5 Helpful Tips for Subject Selection

By Careers Counsellor, Monica Magann

1. **Get informed about you!** Start looking at what things you enjoy doing – at school and in your private life. What subjects do you currently enjoy? What career thoughts have you had? What hobbies and interests do you have? Check out the subjects being offered at PAC. Ask the teachers lots of questions!

2. **Do some research and investigation:** go to [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au) Check out other websites. Find out about different careers! Look at what is required to do these careers. Talk to your parents, me 😊, and industry professionals. Come to the PAC Careers Expo! *(Wed 13 August 2014 6 PM, Piper Pavilion)*

3. **Connect your favourite subjects, your hobbies and interests, your strengths, your experiences to different careers.** THEN – visit university (or other education/employment providers) websites and see what their requirements are... some university degrees do require the following:

   **Assumed Knowledge:** For some degrees and first-year courses, it is assumed that through secondary school studies or other equivalent studies a student will have achieved a level of knowledge of the subject area (e.g. Physics for aviation) that is considered desirable for successful university level study. This does not mean that they have passed the subjects or even undertaken them. It does mean the university expects you to handle these studies however, at an academic level.

   **Prerequisites:** To be eligible for some programs, particularly in the areas of Science, Engineering, Maths and Computer Science, applicants are required to have passed specific senior school subjects called ‘program prerequisites’. Program prerequisites apply to all applicants to the relevant programs. Always check what the admissions requirements are for your desired degree. This may be found at the university websites.

4. **Don’t limit yourself by thinking you are not good enough. DREAM BIG!** At the same time, understand that very competitive pathways (elite sportspersons, medical professionals, astronauts etc.) will need a lot of commitment and focus. It is very important to have back-up plans and to know your strengths and your areas of challenge.

5. **It is so very important not to stress.** It is normal for high school students to NOT know what they want to do, be confused about what is out there, and change their minds. There is so much to learn, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. You have a LOT of support here at PAC. Get the help you need! Parents – this pertains to you too. Relax and enjoy the journey!

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