

Undergraduate fact sheet 2: Admission requirements and selection



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

General requirements

There are three general requirements for being offered a place in a course. You must:

1 Be eligible:

- by meeting the admission requirements of the institution offering the course
- by meeting the specific entrance requirements of the course (eg prerequisites or additional selection criteria) set by the institutions.

2 compete against other eligible applicants

3 have paid the UAC processing charge.

Academic requirements

Tertiary institutions in Australia have found that a selection rank based on a student's overall academic achievement is the single best predictor of success in tertiary study. Therefore, the institutions use a ranking system as the basis for selecting their students. Your selection rank is your ATAR plus any applicable bonus points.

Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students. Some courses have additional selection criteria such as a personal statement, questionnaire, portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test, which are considered together with (or sometimes instead of) your selection rank. You can find details of additional selection criteria in the course descriptions in the UAC Guide, on UAC's website at uac.edu.au/undergraduate/course-search or in the My UAC app.

2017 Year 12 students with an ATAR

ATARs are calculated in each state (except Queensland) to reflect a student's rank against other students in their state. An ATAR of 85.00 in your state is equivalent to an ATAR of 85.00 in other states.

Some courses require you to satisfy course prerequisites (HSC subjects you need to have studied) to be considered for an offer. For details of prerequisites, read the course descriptions in the UAC Guide, on UAC's website at uac.edu.au/undergraduate/course-search or in the My UAC app.

If you're applying to NSW universities from another state, you can compare your courses and results to NSW HSC courses and results at uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/interstate.

If you live in NSW or the ACT and are applying interstate, check if you meet the admission requirements of institutions in that state as they may be different to the requirements in your home state.

Bonus points

Bonus points increase your selection rank. Institutions allocate bonus points to applicants for a variety of reasons, including:

- in recognition of your performance in Year 12 subjects relevant to your chosen course of study (subject bonus points)
- if you live in, or undertake your Year 12 schooling in, a certain area (regional bonus points)
- to acknowledge long-term educational disadvantage (through Educational Access Schemes).

The bonus points schemes for each institution (and often for each course) are different, so your selection rank may be different for each course you list in your course preferences.

If an institution allocates bonus points to you, then your selection rank for that institution or a particular course = your ATAR + bonus points. For example, Course A has six applicants and only three places available. The six applicants have the following selection ranks:

- 1 89.00 (ATAR of 89.00)
- 2 88.00 (ATAR of 87.00 plus 1 bonus point)
- 3 87.00 (ATAR of 83.00 plus 4 bonus points)
- 4 86.00 (ATAR of 86.00)
- 5 85.00 (ATAR of 83.00 plus 2 bonus points)
- 6 84.00 (ATAR of 84.00)

Offers will be made to applicants 1, 2 and 3. Applicant 4 will not receive an offer even though that applicant has an ATAR higher than applicant 3. The cut-off for Course A will be 87.00. This is the lowest selection rank required to receive an offer to Course A.

To find more information on bonus points, visit uac.edu.au/atar/bonus-points.

Cut-offs

The course cut-off is the minimum selection rank (ATAR + bonus points) required by most Year 12 applicants for selection into a course.

Three factors determine 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 increase, decrease or remain the same.

The cut-off does not represent the average ability of the students accepted for the course and does not reflect the difficulty or quality of the course.

Cut-offs for entry to courses in 2018 won't be known until selection is made during the December 2017 and January 2018 rounds.

The cut-offs published by UAC are last year's cut-offs. Remember that cut-offs include bonus points, so some applicants will have received an offer to the course even though their ATAR was below the cut-off.

Offers to applicants who have an ATAR below the published 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.

2017 Queensland Year 12 students

Queensland Year 12 students receive an Overall Position (OP) instead of an ATAR. To see how Queensland Overall Positions (OPs) equated to the ATAR in 2016, visit uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/ATAR-OP-table.shtml.

Students who complete a Queensland Senior External Examination are not eligible for an OP; UAC calculates a UAC rank for these students.

2017 International Baccalaureate students

2017 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma students will receive a UAC rank derived from their IB score.

If you are attempting the IB in **Australia** and are an Australian or New Zealand citizen (including a dual citizen), an Australian permanent resident visa holder or an Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa holder, apply as a Year 12 applicant through UAC.

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

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

Students studying non-standard Year 12 programs

Non-standard Year 12 programs of study include those completed through Australian Christian Education, Rudolph Steiner Education, home schooling and the Queensland Senior External Examination. If you're studying these programs, select 'No' in your application when you are asked if you're undertaking an Australian Year 12 in 2017.

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

UAC will also assess results from the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT). Find out more about STAT at stat.acer.edu.au.

Contact the admissions offices of the institutions you are applying to for information on how they will consider your non-standard Year 12 studies.

2017 New Zealand NCEA Level 3 students

If you are completing 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 you have fulfilled NZQA's university entrance requirements. NZQA does not report the ITI to applicants.

When you begin your application, select 'No' when asked if you're undertaking an Australian Year 12 in 2017.

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

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 2017.

If you completed your senior secondary studies before 2017, 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 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 7: English language proficiency*.

Pathway options

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 one of these courses, an institution may guarantee you entry into a particular degree course. Otherwise you can use your non-degree studies to apply and compete for admission to other degree courses. You may also be awarded credit for some studies undertaken in your non-degree course.

Slipback offers to pathway courses

Some institutions may offer you a place in a lower-level 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 is known as a slipback offer.

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 uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/pathway-courses.shtml.

SELECTION

Selection criteria

For most courses, you'll be selected mainly on your academic qualifications. For example, 2017 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 based on additional selection criteria such as a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test. Other courses may use a combination of both academic qualifications and additional selection criteria. For details of these criteria, read the course descriptions in the UAC Guide, on UAC's website at uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/selection or in the My UAC app.

Regardless of how selection is made to a particular course, 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.

Selection process

You can choose up to five course preferences and they'll be considered in the order you've listed them in your application. If there's 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'll only receive one offer per offer round to your highest preference for which you're eligible and competitive enough.

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

Special entry schemes

Alternative entry schemes and programs

Some institutions have a specific scheme or program for alternative entry. Applicants assessed through these schemes normally don't meet the usual minimum admission requirements of the institution but do meet other special requirements. For details, refer to the general information for each institution in the UAC Guide or on UAC's website at uac.edu.au/undergraduate/institutions.

For further information, visit uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/alternative-entry.shtml.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Most institutions have a special admission scheme specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

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.

To be eligible for consideration under EAS for 2017–18 admissions, you must be:

- a UAC applicant for undergraduate admission
- an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia (includes holders of permanent humanitarian visa)
- able to demonstrate that you've experienced long-term educational disadvantage because of circumstances beyond your control.

For detailed information, visit uac.edu.au/eas and download UAC's Educational Access Schemes booklet.

Early offer schemes

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

Schools Recommendation Schemes

Schools Recommendation Schemes (SRS) aim to help current Australian Year 12 students gain access to higher education using a wide range of selection criteria other than (or in addition to) the ATAR. These include school recommendations and senior secondary studies.

For further information visit uac.edu.au/srs and download UAC's SRS booklet.



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 uac.edu.au/enquiry
Website: 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 (Sydney time)