An important part of choosing a university degree is researching the courses, support and opportunities available at each university. Finding the right course can take time and we encourage future students to start this process before their final year of school. While ultimately this is your child’s responsibility, we understand that you as a parent want to be well informed. That’s why we have a supportive team dedicated to helping you through this process. Our team produces a range of publications, runs a heap of events and you can talk to us face-to-face at school and career events or on our campus, and of course you can call us too. To help you we also have a website that’s full of resources and is designed especially for parents.

Let’s start by looking at our course database. Before applying to university it’s important to research your course thoroughly, to look beyond its title and really understand what a course really involves. The data base allows you to search and compare courses, read course summaries and find entry requirements and access detailed information about the entire course in the university handbook.

So you might be wondering, ATAR, prerequisite, pathways, what do they mean? On our parents page these are the kinds of questions we answer in our FAQ section. And we’ve also made some videos to explain the more complicated processes.

Some students might be struggling to find an area of interest or the kinds of careers that suit them. Our career architect can help with this. This is a questionnaire designed to help students identify their strengths and interests. Once the questionnaire is completed a report is emailed to your child, this summaries their personality style, strengths and talents and recommends job and course options.

These are just some of the tools on our parent’s website, but there are heaps of other resources there too.

But to really understand university you need to visit us, and we hold events for exactly that purpose. Attending an event give you and your child the opportunity to experience the atmosphere and culture of the university. It’s important your child feels comfortable in their new learning environment and these events give you and your child the opportunity to discover more about university life.

Experience La Trobe is our course taster day where students attend a range of workshops in different areas of study. There is a parents program that runs parallel and we’ll look after you all with lunch and entertainment.

At Open Day the university is alive with academic staff, current students and university support staff who can answer detailed questions.

And our advisory days allow you to talk face-to-face to us during the application period.

It takes time to choose the right course and it’s a big decision only your child can make, but there are plenty of ways parents can support this process. Because everyone if different we recommend as a first step you ask your child the kind of support they’d like and once you’ve started this conversation you can recommend resources and events, like the ones we just covered. It’s important to start this process early and encourage your child to narrow down their options. Make sure you keep an open mind to any ideas that might surprise you and encourage your child to investigate the multiple opportunities offered by a given course. Also stay up to date with careers events at your school, the school’s career professional has expert knowledge so encourage your child to make use of careers events and consultations at school.

And of course if you or your child has any questions, just ask us.