> **Give an apprenticeship a go. The knowledge you pick up through hands on experience is worth far more than what you can learn from a book.**

Jarrad Langdon's journey

Today — Web/Graphic Designer with his own business
- Jala Design in Sydney

2001-07 — Apprenticeship with a design company
- Certificate III in Printing and Graphic Arts (Graphic Pre-press)

2001 — Left school at the end of Year 10

Jarrad's story

My journey started at school. I discovered my love of design during work experience when I was in Year 10 with a local graphic design firm. They offered me an apprenticeship, and after getting a lot of advice from friends and family I made the tough decision to leave school.

I was receiving great marks at school and my careers advisor was strongly urging me to not to leave - but I'm so glad I didn't listen. I have never regretted my decision.

During my apprenticeship I was busy completing TAFE courses, teaching part time and spent most of my spare time training to represent Australia at the WorldSkills International Competition, where I won a gold medal for Web Design.

My TAFE courses were of such a high standard and helped me further my knowledge with up to date content, and ultimately gave me the skills to set up my business. Nowadays one of the hardest things I do is recruit staff.

I learnt a lot of real industry knowledge which has really helped me be able to set up my business.

"I actually prefer to employ people with VET qualifications than degrees because they are likely to have superior skills."

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