Careers in viticulture and wine

Teachers Guide

Planning a Viticulture excursion or incursion



The viticulture and wine sector offers rich, hands-on learning across science, technology, business, sustainability, and design - making it a strong choice for engaging experiences for primary and secondary school students.

Why engage with your local industry

- Living in an agricultural region does not guarantee that students understand the industry around them.
- Connect with local industry so that career programs make locally relevant roles visible, relatable, and tangible.
- Facilitate direct industry engagement to provide students opportunities to interact with industry professionals through excursions, incursions and mentoring.
- Help students make connections between what they enjoy or are good at and how those skills are needed in viticulture.

Where to start:

- **How to connect:** Start with a phone call to reception of industry businesses near you to find the best contact, followed by a detailed email.
- **Seek advice:** Contact your local wine region association or reach out to Wine Australia (research@wineaustralia.com) for suggestions if you are unsure where to start.
- **Existing resources:** Become familiar with the **Careers in viticulture and wine website** and resources.
- **Timing:** Give plenty of notice and avoid contact during vintage (typically Summer to Autumn).
- **Be specific:** Clearly outline your request (excursion, incursion), flexibility with dates, times, student numbers and content you would like covered.

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Choosing a site:

- **Finding a site:** Perhaps you have a vineyard or winery close to your school, or one that you drive past that could be considered.
- **Type of visit:** If only visiting a vineyard, a small grower may be more suitable than a winery. But if you wish to focus more on the science behind winemaking, a winery would be a better option. Not all vineyards have wineries, and not all wineries have vineyards.

Logistics and planning:

- **Vintage season:** Typically Summer to Autumn - avoid these months due to increased activity.
- **Student needs:** Inform the host if any students require additional support. Provide an attendee list.
- **Meeting point:** Clarify the best meeting location (e.g. reception or specific gate).
- **Reminders:** Send a reminder email or call a week before the visit and notify them when you are enroute.
- **On the day:** Minimise unnecessary items during the visit (e.g. bags). Remind students to not handle or touch anything and be proactive before accidents happen. Industry is giving up their time, and hosts may feel extra nervous about large groups of students on the property.
- **Engagement:** Help prompt students to ask questions of the host, and step in for any behavioural management.

Post-visit etiquette:

- **Gratitude:** A verbal thank-you from a student goes a long way – gifts are not necessary, but a thank you is.
- **Photos:** Get permission to take photos and consider sharing a few with the host afterwards or send them a certificate of appreciation.



Watch the webinar

Planning a Viticulture excursion or incursion: A guide for teachers and industry.

Hosted by Amy McCosker from Agri-tech Education with Shelley Ray-Brennan from Kingston Estate Wines and Justine Fogden, Agricultural Teacher with Loxton High School (recorded in November 2025, 40 minutes).

Wine Australia

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Careers in viticulture and wine website