

Top 10 Most Valuable University Degrees 2015-2016

When choosing a course of study at university, finding a subject that you are passionate about and will pay a living wage can be difficult. However, if you're interested in one of the following degrees, you're in luck! These 10 degrees pay the highest per hour.

1. Healthcare

This yet again falls to the top of our list. Anaesthetists by far make the most, at over \$120 an hour in average hourly earnings. Other medical practitioners fall into this category as well, including dermatologists, gynaecologists, pathologists and many more. Also, with an ageing workforce and a potential for a high turnover rate, graduates are more likely to get a job after earning the degree. Hundreds of classes are available across Australia in this particular field.



2. Engineering

There are ample opportunities for engineers to make more than just a living wage in Australia. With several major mining companies announcing positive F2014 results, mining engineers have plenty of opportunity. Electronics and airplane maintenance engineers are also high on the pay scale. And with the car industry on the way out of Australia, [aviation manufacturing and maintenance](#) is looking to take over in the industry.



3. Law

As one of the most prestigious degrees you can earn, law degrees always come with high earnings. Be careful though, as you may break the bank to become a lawyer. This field of study and work is high on the list anywhere in the world, so whether you're looking outside of Australia or in, chances are job opportunities and pay will be good.



4. Geology

Even after the shine of the Australian mining boom has started to fade, major mining companies and smaller exploration companies alike continue to [fund exploration activities](#). Geologists are invaluable members of exploration teams, and make around \$60 per hour in Australia. It's a particularly good job for people who don't want to spend the rest of their professional career at a desk.



5. Finance

As long as there's business, accountants will have jobs. In big cities like Sydney and Melbourne, finance professionals are in high demand. Jobs can be found at both the corporate and personal finance levels, with plenty of high level positions in stock markets like the ASX. Those in financial jobs make on average around \$60 an hour.



6. Education

For those who never really want to leave school, becoming a university lecturer or tutor would not only allow you to continue to be immersed in your passion, but it also pays pretty well. Lecturers stand to make just north of \$57 an hour. According to a recent article by The Australian, some people have recently been turned off of returning to school because of uncertainty over fees. However, with the continuing rise of the cost of living in Australia, [university degrees](#) will be important to securing adequate job opportunities.



7. Dentistry

Entry-level dentists make a fair bit more on average than other types of entry level employees in Australia. Although most dentists work in the field for an average of 20 years and move on, it's a great



way for a college graduate to establish themselves after graduation. And like Law, dentistry is respected worldwide as an important career path, which can open doors if you want to work internationally.

8. Business

This is a fairly wide-ranging category, covering a vast array of subjects. The best part about a [business degree](#) though is that you can work in virtually any industry on the corporate side of a business. A master's degree holds much more weight than a bachelor's, but any experience in a business setting is invaluable on your CV.



9. Computer Science/IT

Several big, global companies like Rio Tinto and UPS use analytics from millions of data points to help make smart financial and business decisions. Data analysts make this happen, and are in need in demand in Australia as more companies utilize data. The average hourly rate for systems analysts is just over \$53 an hour.



10. Earth/Environmental Science

Australia is one of the most environmentally-minded countries in the world, making it no surprise that this degree would land in the top 10. Australia has 12 universities that rank in the global top 200 for earth science, and 13 for environmental science. Positions for this subject are available on either the corporate side or in the field, and again are invaluable on exploration projects for mining companies.

