

Year 9 Future Directions Seminar Days: Be a Designer

In late November 2018 I participated in the Future Directions seminar day which was a two-day experience. We visited workplaces and training organisations. We were placed into groups and I was in a group called Be A Designer. At first I wasn't quite certain if this experience was going to be a helpful about the career pathway I wanted to take, which is marketing and advertising. I was definitely wrong to even question the opportunities and ideas I would receive from this experience.

The first day took us to the Whitehouse Institute of Design. At first walking into the building I had underestimated it completely as it is more of a private university than some of the larger ones, like, RMIT or Latrobe. All the staff and teachers were very welcoming. At first I was hesitant to put full effort into this workshop, as ungrateful as it sounds. This was because I had tunnel vision towards the more tech side of design. The workshop was teaching us the aspects of interior design, which my peers and I had not learnt much about. But as soon as I got my pencil to paper and started learning about the techniques and how everyday rooms and textures are planned out, I realised how much I loved all aspects of design.

The whole environment of the College made me so much more focused and eager to learn, which brought me to being awarded a scholarship from Whitehouse. At the end of the day I reflected on my experience, as it had opened my eyes so much more. It gave me a broader view on design and made me so much more eager to begin studying it. After this day I put that College into one of my top universities to apply for. Even if it was not what I initially planned to study it was still such an interesting and fulfilling pathway that I could guarantee would provide a great education. It was great to see a different school, that I didn't even know existed, be presented to us.

On day two we were first taken to Accenture which is an international design company focusing on marketing and solving client technology/products. When we first walked into Accenture none of us knew what to expect. The office was filled with multiple creative outlets, like: a relax room, think tanks and even a pool table in the main lobby. What even interested me and all my peers more, was that the company had worked with big brands such as Amazon and had a very broad range of different jobs and pathways in the one department. After the workers at Accenture presented to us what the work environment was like, and the tasks they performed, we broke out into groups for a quick activity. The activity was all about brainstorming a product design and marketing it all to solve a problem. My specific group focused on creating an app to benefit a majority of the aspects in our school. Overall, it was very eye opening and answered a lot of questions on what it was actually like to be apart of a very modern workplace.

Next we were off to RMIT where we began to learn about another pathway after high school. We had a former STC student directing us on our tour, which gave us all a more relatable experience on the day. Personally, RMIT is my preferred university to attend post high school. The presentation/tour we were provided gave a lot of good hints and discussed key points to help us get into University (specifically RMIT). The lesson guided us through the ins and outs of RMIT and I can't stress it enough at how helpful it really was. I learnt a lot of things I wouldn't have known if I didn't go to this experience, for example: RMIT provides an exchange program where you may travel

to any place in the world, for up to 2 years, and continue study RMIT's program. I also learnt about the application process to get into the design area of RMIT. You actually have to have a whole design/art kit which is due significantly earlier than the actual application. We also learnt about the different clubs and even more opportunities you could have at RMIT. After our tour guide finished her presentation we did a quick scavenger hunt around the university.

To conclude, I learnt so much and took so much from the two days. I can now actually put an answer to the question, why do I want to be a designer? This experience was a great and even better alternative to work experience and really helped me to plan my pathway.

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