

ASSESSING ALL THE OPTIONS



CQUniversity is one of the higher education providers that will open its campuses to prospective students in coming weeks.

UNIVERSITIES will open their doors to prospective students in coming weeks – both physically and virtually – providing one of the best opportunities for young people and career changers to get the information they need to make their future study decisions.

With Covid-19 still playing havoc with communities and causing sudden lockdowns, many universities are complementing their open house sessions with virtual events.

It is ensuring those who wish to pursue higher education next year or beyond still can make informed choices and choose the best course for them to study.

Career Confident director Helen Green says virtual open days enable students to visit more campuses, including those outside of their state. Prospective students may then feel they can attend any and all of them, but Green advises them to still plan which universities they visit virtually.

No matter whether they attend in-person or online, she urges them to prepare first by listing the universities, faculties and schools they are interested in or curious about, and questions they may like answered.

As well as the type and variety of courses of-

fered, including double degrees, she urges them to consider other factors, such as the proximity of campuses to public transport, fees and flexible study options.

"Every year, changes happen in the sector," she says. "New courses will be introduced – some with increased government subsidies – and some courses will be phased out or re-branded. New facilities will open, new scholarships may be introduced and sometimes the entrance criteria changes."

"Do not assume the course you looked at two years ago has the same format."

Green says there are many positives to virtual open days, such as being able to ask questions without standing up in a crowded lecture theatre, and while they are not able to walk the grounds, they can still investigate clubs, societies, camps and sport facilities on offer.

Also investigate career assistance, library support, security on campus and accommodation options if that will be required. "Diarise the dates and check if you need to register for sessions, particularly interactive Q&A panels with course directors and current/former students and webinars/sample lectures," she says.

Questions they may want to consider asking current students, alumni, course directors and faculty staff include:

WHAT are the current course entry requirements, prerequisite subjects, contact hours and the like?

WHAT subjects/majors and streams are offered within degrees you are contemplating?

IS the course offered on multiple campuses?

WHAT are the typical career outcomes for the program and what flexibility is there to change specialisations within the course, or to change the study load from full time to part time?

IS graduate employment data available for the course? Is demand for the occupation likely to be steady and/or increase or decline? Where are the likely future opportunities?

DOES the degree include work-integrated learning – internship programs, mentoring?

IS the course accredited with relevant industry bodies or in the process of being accredited?

WHAT are the alternate study pathways for entry into the course, such as TAFE or completing single units of study?

WHAT options exist for double degrees, transfers between similar courses, postgraduate study options?

WHAT do current students enjoy or not enjoy about the course?

WHAT do current students like about life on campus, and what have they found to be beneficial/challenging?



Suzanne McLucas is studying a Bachelor of Public Health at CQUniversity.

COURSE WAS THE RIGHT ONE FOR ME

WHEN considering her study options, Suzanne McLucas was thankful for CQUniversity's Virtual Open Day experience in 2020, which helped set her on the right path for a new career.

After registering her interest in studying at CQUniversity, a personal invitation via email to attend the Virtual Open Day was the push she needed to truly consider her study options.

"I found the event be a positive, welcoming and informative experience," she says. "It confirmed I was choosing the right course for me."

"Although I had not studied for a while, attending the event reassured and confirmed the support and resources that were available to me."

McLucas says once she decided to enrol, the process was very easy and self-explanatory.

She is now six months into her Bachelor of Public Health (Health Promotion) and enjoying every new experience it offers.

"I am loving the challenge and I am loving the learning," she says.

CQUniversity offers Open Day events for prospective students in a variety of formats including on-campus open houses, virtual open days, online chats and CBD information sessions, at which they can chat with staff and have their questions answered.

With more than 250 TAFE and university courses available to explore, the open day experiences gives students more options and choices to pursue the path they want. CQUNIVERSITY'S NEXT VIRTUAL OPEN DAY WILL BE HELD ON JULY 31, FROM 9AM TO 1PM. TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT, AND TO SEE UPCOMING ONLINE AND ON-CAMPUS OPEN DAY EXPERIENCES, VISIT CQU.EDU.AU/OPEN

EXPLORE OUR OPEN DAY EXPERIENCES

ONLINE AND ON-CAMPUS

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