# 2027 Priority Occupation Study Pathways

Organised by Industry Area

**Purpose.** This list identifies study pathways linked to priority occupation needs in Vanuatu. It groups priority occupations and example roles by industry or sector and identifies related course pathways. The Scholarships Board can use these priority areas to help guide consideration of scholarship applications for 2027.

**How to read this list.** "Available in Vanuatu?" indicates whether the listed study pathway is currently identified as available domestically (Yes) or requires study outside Vanuatu (No). Course titles are indicative pathways and should be read alongside current scholarship eligibility and application requirements.

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries** | | | |
| **Agricultural mechanical technician** | Agricultural mechanical technician, farm machinery specialist, heavy equipment mechanic, irrigation systems specialist | Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering (Heavy Vehicle) or Diploma in Engineering (Mechanical) | No |
| **Agricultural production manager** | Agri-food production manager, manufacturing production manager, processing plant supervisor | Diploma of Agriculture or Bachelor of Agricultural Science | Yes |
| **Animal production and health specialist** | Livestock or poultry production manager, livestock extension officer, animal health inspector, small breeding centre nursery officer | Diploma of Agriculture or Animal Health or Animal Husbandry | Yes |
| **Aquaculture or hatchery technician** | Hatchery operations officer, fish health technician, feed & nutrition technician, aquaculture diver | Diploma of Aquaculture or Applied Fisheries | No |
| **Farmer or farm manager** | Mixed crop farmer, livestock farmer, farm manager | Certificate IV or Diploma of Agriculture | Yes |
| **Fisheries and marine scientist** | Ocean or marine science officer, marine research scientist, fisheries researcher, fisheries stock assessor | Bachelor of Marine Science or Marine Biology | No |
| **Fisheries management and compliance officer** | Fisheries stock officer, fisheries licensing officer, fisheries manager | Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance or Diploma in Applied Fisheries | No |
| **Food science and standards professional** | Food quality assurance officer, food safety compliance officer | Diploma in Food Technology | No |
| **Forester** | Forester, forest botanist or ecologist, forestry plantation farmer | Diploma in Forestry or Bachelor of Forestry | No |
| **Horticulture and nursery specialist** | Gardener, nursery technician, nursery manager | Certificate IV in Agriculture (Plant Science) | Yes |
| **Business & Finance** | | | |
| **Business analyst** | Business analyst, public-private partnerships analyst, market intelligence officer, market systems development officer | Bachelor of Business | No |

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Economist** | Health economist, natural resources economist, trade economist, economic development specialist | Bachelor of Economics or Commerce | No |
| **Finance and accounting professional** | Accountant, auditor, finance officer or manager, public financial management specialist | Bachelor of Commerce in Finance or Accounting | Yes |
| **Procurement and supply chain professional** | Procurement officer, procurement specialist, supply chain officer, logistics officer, purchasing manager | Diploma in Management | No |
| **Climate Change & Disaster Resilience** | | | |
| **Climate change and disaster resilience specialist** | Climate change officer, climate change analyst/specialist, disaster risk management officer, disaster officer, resilience officer | Diploma or Advanced Diploma in Climate Resilience and Humanitarian Action | Yes |
| **Meteorologist or climate scientist** | Meteorological or climate scientist | Bachelor of Science (Climate Change) or Bachelor of Science (Earth Science) | No |
| **Community, Culture & Social Services** | | | |
| **Arts, culture and sports programme officer** | Sports development coordinators | Diploma in Sports Science | No |
| **Community and social support professional** | Child protection officer, community services officer, disability services officer, gender-based violence support officers, social worker | Bachelor of Social Work | No |
| **Gender and social inclusion specialist** | Gender specialist, social inclusion officer, disability inclusion officer, women's empowerment officer | Bachelor of Applied Social Science or Bachelor of Sociology | No |
| **Youth counsellor** | Youth counsellor, youth development officer | Diploma in Counselling | No |
| **Pastor** | Church Pastor | Bachelor of Theology or Bachelor in Religious Studies | Yes |
| **Construction & Engineering** | | | |
| **Construction and engineering technician** | Architectural or civil drafter, civil designer | Diploma in Civil Engineering | No |
| **Engineering professional** | Civil engineer, structural engineer, electrical engineer, geotechnical engineer, transport engineer, biomedical or clinical engineer | Bachelor of Engineering in relevant discipline (e.g. agricultural, civil, electrical, mechanical, biomedical, etc.) | No |
| **Plant and equipment operator** | Heavy equipment operator, heavy mobile plant technician, plant and equipment officer, plant maintenance technician | Certificate IV in Automotive Engineering (Heavy Vehicle) | No |

