BECOME A CAREERS ADVISER

Guide young people at the crossroads of career choices, and help them to secure a bright future

Careers advisers are an integral part of the school community, helping students as they develop their personal career plans and working closely with parents, teachers, employers, community agencies and other education and training organisations.

As a careers adviser you play a key role in providing students with access to a range of career development services that will inform their all-important decision about their future career. These support services help students to define their career aspirations, develop career goals, explore career options and create effective career and transition strategies.

Careers adviser services vary depending upon the school and the community, but typically include:

- career counselling to support students in clarifying their ideas about career choices and directions
- designing and developing a career education program that includes implementation of vocational and enterprise learning in the school curriculum
- helping students to identify their individual abilities, skills and interests through a range of career resources
- playing an integral role within the school welfare team by providing high quality advice and guidance regarding student career and transition issues
- providing workplace learning opportunities
- providing and clarifying information for students and their parents regarding the school curriculum, the HSC and further education and training
- providing a wide range of opportunities for students to increase their knowledge about careers and career pathways, working conditions, areas of skill shortages, work/life roles and the world of work in general
- supporting parents and carers with information, tools and strategies that guide students’ search for a satisfying career path.

Careers advisers also liaise with universities, TAFE and private providers of further education and training, undertake professional development, and maintain awareness of all aspects relating to the current labour market and human resource issues.

Getting there

To qualify as a careers adviser you must be qualified as a secondary teacher and must have completed an approved course of study in career education. This may be undertaken through either undergraduate studies or a combination of undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

Several higher education institutions offer an approved course of study, such as a Graduate Certificate in Careers Counselling, which prepares secondary teachers to take on the role of careers advisers.

Further information about the requirements to become a teacher in NSW, including approved initial teacher education programs, can be found on the NSW Institute of Teachers website at www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au.