

GOLD COAST CAREERS FESTIVAL

20-21 MAY 2026 | EVENT GUIDE



THE LARGEST CAREERS EVENT ON THE GOLD COAST

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GOLDCOAST.

PARTNERS



Southern
Cross
University



BOND
UNIVERSITY



GRIFFITH
UNIVERSITY

ADF >>>
CAREERS



CONTENTS

- 1 Plan Your Visit
- 2 Festival Directory
- 4 Festival Map
- 6 Event Schedule
- 10 Student Stories
 - 11 Southern Cross University
 - 13 Bond University
 - 15 Griffith University
 - 17 TAFE Queensland
- 24 Competition
 - The Future Starts with You Challenge

WELCOME

Welcome to the Gold Coast Careers Festival - an event designed to connect people with the endless opportunities that exist here on the Gold Coast.

Our city is one of Australia's most dynamic and fast-growing regions, with industries evolving and new career pathways emerging every year. This festival brings together employers, educators and industry experts to help you explore what those opportunities could look like for you.

Whether you're choosing subjects for the future, exploring study options, searching for your first job or planning your next career move, this festival offers the chance to discover real pathways. Through hands-on experiences, interactive workshops, industry insights and direct conversations with employers, you'll gain practical advice and connections that can help bridge your interests into opportunities.

Whether you are just starting out, looking to upskill or considering a career change, there are opportunities here for every stage of your journey.

We encourage you to make the most of your time at the festival – get curious about your future, ask questions, connect with industry, and explore the many pathways available.

Come curious. Leave inspired.
Your future starts here.



JOHN WARN

Chief Executive Officer
Experience Gold Coast

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Experience Gold Coast acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are situated, the Kombumerri families of the Yugambah Language Region.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their continuing connections to the lands, waters and their extended communities throughout Southeast Queensland.

WITH THANKS TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Start here!



CAREERS ZONE

Not sure of your options or ready for a change? Get expert career guidance with interactive tools, and hands-on experiences like virtual reality to help you explore your next step.



CONNECT WITH EXHIBITORS

Chat with exhibitors across health, arts, technology, trades, hospitality, government, aviation, global travel and more. Check the map on page 4, get curious, and start exploring.



THE STAGE PROGRAM

Head to the Speakers Stage and Skills Deck for a packed lineup of live music, demos, performances, and career talks on pathways, skills, and the future of work. Full program on pages 6–8.



SUNSET SESSION - WEDNESDAY FROM 4PM

Join us after work or study for our Sunset Speakers Series, featuring leading career experts and industry voices from across the Gold Coast. Hear practical advice on job search strategies, interview success, making a career change, and explore emerging opportunities on the Gold Coast, including the fast-growing health tech sector. Full program on page 7.

Win prizes

Take part in The Future Starts with You Challenge - meet exhibitors, collect stamps, and go in the draw to win epic prizes including \$500 gift cards and deluxe ping pong tables. To enter, check out page 24.



