Career Development Plan Examples for Students

Example 1: High school student interested in technology (NSW, Australia)

Self-assessment

Love coding, problem-solving, and building apps. Strong in maths and science. Interested in cybersecurity and AI.

Career research and goals

Career in software development, cybersecurity, or data science. Focus on local universities like UTS Sydney or UNSW. Certificates in cybersecurity and cloud computing (AWS, CompTIA).

Education plan

Taking advanced maths, physics, and IT in high school. Need ATAR of 85 for UTS or UNSW. Plan to complete AWS Certified Solutions Architect by Year 12.

Gaining experience

Building coding projects, participating in hackathons. Intern at local tech companies in Sydney. Complete AWS Certified Developer by Year 12.

Review and adjust

Check progress annually and adjust based on new tech trends, especially in AI and cloud computing.

Example 2: High school student interested in the social sciences (Greater Manchester, UK)

Self-assessment

Interested in psychology, sociology, and history. Strong writing and critical thinking skills. Keen to explore social justice and human rights.

Career research and goals

Career in psychology, social work, or criminology. Looking at the University of Manchester or Manchester Metropolitan University. Planning for work in mental health or social justice.

Education plan

A-levels in psychology, history, and sociology. Need AAB for the University of Manchester. Planning to take sociology electives focused on social justice and crime.

Gaining experience

Volunteer at local charities, especially related to mental health. Plan to apply for work experience with social services in Manchester.

Review and adjust

Review plan every term to explore growing interest in areas like human rights law or criminal psychology.

Example 3: First year Bachelor of Business student (Victoria, Australia)

Self-assessment

Enjoy business problem-solving, economics, and working with numbers. Strong leadership skills from group projects.

Career research and goals

Finance, consulting, or data analytics. Looking at RMIT University in Melbourne for honours. In-demand skills include financial modelling and data analysis.

Education plan

Finance major with electives in data analytics. Need a distinction average (70+) for RMIT honours program. Plan to take additional financial modelling and Excel courses.

Gaining experience

Apply for finance internships in second year, attend RMIT business networking events. Participate in case competitions to build skills in consulting.

Review and adjust

Check after each semester. Adjust focus based on industry trends in finance and data analytics.

Example 4: Second year Bachelor of Psychological Science student (British Columbia, Canada)

Self-assessment

Interested in mental health and counselling. Strong communication skills, good at research and writing. Developing skills in therapeutic techniques.

Career research and goals

Clinical psychology or counselling. Applying for honours at UBC Vancouver. In-demand skills include mental health counselling and cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT).

Education plan

Complete core psychology subjects and take electives in cognitive science and therapy. Need a 75%+ average for honours at UBC. Planning to take CBT certification postgraduation.

Gaining experience

Volunteering at mental health support centres. Looking into research assistant positions with UBC faculty. Applying for internships at counselling centres.

Review and adjust

Review plan yearly, adjusting based on hands-on experiences and new trends in mental health treatment.

Example 5: Final-year Bachelor of Communications student (California, US)

Self-assessment

Skilled in writing, public speaking, and creating digital content. Passionate about storytelling and media production.

Career research and goals

Public relations or digital marketing in LA. Apply to PR firms or media agencies. Need strong social media management and video content creation skills.

Education plan

Finish media communications degree at UCLA. Electives in digital marketing and multimedia production. Plan to complete Google Analytics and Hootsuite certifications before graduation.

Gaining experience

Intern at PR firm, freelance content creation. Building portfolio of social media campaigns and video content.

Review and adjust

Final review post-internship. Adjust focus based on job market demand for social media and digital marketing roles.