get treated like an adult
One of the biggest differences between high school and uni is that you get treated like an adult. Although this means that you are now responsible for things like getting your work in on time, attending class and managing your timetable, it also means that you get more decision-making power over what you do at uni and get more respect from your teachers.

You can have lots of fun!
Uni is not just about work. There are heaps of other stuff going on too! There are clubs to join and activities to join in on, gigs to go to and lots of new people to meet.

FEES
If you are accepted into the course you have chosen, most places are partially paid for by the government, making them much cheaper. These are called Commonwealth Supported Places.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PAY YOUR FEES AFTER UNI?
Something many people don’t realise is that you don’t have to pay your uni fees until later on! The government will give you a no-interest loan. Plus, you have to earn around $47,000 per year (quite a good wage!) before the government takes it out of your tax bill.

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT
There are also heaps of other ways to get financial support, ranging from government payments such as Youth Allowance / Austudy / ABSTUDY, to student loans, scholarships and part-time work.

ARE YOU DISADVANTAGED? THERE ARE OPTIONS TO HELP YOU GET TO UNI!
Uni’s also offer many options today for students who experience some form of ‘educational disadvantage’. This may include those:

- Who come from rural or regional areas
- From financially disadvantaged families
- With an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
- With a disability
- Who may have had their education interrupted by such things as having to care for a family member

Some of the options include:

- Scholarships
- Extra financial support from the government and from uni’s for things like rent, course-related expenses, moving costs and everyday living expenses
- Pathways programs, including bridging/enabling courses, and certificates or diplomas run by TAFEs or uni’s
- Equity bonus points programs: some uni’s offer bonus points to disadvantaged students so they can get into a course with lower marks
Practical tips for Year 10s on how to get to uni

What are your strengths and passions?
Start thinking now about what your passions are and what you have a talent for. If you choose a path of study that interests you, you are much more likely to stick with it and do well.

Check out what kinds of courses are offered at uni
Look on uni websites or read course guides put out by tertiary admissions centres (ask your teacher or school’s careers adviser for more information about these). Find out now which subjects you will need to study in Years 11 and 12 to get into the courses that interest you.

Go to uni open days
These are run by all uni’s and give you an opportunity to find out more about courses, what uni-life is like, and to meet teachers. Speak to your parents about these, and get them to come along with you.

Talk to people
Find out what uni was like for people who have been there. If there is no one among your friends and family who has gone to uni, ask a teacher or your school’s careers adviser.

Do a work experience placement or some volunteer work
A work experience or volunteer position can give you a better idea about the reality of a certain job. These can also introduce you to lots of interesting people who you can get ideas and advice from.

Do you think you may qualify as ‘educationally disadvantaged’?
Do some research about the options open to you to help you to go to uni if you think you may qualify as ‘educationally disadvantaged’ in relation to other students. If you need help with this get an adult, teacher or your school’s careers adviser to help you.

Not sure what you want to do yet?
Make sure you keep your options open by doing subjects that will allow you to get into as many courses as possible. This means that it will be easier if you decide to change your path of study later on.

REMEMBER...
It’s not a big deal to take some time off and work after Year 12 and go to uni later on - in fact, some people think it’s a really good idea!

Ways to get more information:
• Ask your teachers or school’s careers advisor for assistance and advice
• School libraries will have your state’s tertiary admission guides, which have information on such things as courses, uni open days and scholarships
• Talk with adults about what they did after high school and ask for advice
• Go online- look at uni, TAFE and tertiary admissions websites