FESTIVAL DIRECTORY

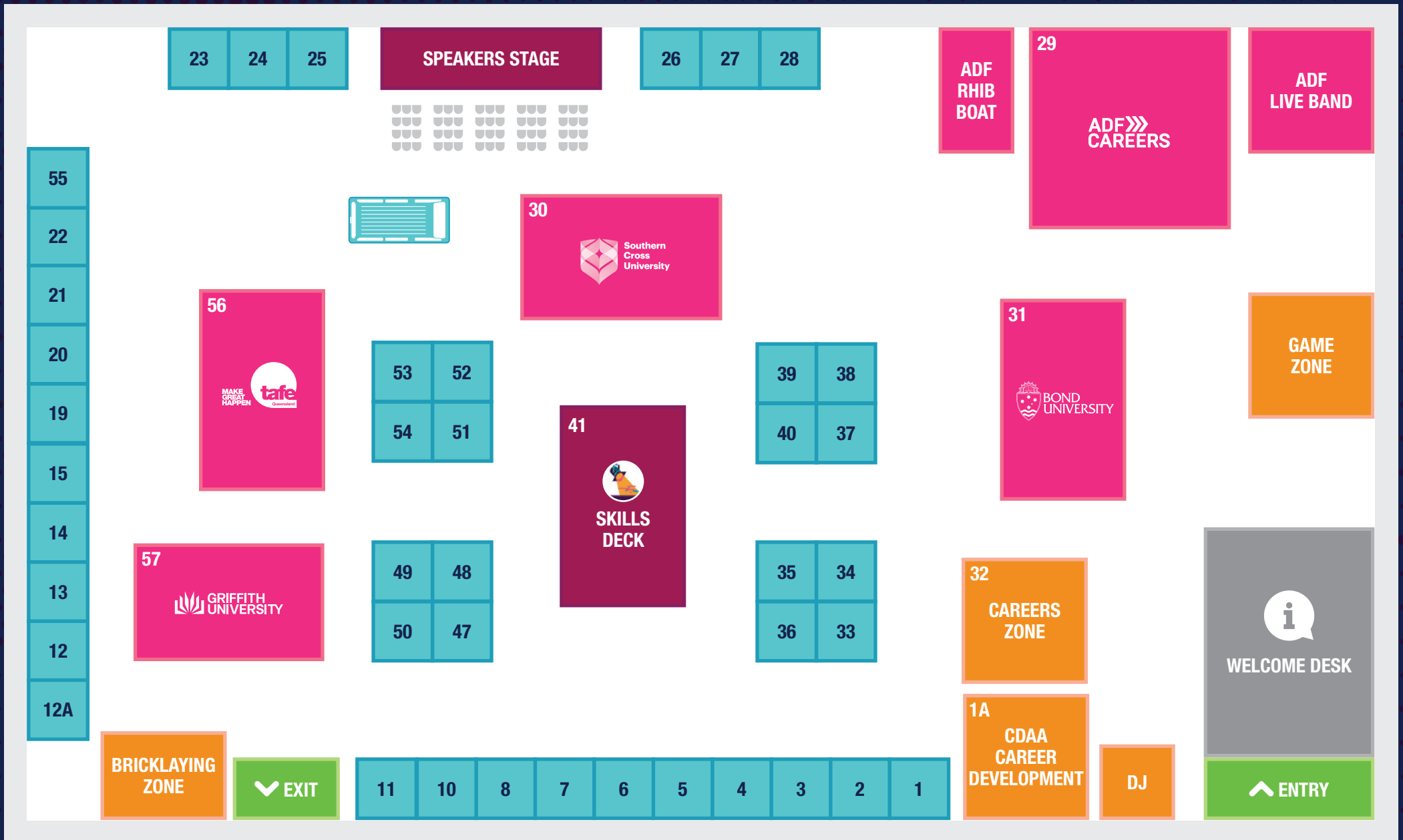
EXHIBITOR	BOOTH
AI PHOTOBOOTH - FREE!	15
AIR GOLD COAST	26
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE CAREERS	29
BOATING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION	34
BOATING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION DISPLAY	35 - 36
BOND UNIVERSITY	31
BRICK & BLOCK CAREERS	BRICKLAYING ZONE
BUNAC SUMMER CAMP USA / JENZA WORKING HOLIDAY	37
BUSY AT WORK	50
CAREERS ZONE	32
CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA (CDA)	1A
CITY OF GOLD COAST	2 - 3
CITY VENUE MANAGEMENT	4
COLAS AUSTRALIA	23
DEMI INTERNATIONAL	10 - 11
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	14
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, SENIORS, DISABILITY SERVICES & CHILD SAFETY	54
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES, MANUFACTURING AND REGIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	25
DJ ZONE	ENTRANCE
EMIRATES	27
FRIZELLE SUNSHINE AUTOMOTIVE	55
FUNLAB	22
GeSS EDUCATION - CAREERS TRAINING & UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS	49
GOLD COAST HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICE	51

