



Open High School

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Careers News

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In this issue, you will find out about:

- Caltex Best All-Round Award
- Information day
- Scholarship and exchange opportunities
- Some useful publications

Caltex Best All-Round Award

Congratulations to our student Alisar Kanjrawi, who has received the Caltex Best All-Round Award. Alisar studied French at Open High School. Here is her journey – from Syria to success.

Caltex Best All-Rounder recipient Alisar Kanjrawi admits that, at one stage during her final year of high school in Sydney, she did not have much self-confidence, despite the support of many of her peers.

It was only after she had been declared Dux of her school, with outstanding grades, did she really start to believe in her own abilities.

It's understandable, of course, that Alisar faced some such challenges. She arrived in Australia from Syria with her younger brother in early 2013. Her parents, both medical professionals, had sent the children from their small coastal city, Latakia, to Australia to escape the civil war in their home country.

"I was inspired by my parents who both have postgraduate degrees – Mum is a gynaecologist and Dad is a dentist – to look for better education in a safer environment," Alisar explains.

In Syria she attended a selective school, a "competitive yet supportive environment" where she participated in volunteering and worked with The Syria Trust for Development on projects serving the community. She continued her community work when she came to Australia, volunteering, for example, for the Dymocks charity during Christmas 2013. "I get the best feeling when I communicate with and help other people out," she says.

Love of languages

In Australia Alisar was also a Year 12 leader and secretary of the SRC. Her love of languages inspired her to [study French through distance education at Open High School](#) because "just like volunteering, learning languages means making connections with others," she says. "It's not just about words; language reflects cultures and gives an insight into traditions and habits."

She is now studying a B.Science/M.Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Sydney because it combines her passion for helping people and a love of science. "My dream is to become a dietitian at a well-recognised hospital in Sydney or to open my own practice."

[Astra Vilkins, Head Teacher at Open High School](#) who nominated Alisar for the all-rounder award, praises her serious attitude to study, maturity and ability to adjust to her new social and school



environment. "Alisar is very proactive in the management of her studies," says Ms Vilkins. "She achieved equal first place in Preliminary French Beginners, scoring 98% and third place in HSC French Beginners, scoring 94%.

'A true global citizen'

"She is also friendly, confident and reliable . . . [with] excellent interpersonal skills and is always respectful and courteous. She demonstrates a well-rounded awareness of the world and its cultures, which I believe is achieved through her natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge. She is an exemplary role model and has the makings of a true global citizen."

Alisar's advice for others is to believe in yourself and be determined. "What motivates me is the rewards I get for my hard work, such as the amazing Caltex Award I got in September. It's a great way to appreciate students who put in extra effort and give up their time."

During her HSC, Alisar had this quote hanging on her wall: "It's not easy but it's worth it".

"Nothing ever sounded more motivational to me than this!" she says.

Article from <http://www.caltexbestallrounder.com.au/recipients/>

Information Day

The HSC and Careers Expo 2015

Thursday 28th May – Sunday 31st May, Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney

The expo will feature over 145 exhibitors providing information and resources for the HSC, university study, TAFE, career advice, exchange and gap year programs.

www.hscandcareers.com.au

Antipodeans Abroad: Gap Break Information Night

Wednesday 3rd June, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Level 3 /182, Blues Point Road McMahons Point

Learn what it's like to study abroad on a language exchange program.

<http://www.antipodeans.com.au/info-nights.htm>

AFS Open Day - Online

AFS run exchange programs across the world, and Open Days are the chance to find out about the programs on offer. Online sessions begin at 7pm (Sydney time) on the following dates:

- Tuesday 16th June
- Wednesday 15th July

<http://www.afs.org.au/news-and-events/open-days/>

Experience La Trobe: Albury Wodonga Campus

Friday 19th June, 10.00am – 3.00pm, 133 McKoy St, West Wodonga

A free event where students and their parents can attend workshops, lectures, and seminars to discover more about La Trobe University and the course options available.

Contact: 1300135 045

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events/albury-wodonga-program>

College of Event Management Information Session

Friday 19th June, 6.30pm, Level 9, 28 Foveaux Street Surry Hills

Speak to lecturers and staff to learn about the course and career opportunities available after graduation. Contact: 1300 725 846 or enquiries@coem.edu.au

<http://collegeofeventmanagement.com.au/campus/information-sessions>

Turning Point Consulting Holiday Workshops: Career Skills

Monday 29th June, 9.00am – 12.00pm and

Wednesday 8th July, 12.00pm – 3.00pm

Trinity Grammar Lewisham Campus, 5 Thomas Street, Lewisham

Participants will develop a clear understanding of current employers' expectations and be able to better plan their job search with greater understanding of job search strategies, resume writing and interview skills.

