

“ I didn't know what I wanted to do until I tried it, and then I fell in love with it. I discovered I love finding out new things. ”

James Schifferle's journey

- Today Student at La Trobe University
- studying Computer Science
- working in the faculty as a tutor and demonstrator
- 2015-16 Australian School-based Apprenticeship
- Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology
- 2014 Year 10 VET course in Information Technology



**I'm now at Uni studying Computer Science
and working as a tutor and demonstrator
with first year students,
but how did I get here?**

James' story

It started with a VET course in Information Technology in Year 10 at Swan Hill College. I was interested in computers and electronics and I was excited to find that my school offered a VET course specific to my interests that could earn me credits towards my VCE. I didn't know what I wanted to do until I tried it, then I fell in love with it.

I had started the course when my school advertised for an apprentice to work in their IT department. I'd already completed a few work placements and was keen to increase my knowledge by working with an experienced team in a real life environment.

I began my apprenticeship in Year 11 working in the IT department one day a week. I liked how practical it was and enjoyed the hands on experience and being able to experiment with new things. I learnt a lot more than you can with your head in a textbook. As part of my apprenticeship I gained my Certificate III in Information, Digital Media and Technology, which gave me credits and helped me get into La Trobe University.

**I liked the way my VET course was broken down into units.
It made it more manageable than some of my other subjects at school.**

**“Doing VET at school was a really useful experience.
It allowed me to try something new and it has
enabled me to work now I'm at Uni.”**