EXHIBITOR	BOOTH
GRIFFITH COLLEGE	13
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY	57
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY VILLAGE	12
HOTA - HOME OF THE ARTS	33
HUXLEY SCHOOL OF MAKEUP	12A
INSCOPE TRAINING	7
IProgress ACADEMY	20
KEOLIS GOLD COAST	24
MEDENTRY UCAT PREP	53
MEGT AUSTRALIA	47
MERITON SUITES	5
MUSIC INDUSTRY COLLEGE	21
ODOO	19
PACIFIC AIRSHOW GOLD COAST	1
QTAC (QUEENSLAND TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE)	48
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE	52
QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE	6
SKILLS DECK	41 - 46
SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY	30
STUDENTS OF THE WORLD	40
SURF LIFE SAVING QUEENSLAND	38 - 39
SYDNEY FLIGHT COLLEGE	28
TAFE QUEENSLAND	56
THE HOTEL SCHOOL AUSTRALIA	8

FESTIVAL MAP



Toilets and First Aid are located outside the event hall.



EVENT SCHEDULE








SKILLS DECK



SUNSET SPEAKER PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTED BY
9:00am - 7pm	DJ VICES - PLAYING FRESH TRACKS ALL DAY!	Experience Gold Coast
9:30am	AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND BRISBANE	Australian Defence Force Brisbane
9:50am	BOND UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION, EXERCISE SCIENCE – SKILLS DECK 	Bond University
10:15am	CAREERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE	Australian Defence Force Careers
10:45am	PATHWAYS INTO COMPETITIVE COURSES	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
11:10am	TAFE QUEENSLAND DEMONSTRATION - SKILLS DECK 	TAFE Queensland
11:35am	HOW AI IS SHAPING THE WORLD OF WORK	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
12:00pm	SCIENCE ON THE GO! - SKILLS DECK 	Griffith University
12:25pm	SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN CAREERS	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
12:50pm	AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND BRISBANE	Australian Defence Force Brisbane
1:15pm	SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION - SKILLS DECK 	Southern Cross University
1:40pm	FROM STUDY TO CAREER - WHAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR?!	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
2:05pm	AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND BRISBANE	Australian Defence Force Brisbane
2:30pm	BARREL DRAW - WIN A DELUXE PING PONG TABLE FOR YOUR SCHOOL & \$500 PACIFIC FAIR GIFT CARD - FOR YOU!	Experience Gold Coast
4pm-7pm	SUNSET SPEAKER SERIES - FULL PROGRAM ON PAGE 7 	Experience Gold Coast

WEDNESDAY SUNSET SPEAKER SERIES

4:00PM



Peter McGuinness
Invest Gold Coast

TOPIC The Economic Outlook For The Gold Coast

4:30PM



Natalie Moloney
At The Helm
Career Services

TOPIC Job Search Strategies

5:00PM



Kathy Kruger
Gold Coast Health &
Knowledge Precinct

TOPIC What Is The GCHKP & How To Get Involved

5:30PM



Panel Discussion,
Moderated by
Dr. Samantha Kilmartin
Experience Gold Coast

TOPIC Executive & Further Education/Post Graduate Courses & Research - Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland

6:00PM



Dr. Jennifer Luke
Clear Outlook

TOPIC Translating Experience Into Career Opportunity At Any Age!

