

Admission requirements and selection



To be offered a place in a course you must:

- 1 be eligible to be considered
- 2 be selected in competition with other eligible applicants
- 3 have paid the UAC processing charge.

To be eligible you must:

- meet the admission requirements of the institution offering the course
- meet the entrance requirements of the course. Some courses have prerequisites or additional selection criteria set by the institutions.

Courses with additional selection criteria usually have early closing dates. To see if the course you're interested in has course prerequisites, additional selection criteria or an early closing date, check the course description in the UAC Guide, on the UAC website or in My UAC (UAC's mobile app).

To be selected you must:

- compete against other eligible applicants. Being eligible to be considered for a course does not guarantee you a place in the course.

- **Tasmanian Year 12 applicants** – the ATAR as provided by the University of Tasmania and calculated by the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC)
- **Victorian Year 12 applicants** – the ATAR as calculated and distributed by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)
- **Western Australian Year 12 applicants** – the ATAR as provided by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC)
- **Queensland Year 12 applicants** who are eligible for an Overall Position (OP) – the rank as provided by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is used to derive an equivalent ATAR. Students who complete a Queensland Senior External Examination are not eligible for an OP; UAC calculates a UAC rank for these students.

In addition to the ATAR, some courses specify course prerequisites which you have to satisfy before you can be considered for an offer. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/interstate.shtml for further information on interstate courses and results comparable to NSW HSC courses.

Offers to applicants who have an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) below the published cut-off

In general terms, the cut-off for a course shows you the minimum ATAR needed by most Year 12 applicants when offers were made in the previous year. However, you may receive an offer to a course even with an ATAR below the cut-off.

There are a number of reasons why an institution might make you an offer even though your ATAR is below the cut-off. These include the institution considering other criteria through:

- alternative entry schemes
- Schools Recommendation Schemes
- Educational Access Schemes
- early offer schemes.

Institutions may also award the following bonus points:

- Year 12 subject bonus points (for performance in relevant subjects)
- regional bonus points.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For those completing Year 12 in 2016

2016 NSW HSC students

For Year 12 applicants, their selection rank for tertiary entrance is usually their ATAR.

In addition to the ATAR, some courses specify course prerequisites which you have to satisfy before you can be considered for an offer. Some courses also have additional selection criteria such as a personal statement, questionnaire, portfolio of work, audition, interview or test, which are considered either instead of, or together with, the ATAR.

Institutions may also allocate bonus points to a student for a particular course. In that case, the student's selection rank for that course will be their ATAR plus bonus points. As the bonus points schemes for each institution, and often for each course, are different, a student's selection rank can be different for each course they list in their course preferences.

Cut-offs

The course cut-off is the minimum selection rank required by most Year 12 applicants for selection into a course. The interaction of three factors determines cut-offs:

- 1 the number of places available in the course
- 2 the number of applicants for the course
- 3 the quality of those applicants.

These three factors mean that cut-offs change from year to year and are impossible to predict before applicants are selected for a particular course in a particular year. The cut-offs for any course can rise, fall or remain the same from year to year.

Course cut-offs are determined when Main Round offers are made in January.

This means cut-offs for entry to courses in 2017 won't be known until selection is actually made during the Main Round in January.

Therefore, Main Round course cut-offs from the previous year are listed in the UAC Guide, and in the course search on UAC's website and in My UAC. They are intended to be used as a guide only and are supplied to help you assess your chances of getting into a particular course and decide on your preferences.

Cut-offs indicate the lowest rank accepted for entry into the course – they don't represent the average ability of the students accepted for the course. The cut-offs also include any bonus points, so some applicants may have received an offer to the course even though their ATAR was below the cut-off.

2016 interstate Year 12 students

All Australian states and territories use a common scale, or index, which allows the comparison of overall measures of achievement in Year 12 across time and states.