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Project and construction manager** | Project and construction manager, engineer project specialist | Diploma of Construction Management | No |
| **Trades worker (construction and maintenance)** | Building and construction trades worker, carpenter, maintenance trades worker | Certificate IV in Carpentry & Joinery | No |
| **Urban or regional planner** | Urban planner, town planner, senior urban planning officer, housing and settlement officer | Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning | No |
| **Digital Technology & Communications** | | | |
| **Cybersecurity analyst** | Intelligence analyst, security analyst, security architect, cybersecurity analyst, digital forensics analyst | Graduate Diploma in Cyber Security | No |
| **Data engineer or data analyst** | Data officer or analyst, data engineer, data systems analyst | Bachelor of Science (Computer Science and Information Systems) | No |
| **Data processing and information systems officer** | ICT or IT officer, systems support officer, information management systems officer, data processing officer | Diploma in Information Technology | Yes |
| **GIS and geospatial specialist** | Senior GIS/mapping officer, GIS officer, geospatial scientist | Bachelor of Geospatial Science | No |
| **Language specialist** | Terminologist | Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics) or Bachelor of Arts (Language Technology) | No |
| **Network and systems engineer** | Cloud architect, systems or network engineer, systems or network administrator | Bachelor of Information Technology | No |
| **Public relations and communications professional** | Public relations officer, communications officer, media and communications officer, dissemination officer, technical writer | Bachelor of Media and Communication | No |
| **Software and applications developer** | Software developer, software applications developer, software integration specialist, user interface engineer | Bachelor of Information Technology | No |
| **Translator and interpreter** | Translator, interpreter, language officer | Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics) or Bachelor of Arts (Language Technology) | No |
| **Education & Training** | | | |
| **Assessment and psychometrics specialist** | Psychometrician, measurement specialist | Bachelor of Psychology and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Data Science | No |
| **Curriculum specialist** | Maths specialist, literacy and numeracy specialist, science specialist, inclusive education curriculum specialist, curriculum developer | Bachelor of Education | Yes |
| **Early childhood educator** | Early childhood teacher | Certificate IV in Education (Early Childhood Care and Teaching) or Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) | Yes |

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Inclusive and special education teacher** | Special needs teacher, inclusive education teacher | Bachelor of Education (Inclusive Education) | Yes |
| **Primary school teacher** | Primary school teacher | Bachelor of Education (Primary) | Yes |
| **School improvement and inspection professional** | School inspector, school improvement officer | Bachelor of Education and Graduate Certificate in School Leadership | Yes |
| **School principal** | School principal | Graduate Certificate in School Leadership | Yes |
| **Secondary school teacher** | Secondary school teacher | Bachelor of Education (Secondary) | Yes |
| **TVET management and coordination professional** | TVET Centre manager, training officer, provincial service delivery officer, training provider support officer, provincial training coordinators, industry coordinator | Certificate IV in Education (VET Teaching) up to Diploma in Training and Assessment | Yes |
| **Environmental Management & Conservation** | | | |
| **Environmental management and conservation specialist** | Environmental officer, environmental scientist, natural resource management officer, conservation officer, pollution control officer | Bachelor of Environmental Science or Environmental Health | Yes |
| **Foreshore and coastal planning professional** | Foreshore development officer, coastal planning officer | Bachelor of Environmental Science | Yes |
| **Hydrography and surveying professional** | Surveying & mapping officer, hydrographer | Diploma in Land Surveying | No |
| **Hydrologist** | Hydrologist | Bachelor of Science (Earth Science) | No |
| **Health & Medical Services** | | | |
| **Allied health professional** | Dietician/nutritionist, occupational therapist, orthotist/podiatrist, physiotherapist | Bachelor-level qualification in the relevant allied health specialty e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics and nutrition, podiatry, etc. | No |
| **Allied health technician/assistant** | Physiotherapy assistant/technician, occupational therapy assistant, speech pathologist, nutrition educator, dental assistant | Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance | No |
| **Biomedical technician** | Biomedical technician, medical equipment technician | Diploma of Biomedical Engineering | Yes |
| **Community health support worker** | Community or village health worker, nurse aide | Certificate in Public Health (Level 5) or Diploma in Public Health | No |
| **Dental and oral health professional** | Dentist, dental hygienist, dental registrar, dental consultant, oral health coordinator | Bachelor of Oral Health or Bachelor of Dental Surgery | No |
| **Medical doctor** | General practitioner, family doctor, medical practitioner, medical officer | Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, with postgraduate training in family medicine | No |
| **Medical imaging technician** | Medical imaging technician, radiographer, sonographer | Bachelor of Medical Imaging Science | No |