6:30PM



Broden Johnson
Southport Chamber of
Commerce

TOPIC A Story Of Success Through Reinvntion, Opportunity Awareness And Grit

EVENT SCHEDULE



SKILLS DECK



SUNSET SPEAKER PROGRAM

THURSDAY 21 MAY

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTED BY
9:00am - 4pm	DJ VICES - PLAYING FRESH TRACKS ALL DAY!	Experience Gold Coast
9:15am	AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND BRISBANE	Australian Defence Force Brisbane
9:45am	SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION - SKILLS DECK 	Southern Cross University
10:10am	CAREERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE	Australian Defence Force Careers
10:35am	PATHWAYS INTO COMPETITIVE COURSES	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
11:00am	BOND UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION, EXERCISE SCIENCE – SKILLS DECK 	Bond University
11:25am	HOW AI IS SHAPING THE WORLD	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
11:50am	TAFE QUEENSLAND DEMONSTRATION - SKILLS DECK 	TAFE Queensland
12:15pm	SUSTAINABILITY & GREEN CAREERS	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
12:45pm	AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND BRISBANE	Australian Defence Force Brisbane
1:15pm	FROM STUDY TO CAREER - WHAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR	Panellists from Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University and TAFE Queensland
1:50pm	PACIFIC AIRSHOW GOLD COAST - SKILLS DECK 	Pacific Airshow Gold Coast
2:20pm	AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND BRISBANE	Australian Defence Force Brisbane
2:40pm	BARREL DRAW - WIN A DELUXE PING PONG TABLE FOR YOUR SCHOOL & \$500 PACIFIC FAIR GIFT CARD - FOR YOU!	Experience Gold Coast



GOLD COAST STUDENT HUB

The ultimate social and study space for all Gold Coast Students, boasting monthly events, modern workstations, free Wi-Fi and unlimited tea and coffee.

Plus, FREE support with:

- Accommodation
- Career opportunities
- Referrals to legal and community organisations
- Wellbeing services
- Assistance navigating the real estate rental process

Gold Coast Student Hub



43 NERANG ST, SOUTHPORT QLD 4215

info@goldcoaststudenthub.com



MUSIC INDUSTRY COLLEGE

Music Industry College delivers an innovative educational program that empowers young people to succeed in the music industry and in life. MIC offers a QCE course in a music industry context. Students will operate the Starving Kids record label, gain hands on experience in audio engineering, band management, event management, live performance and marketing & promotion.

We have an Open Day on Saturday 20th June 2026 from 10am to 12 noon.

Our campus is located at 38 Berwick Street, Fortitude Valley.

Please contact us on info@mic.org.au if you have any enrolment enquiries.





**Southern Cross
University**

Turn skills into jobs

More than
90% of graduates find
employment within four
months of graduation.

Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023



Transforming > Tomorrow

CRICOS Provider: 01241G | TEQSA Provider Code: PRV12043 Australian University

When Bachelor of Nursing graduate Amy Knott looks back on her time at Southern Cross, she's amazed by how much she experienced — two campuses, seven placements, a student ambassador role and a student snow trip — all leading to a place in a graduate nursing program.

"I've always loved the clinical side of nursing, especially IVs and medications, but I also enjoy caring for people. Nursing gives me the perfect mix of hands-on skills and meaningful connections."

For Amy, Southern Cross University's strong focus on practical learning made all the difference. "I did seven placements and got such a variety across medical wards, community care, mental health and even primary health inside a correctional facility."

This broad experience helped her gain confidence quickly. "I learnt so much about different areas of nursing. The real-world placement experience gave me confidence once I stepped into the workplace."

Amy couldn't be happier with her choice. "Nursing at Southern Cross was the best decision I made. It's opening doors and given me a career I love."

Ranked in the 151–225 globally for nursing in the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2026, Southern Cross University is producing graduates like Amy ready to make an impact in healthcare.

AMY KNOTT

Bachelor
of Nursing



SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY



When Vicky Santalla moved from Argentina to Australia six years ago, she never imagined she would one day complete a Master of Teaching at Southern Cross University.

What began as an au pair job in Brisbane soon grew into a genuine passion for early childhood education.

Vicky says the Southern Cross term model made a huge difference. "The six-week terms made managing my workload so much easier. Information stays fresh, assessments are clear and the two-week break helps you reset. You don't get that at other universities."

Her placements, organised entirely by the University, gave her confidence and practical skills.

"Applying what I learned in the centre made everything click. I gained so many new skills."

Now working in a kindy room, Vicky feels excited for what's ahead.

"Southern Cross has been a fantastic experience. I'm really glad I chose this path."

VICKY SANTALLA

Master
of Teaching



You'll find yourself in good company

Whatever your ambition, you'll thrive at Bond University. We are known for our personalised approach to learning, powered by small class sizes of just 11:1, and we were the first university to offer a genuine three-semester-per-year timetable.

We're Australia's most ambitious university. And we love company.