Admission to most tertiary courses is based on your measure of overall achievement in the following studies:

- **ACT Year 12 applicants** – the ATAR as provided by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (ACTBSSS)
- **South Australian and Northern Territory Year 12 applicants** – the ATAR as provided by the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC)

2016 International Baccalaureate students

For 2016 International Baccalaureate (IB) students, a UAC rank is derived from your IB score. Note that IB students who are attempting the IB in Australia and are Australian or New Zealand citizens (including dual citizens), Australian permanent resident visa holders or Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa holders, apply as Year 12 applicants through UAC.

If you meet the above citizenship criteria but are sitting the IB outside Australia, you apply as a non-Year 12 applicant through UAC.

Check the lists of IB score/ATAR equivalences and IB subjects equivalent to NSW HSC courses at www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/ib.shtml.

Non-standard Year 12 students

Non-standard Australian Year 12 students include those completing Year 12 programs of study through Australian Christian Education, Rudolph Steiner Education, home schooling and the Queensland Senior External Examination. These students apply as non-Year 12 applicants through UAC. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/non-Year-12.shtml for further information.

To be assessable by UAC, applicants must provide proof of completion of an accredited Year 12 program of study and must have sat the American Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), results from which will be assessed by UAC.

Applicants are advised to contact the admissions offices of the institutions they are applying to for possible consideration of their non-standard Year 12 studies in their application.

New Zealand NCEA Level 3 students

For students who have completed the NCEA Level 3, an Interstate Transfer Index (ITI) will be calculated by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and provided to UAC; this will be used in the selection process, provided that you have fulfilled university entrance requirements as set by NZQA. The NZQA does not report the ITI to applicants.

Queries about the ITI and university entrance requirements should be made to NZQA. For further information, visit www.nzqa.govt.nz.

NCEA Level 3 students apply as non-Year 12 applicants through UAC. When you begin your application, select 'No' when you are asked if you are undertaking an Australian Year 12 in 2016.

Some courses have additional selection criteria such as a portfolio, interview, audition, questionnaire or test. You can find details of any additional selection criteria in the course descriptions in the Guide, on UAC's website or in My UAC.

For those with previous Year 12 studies

Each institution sets its own admission requirements for applicants who are applying solely on a previous Year 12 or International Baccalaureate (IB) result achieved before 2016.

If you completed your senior secondary studies before 2016, you apply as a non-Year 12 applicant through UAC.

For those with other studies

If you have completed or partially completed a tertiary course, institutions may take any or all of the following into account when considering your application: tertiary studies, secondary studies, post-secondary studies, and other relevant factors such as employment experience.

If you have partially completed a tertiary course and want to transfer to another course at a different institution, you must apply through UAC. If you want to transfer to another course at the same institution, check with your institution. In either case, you may be eligible for advanced standing – contact the institution for further information.

Are there any studies I shouldn't include in my application?

AQF Certificates I and II; Statements of Attainment; TAFE statements; and courses delivered by Australian private providers that are not accredited. Only those courses accredited under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), or by the relevant state/territory accreditation authority, will be taken into account. Qualifications undertaken with private providers will not be assessed without proof of accreditation for the particular course.

For those with overseas qualifications

If you are applying on the basis of overseas secondary or tertiary qualifications, contact the relevant institution/s to discuss your eligibility for admission before you apply through UAC.

For details of commonly accepted and not accepted overseas secondary qualifications visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/overseas.shtml.

If you have qualifications from countries where English is not the standard language of instruction, you must provide evidence of English language proficiency. Read *Undergraduate fact sheet 8: English language proficiency*.

Pathway courses

Most institutions offer pathway options for applicants who don't meet the entry requirements for their degree courses or need further support and preparation before studying at degree level. These generally include non-degree courses offered by the institution, such as foundation studies, preparatory courses and Certificate, Diploma or Associate Degree courses.

If you successfully complete a pathway course, an institution may guarantee you entry into a particular degree course. Otherwise you can use your pathway course studies to apply and compete for admission to other degree courses. You may also be awarded credit for some studies undertaken in your pathway course.

A number of UAC's participating institutions offer pathway courses that you can apply to through UAC. For more information, visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/pathway-courses.shtml.