Contact: Kathryn Taylor on 0478 570 707 or kathryn@turningpointconsulting.com.au

<http://www.turningpointconsulting.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Holiday-Career-Skills-for-Students-2015.pdf>

The Big Picture Program

This program introduces high school students to the world of professional work and tertiary education. The program includes a residential conference from Sunday 5th July to Thursday 9th July at UNSW. <http://thebigpictureprogram.org/>

UWS: Parent Information Evenings

Bankstown Campus: Wednesday 22nd July

Penrith Campus: Tuesday 28th July

Parramatta Campus: Wednesday 5th August

Campbelltown Campus: Tuesday 11th August

Lithgow Campus: Tuesday 18th August

Students and their families may attend to learn about how the ATAR works and the range of university entry options available. Attendees will also learn about fees, HECS-HELP loans, and all that UWS has to offer.

http://future.uws.edu.au/future_students_home/events_at_uws/parent_information_evening

Le Cordon Bleu Campus Tours

Experience campus life at Le Cordon Bleu in a guided tour and information session, where you can learn about cuisine, cookery and hospitality.

Group or individual tours with Le Cordon Bleu can be arranged by registering your interest on their website. <http://www.lecordonbleu.com.au/sydney/booktour/en>

Scholarships and other Opportunities

Teach.NSW

This website is a very useful resource for current HSC students interested in becoming a teacher in the NSW public school system. As well as containing information about teaching as a career, the website provides details of a number of scholarships relevant to current year 12 students.

<http://www.teach.nsw.edu.au/>

Defence Force University Sponsorship

The Defence University Sponsorship allows students to study an accredited degree at any Australian university and graduate with a career in the Navy, Army or Air Force.

www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/universitysponsorship

National Indigenous Women's Conference and National Indigenous Men's Conference

Monday 28th – Wednesday 30th September, Darwin

The Conferences aim to provide a platform for Indigenous Women and Men to celebrate their achievements in their home, family, community and workplace. The events will also focus on empowerment, strong leadership and self-determination, and will feature small group discussions with informative speakers over the two and a half day event. Visit

<http://www.indigenousconferences.com/>

Australian Veteran's Children Assistance Trust Scholarships 2015

Applications open Tuesday 18th August and close Saturday 31st October

The Australian Veteran's Children Assistance Trust, provides scholarships based on need and merit to children and grandchildren of ex-serviceman or women to study at TAFE, university, or a private college. Visit www.avcat.org.au/Aboutus/OurScholarships.aspx

Exchange or Overseas Opportunity

World Education Program Exchange Application Deadlines

WEP provides the opportunity for Australian students to study overseas in one of over 20 countries. Deadlines for exchange applications with WEP vary depending on country and length of stay. To view the exchange application deadlines, visit: <http://wep.org.au/info/application-deadlines>

Choosing a Volunteering Agency Checklist

Australian Volunteers International, an independent not-for-profit organization, has developed a guide for selecting an ethical, trustworthy and safe international volunteer agency. To view their guide, visit:

<http://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteer/resources/choosing-a-volunteering-agency/>

Lions Australia Youth Exchange

Applications close Tuesday 30th June

Lions Australia Youth Exchange provides the opportunity for 16 – 21 year olds to experience life overseas as part of a program that does not involve tourism, academic studies or employment. All Lions Youth Exchange Programs depart in early December and return in mid-January.

<http://lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/ye/overseas-destinations/>

Go Overseas

Go Overseas is a website that allows you to find and compare overseas programs. Every organization and program has been reviewed by students who have participated in that program. There are also over 300 articles on travel available as well as customized country guides.

www.gooverseas.com/

Other Information

Career FAQs: Four Steps to Picking the Right Course

<http://www.careerfaqs.com.au/news/news-and-views/four-steps-to-picking-the-right-course/>

Benefits of Higher Education

If you're not sure about whether university is for you, visit this link to find out about some of the benefits of higher education. Click on the different areas of study to find out about some of your specific career interests. <https://www.leap.vic.edu.au/students/business/benefits-of-higher-ed>

Group Training Association of NSW & ACT Careers Guide

Group Training organisations employ more than 8,000 apprentices and trainees in NSW & ACT. The GTANA Careers Guide has information about over 500 apprenticeships and traineeships, and provides information about entry requirements, qualifications, career prospects and more.

<http://www.gtana.com.au/careers-guide/careersearch>

For career information, please contact: Ms A Lam (Careers Adviser & Chinese Teacher)

9381-4815 or angela.lam@det.nsw.edu.au

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