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AMBITION
LOVES
COMPANY

CRICOS 00017B TEQSA PRV12072



When it came time to choose what to study at university, I remember flipping through countless course guides, crossing out one degree after another. I knew I wanted more than just a pathway to a job; I was looking for something that would set me up for a successful and interesting career. That search led me to the Bachelor of Property at Bond University, and it's safe to say, it has been exactly that.

Studying property at Bond has given me the chance to work alongside developers on site visits and build connections with industry professionals. At the same time, there's something remarkable about immersing yourself in such a beautiful, architecturally striking campus and its vibrant atmosphere, where walking between classes is a subtle reminder of the kinds of spaces we are learning to create.

The smaller class sizes and supportive lecturers have meant I can get the most out of every subject and feel confident asking questions, exploring ideas, and getting involved. Extracurricular opportunities like sporting clubs and student associations have led to lifelong friendships across all faculties.

Bond's intentional environment has shaped not just my education but the person I'm becoming, and for that I am overwhelmingly grateful.

TARA ANDREWS

Bachelor of Property



BOND UNIVERSITY



I am currently studying a double degree: the Bachelor of Laws and the Bachelor of Policy, Philosophy and Economics. I am currently in my fourth semester of this program, but my journey at Bond started with the Foundation Program through Bond University College.

I moved from Malaysia to the Gold Coast to study at Bond, and without a doubt, choosing this path has been an immensely rewarding decision filled with opportunity and experiences.

What first drew me to Bond was its strong reputation for student experience, as I believe that an engaging environment plays a key role in making education both enjoyable and meaningful. However, after the past couple of semesters at Bond, I've come to realise that the student experience goes far beyond what I initially expected.

I am involved in several extracurricular activities on campus, including serving as the International Director of the Bond University Student Association (BUSA) and as the President of the Bond Global Students' Society. In these leadership roles, I have come full circle. The student experience is what drew me to Bond and now, I am contributing to the student experience by representing the international students here.

ZANE WONG

Bachelor of Laws and
Bachelor of Policy,
Philosophy & Economics



OPEN DAY 26

SUN 9 AUG 9AM – 2PM
GOLD COAST + BRISBANE SOUTH (NATHAN)

Join us on campus to experience our vibrant student life for yourself and discover how a Griffith degree can give you an edge in your career.

Scan the QR code to reserve your place.



CRICOS: 00233E | TEQSA: PRV12076

Make it matter

Lucinda has always been driven by a desire to help others, with a clear goal of becoming a doctor. “Leaving high school, I knew I wanted to work as a doctor, given my interest in health and sciences,” she says. Although she initially fell just short of the required ATAR, choosing an alternative pathway at Griffith proved invaluable. “It allowed me to slow down and take on many personal and professional opportunities before entering medical school.”

Now pursuing a Master’s in medical research, Lucinda credits Griffith’s “quality of education, the support of my environment, and opportunities for personal and professional growth” as key to her journey. Through a research project elective and scholarships, she gained hands-on laboratory and research experience.

A highlight was being mentored by Dr Dinesh Palipana. “He helped me tremendously in understanding my career pathway and breaking down the end goal into achievable steps.”

Looking ahead, Lucinda hopes “to positively impact my patients’ health... with empathy, understanding, and compassion,” ensuring every patient feels supported and cared for.

LUCINDA WOJTASZAK

Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Masters of Medical Research



From the moment he attended Open Day, Matthew was drawn to Griffith’s welcoming environment and strong focus on hands-on learning. “I enjoy applying theory in real-world contexts, so Griffith’s practical approach really stood out to me,” he says.

A key highlight of his journey has been the genuine support from academic staff, who are approachable and always willing to help. This support played an important role in his acceptance into Griffith’s Student Academy of Excellence, where ongoing mentorship has helped build his confidence and guide his development.

Beyond the classroom, Matthew has embraced a wide range of opportunities. As a Senior Engagement Ambassador, he visits high schools to help students explore their future pathways, while also building valuable communication and leadership skills. He has also represented Griffith during National Science Week, connecting with academics and expanding his professional network. “These experiences have significantly broadened my network and helped me grow both personally and professionally,” he says.