Slipback offers to pathway courses

Some institutions may offer you a place in a pathway course – even if you don't apply for it – if you're not eligible or competitive enough to receive an offer to the course to which you've applied. This means that you may receive an offer to a lower level course instead of the course you have listed in your preferences. This is known as a slipback offer. Not all institutions make slipback offers.

Slipback offers are released up to two days after scheduled offer rounds and you should check for them in the same way as for standard offer rounds. For more information, visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/pathway-courses.shtml.

Alternative entry

Most institutions offer alternative entry to applicants who do not meet the usual admission requirements. When considering your application, institutions may take into account tertiary preparation courses, TAFE courses, the Special Tertiary Admissions Test, alternative entry schemes and programs, professional/paraprofessional qualifications, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, and employment experience. For more information, visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/alternative-entry.shtml.

SELECTION

Selection criteria

For most courses, you will be selected mainly on your academic qualifications. For example, 2016 Year 12 applicants will usually be selected on the basis of their Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent.

For non-Year 12 applicants, the ATAR or equivalent alone is generally not applicable when applying for tertiary study. Most institutions take into account one or more of the following when considering your application: secondary studies, tertiary studies, post-secondary studies and other relevant factors such as employment experience.

Some courses select applicants on the basis of additional selection criteria such as a personal statement, questionnaire, portfolio of work, audition, interview or test. Other courses may use a combination of both academic qualifications and additional selection criteria. For details of these criteria, read the individual course descriptions in the Guide, on UAC's website or in My UAC.

However, you must meet the admission requirements outlined at the beginning of this fact sheet before you can be considered for a course.

Does UAC or the institution decide who is made an offer to a course?

The institutions decide who they will make offers to. UAC does not select applicants and does not have the power to persuade institutions to make a particular offer or to question decisions made by institutions.

The selection process

Remember that if you receive an offer you must accept it by the date specified or you may lose your offer.

You can choose up to nine course preferences. In some offer rounds only your first preference will be considered, or only consecutive preferences at the same institution. For offer rounds in which all preferences are being considered, your course preferences are considered in the order you have listed them in your application. If there is no place available in the course listed as your first preference, your second preference will be considered and so on until an offer can be made or you have no more preferences.

You will only receive one offer per offer round, to your highest preference for which you are eligible and competitive enough.

For further information about course preferences, read *Undergraduate fact sheet 5: Offers and enrolment*.

Entry schemes and bonus points

Educational Access Schemes

Most of UAC's participating institutions have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) to help students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to university. For further information visit www.uac.edu.au/eas and download UAC's EAS booklet.

Early offer schemes

Some institutions have early offer schemes for Year 12 students. Through these schemes, Year 12 applicants may be selected for courses independently of their final Year 12 results and on the basis of a range of criteria, including recommendations provided by schools/colleges.

Schools Recommendation Schemes

Schools Recommendation Schemes (SRS) enable schools to recommend current Year 12 students, who are UAC applicants, for early offers of undergraduate admission. SRS aim to assist access to higher education for current Australian Year 12 students using a wide range of selection criteria, including school recommendations, senior secondary studies, and personal awards and achievements. For further information visit www.uac.edu.au/srs and download UAC's SRS booklet.

Year 12 subject bonus points

Some institutions apply bonus points to a selection rank in recognition of performance in Year 12 subjects relevant to an applicant's chosen course of study. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/subject-bonuses.shtml for links to further information.

Regional bonus points

A number of institutions apply bonus points to a selection rank if an applicant lives and/or undertakes their Year 12 schooling in a certain area. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/regional-bonuses.shtml for links to further information.



Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT) Pty Ltd

Telephone: 1300 ASK UAC (1300 275 822)

from mobiles: (02) 9752 0200 from overseas: +61 2 9752 0200

Email: use our online enquiry form at www.uac.edu.au/enquiry

Website: www.uac.edu.au

Postal address: UAC, Locked Bag 112, Silverwater NSW 2128

In person: Quad 2, 6 Parkview Drive, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Office hours: 8.30am–4.30pm Monday to Friday