

Meet Andrew



- Father of a Year 10 student from Melbourne
- Daughter goes to a Catholic school and is looking at her options for further study after school
- Andrew and his wife both studied at university
- Andrew's daughter is interested in studying engineering but not sure where yet
- Looks like she will be eligible for a HELP loan or a [VET Student Loan](#), but it depends on what course she decides on in the end



"We were surprised that you can study at TAFE or university to become an engineer!"

Student biography

My daughter is thinking about studying engineering and we were talking about how to do it, so I decided to do some research. One of the things I found particularly helpful was the *Beyond School Study Guide*.

What she wants to study

As my daughter is thinking about engineering, I found she can do either a VET or higher education qualification, or even both, so those choices are all open to her. I was really pleased, as I had always wanted her to make decisions based on her interests and have the chance to go on to whatever she wants by keeping her options open. We found it useful to make a list of nearby institutions and contact them directly, using details on their website. We could then compare course costs, lengths and the job prospects from engineering certificate, diploma and degree level courses.

How she'll fund her studies

I'd been worrying about the cost of studies as we thought they might be as expensive as private school fees. But when I investigated all the courses that my daughter was interested in, either at TAFE or university or even at a private college, they would still allow her to get a Government loan. She'll have to get a tax file number to apply as the idea is that she will pay the loan back when she starts earning over a certain amount – probably when she's working full-time.