Through extracurricular activities like the Griffith Racing Team and Oztag, he has built strong friendships and teamwork skills, making the most of the vibrant campus community.

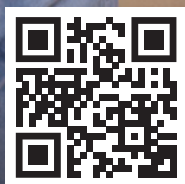
MATTHEW CLIFTON

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)/Business



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Christine Machielsens is a mum of four and a grandmother of twelve, proving it's never too late to pursue your passions. Christine is studying a Bachelor of Nursing (HED007), a journey that started on the sideline of junior AFL games.

"I was doing first aid, and then what they called being a trainer... basically looking after the health and welfare of the players," said Christine.

What began as a volunteer role soon sparked a growing passion for health care.

"About six years ago... I did my Certificate IV and became a carer," she said.

While working in aged care, nurses encouraged her to continue studying, leading her to enrol in a Diploma of Nursing (HLT54121).

"I loved it. The diploma was the best thing I've ever done," she said.

"When I got towards the end of it, I thought to myself, 'well, you've gone this far, lets just keep going.'"

Christine then enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing (HED007) to become a registered nurse.

"The RN course has been just as fantastic," she said.

"To be able to do both courses through TAFE Queensland and not have to change institutions has been absolutely wonderful."

"It's given me purpose again."

CHRISTINE MACHIELSENS

Bachelor of Nursing
(HED007)



Aspiring filmmaker Scott Brown was behind the lens at this year's Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Festival, filming on the red carpet when he came face-to-face with one of Hollywood's most celebrated directors.

Amid the buzz of flashing cameras and industry heavyweights, the Diploma of Screen and Media (CUA51020) student seized a moment he won't soon forget.

"I heard someone mention Baz Luhrmann, so I thought I'd just hang around... and I was pretty much the only one there when he walked in," said Scott.

"I stepped out in front of him and said, 'Hi, can I get a quick hello for the AACTAs?' - and he said yes."

For Scott, the experience was more than a brush with fame, it was a chance to put his classroom learning into action.

"I had to learn on the fly. I already knew how to use the camera, but it made me realise I needed to work through problems quickly," he said.

The footage he shot will be used by the festival and will also strengthen his growing professional portfolio.

"That's the great thing about TAFE Queensland - we get opportunities all the time, and I'm always saying, 'Yep, put me down.' Whenever something comes up, I put my hand up and volunteer," he said.

SCOTT BROWN

Diploma of Screen and Media (CUA51020)



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EVER CONSIDERED WHAT A CAREER IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE (ADF) IS LIKE?

The ADF is a modern, people-focused organisation and one of Australia's major employers. With over 300 roles available, the Navy, Army and Air Force offers a wide range of career opportunities from trades and engineering to combat, security, support roles, and specialist military professions. Enjoy fully paid world-class training, free healthcare, and a competitive salary, plus you'll receive benefits you won't find

anywhere else including 16.4% superannuation and assistance to buy your own home. Join us at one of our many upcoming events to discover first-hand what it's like in the Australian Defence Force. Speak with current serving members to understand the lifestyle, explore exciting career opportunities and get a real sense of what to expect. If you're ready to make your impact, visit adfcareers.gov.au or call 13 19 01.

ADF CAREERS



Scan to explore your options



Career Development Association Australia

YOUR FUTURE. OUR SUPPORT.

work with a cdaa professional

Whether you're a student, job seeker, career changer, retiree or returning to work, career development is for everyone.

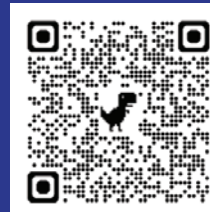
Our members are qualified, up-to-date, and independent professionals. They bring deep knowledge of local and national employment trends, and they work with you, without bias, to uncover your strengths, goals, and what's important to your life.

When you work with a CDAA professional, you're choosing:

- Trusted, ethical advice
- Personalised, expert guidance
- A partner in your lifelong career journey

CDAA professionals are the trusted choice for career guidance across Australia.