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Medical laboratory professional** | Biochemist, haematologist, microbiologist, medical laboratory scientist | Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science | No |
| **Medical laboratory technician** | Laboratory technician, laboratory assistant | Diploma of Laboratory Technology | No |
| **Medical specialist** | Anaesthetist, consultant physician or surgeon, emergency physician, internal medicine specialist, oncologist, obstetrician/gynaecologist, paediatrician, pathologist, psychiatrist, radiologist, registrar | Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with postgraduate training in specialisation | No |
| **Nursing and midwifery associate** | Nurse aid, enrolled nurse | Diploma in Nursing | No |
| **Nursing and midwifery professional** | Registered or clinical nurse, community or public health nurse, specialist hospital nurse, mental health nurse, nurse educator or manager, nurse practitioner | Bachelor of Nursing or Midwifery with postgraduate training in specialisation | No |
| **Pharmacy professional** | Clinical pharmacist | Bachelor of Pharmacy or Clinical Pharmacy | No |
| **Pharmacy technician** | Pharmacy technician, dispenser | Diploma of Pharmacy Technology | No |
| **Public health professional** | Communicable and non-communicable disease manager, epidemiologist, family planning coordinator, health promotion manager, primary health care officer, public health surveillance officer, health and sanitation officer, vaccine safety officer | Bachelor of Public Health, with postgraduate training for specialist roles | No |
| **Law & Justice** | | | |
| **Court registrar** | Court registrar, judicial officer | Diploma of Justice | No |
| **Immigration and border management officer** | Border control officer, passport officer, visa officer, investigation officer, airport and maritime border manager | Diploma in Government Studies or Public Administration | No |
| **Judge or magistrate** | Magistrate, judge | Bachelor of Laws and Professional Diploma in Legal Practice | No |
| **Juvenile justice officer** | Juvenile justice officer, youth justice officer | Diploma of Justice | No |
| **Legal services officer** | Government legal officer, senior legal officer, legal contract specialist | Bachelor of Laws and Professional Diploma in Legal Practice | No |
| **Legislative drafting and legal policy officer** | Legal policy and reform analyst, legislative drafting officer, copyright officer, intellectual property officer, trademark officer | Bachelor of Laws and Professional Diploma in Legislative Drafting | No |
| **Prosecutor or state counsel** | Prosecutor, state counsel | Bachelor of Laws and Professional Diploma in Legal Practice | No |
| **Public defender or legal aid officer** | Legal aid officer, public defender | Bachelor of Laws and Professional Diploma in Legal Practice | No |

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Restorative justice and mediation officer** | Restorative justice officer, mediation officer | Diploma of Justice | No |
| **Maritime** | | | |
| **Marine engineer or nautical specialist** | Marine engineer, nautical scientist | Diploma in Marine Engineering or Nautical Science | No |
| **Search and Rescue Specialist** | Search & Rescue Officer/Coordinator | Diploma/Bachelor in Emergency Management | No |
| **Public Administration** | | | |
| **Compliance and regulation officer** | Compliance officer, inspection officer, regulatory enforcement officer, risk & compliance analyst, standards officer, licensing officer | Diploma in Government Studies or Public Administration | No |
| **Governance officer** | Governance officer, governance analyst, public administration officer | Diploma in Government Studies or Public Administration | No |
| **Human resources professional** | Human resource officer, senior human resource officer, principal human resource officer, human resource manager | Diploma of Government (Human Resource Management) or Diploma in Human Resource Management | No |
| **Monitoring and evaluation professional** | Monitoring and evaluation officer, research and planning officer, data analyst, reporting officer | Diploma of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning | No |
| **Policy and planning professional** | Policy & planning manager, policy officer, policy analyst, planning officer | Diploma in Government Studies or Public Administration | No |
| **Project management professional** | Project management officer, project development officer, project coordinator | National Certificate 4 in Project Management | No |
| **Public administration manager** | Ministry director, administration manager, corporate services manager, infrastructure and asset manager, remuneration manager | Bachelor of Public Administration or Advanced Diploma of Government (Leadership and Management) | No |
| **Statistician or official statistics professional** | Statistical Analyst, statistician, census officer, econometrician, demographer | Bachelor of Commerce (Official Statistics) | No |
| **Town clerk or municipal governance manager** | Town clerk | Diploma in Public Administration | Yes |
| **Tourism & Hospitality** | | | |

| Priority occupation | Example roles | Priority course pathway | Available in Vanuatu? |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Chef or culinary professional** | Chef, sous chef, pastry chef, baker | Certificate IV in Hospitality Operations or equivalent qualification | No |
| **Hotel, accommodation or restaurant manager** | Bungalow manager, front office manager, guest services manager, housekeeping and laundry manager, reservations manager, bar manager, food and beverage supervisor | Certificate IV in Tourism and Hospitality (Supervisor) | Yes |
| **Tourism and tour operator** | Tourism company operator, inbound/outbound tour guide, tours and activities guide | Certificate IV in Tourism and Hospitality (Supervisor) | Yes |
| **Tourism sales, marketing and events professional** | Hotel/resort sales and marketing manager, business development manager, sales coordinator, weddings coordinator, events manager | Diploma of Marketing and Communication | No |