Find a career expert near you:



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Certificates

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THE LARK

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NIGHT NIGHT

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GOLDCOAST.

GAME 3 GOLDCOAST



EXPERIENCE
GOLDCOAST.



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NOTHING LIKE IT

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THURS 28 MAY

Q ORIGIN TICKETS



SCAN FOR
TICKETS

EXPERIENCE
GOLDCOAST.

PA PACIFIC AIRSHOW GOLDCOAST AUS

Queensland
AUSTRALIA



EXPERIENCE STEM HANDS-ON

NXTGN

PA STEM LAB



Get Amongst It!
14-16 AUG 2026
PACIFICAIRSHOW.COM

THE FUTURE STARTS WITH YOU

Challenge

This is your chance to meet exhibitors, unlock exciting opportunities and win epic prizes!



PRIZES

Two lucky winners will each win a **\$500 Pacific Fair gift card** for themselves and a **Smash Pro Black – Indoor Ping Pong Table** valued at **\$1250** for their chosen school or educational institution.

To enter simply:

1. VISIT EXHIBITOR STANDS

Engage with at least 6 exhibitors – talk, ask questions, discover your future options and get stamped!

2. COLLECTS STAMPS

Ask each exhibitor to stamp the back of this form after you've interacted with them.

3. ENTER THE COMPETITION

Complete your entry details and drop your form into the competition barrel located near the hall exit.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- This competition is open to all attendees of the 2026 Gold Coast Careers Festival.
- To qualify, a minimum of 6 stamps must be collected from exhibitors at the event.
- Winners will be randomly drawn after 2:30pm each day of the festival and contacted by email or phone.
- Entries for draw 1 must be submitted by 2:30pm 20 May to be eligible for draw 1. Entries for draw 2 must be submitted before 2:30pm 21 May to be eligible for draw 2.
- The prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.
- For full terms and conditions see careers-festival.com

Get Curious...

Questions to Ask

Here are some ideas to help you start a conversation and figure out what's right for you.

I'm interested in / good at

- what course would you suggest for me?

What kind of jobs could I get if I study that?

How do students make friends here?
Are there clubs or groups I can join?

What do graduates usually earn when they start out?

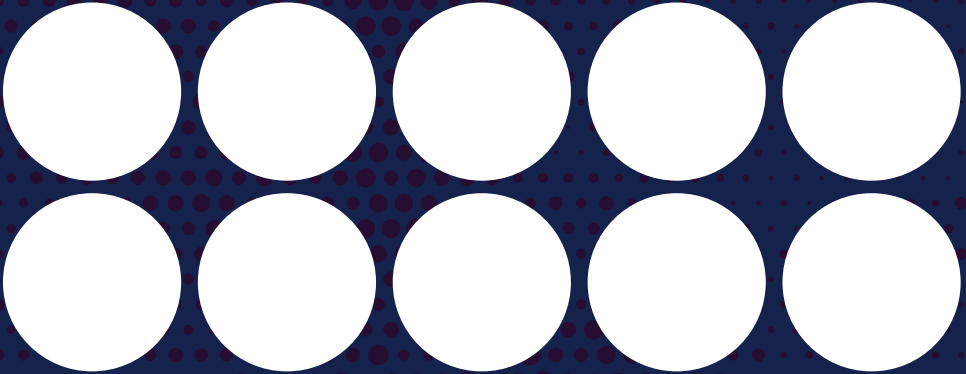
What makes this education institution different or special?

What support can I get if I need help (like with assignments or study)?

What's the vibe like here?
How would you describe the student culture?

EXHIBITOR STAMP CARD

Collect a stamp from each exhibitor you meet – be sure to collect a minimum of 6 to enter the competition.



ENTRY DETAILS

To be in the running to win awesome prizes, collect your stamps, complete your details below and drop this form into the competition barrel located near the hall exit.

Full Name:

Email Address:

School name
(if applicable):

Teacher name
(if applicable):

Age Group:

<18

19-25

26-35

36+

I agree to the competition Terms & Conditions

CAREERS-FESTIVAL.COM

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Good luck!