UAC

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

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This Annual Report covers the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. To align with UAC's application opening and closing dates, the subset of specific information related to admissions covers the period April 2025 to March 2026.



About us

The Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT) Pty Ltd provides admissions services to higher education providers in NSW and the ACT. It processes applications for entry to undergraduate courses and coursework-based postgraduate courses.

UAC also works with universities to widen participation in higher education. It assesses and manages applications for equity programs that aim to help applicants overcome educational and financial challenges: the Educational Access Scheme and Equity Scholarships. UAC also administers the Schools Recommendation Scheme early offer program.

UAC supports school leavers transitioning to tertiary study and calculates the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank for NSW HSC students.

UAC is a not-for-profit organisation and registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

UAC acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of this nation. We honour the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of First Nations people.

Part 1: Overview

History of UAC

The history of UAC is one of adaptability and innovation.

UAC was founded in 1968 as an administrative clearing house for New South Wales' three metropolitan universities – the University of Sydney, the University of New South Wales and Macquarie University.

The creation of a joint admissions office by these universities eliminated the duplication of work caused by potential students lodging multiple applications. This streamlined approach benefited students by allowing them to submit a single application and helped universities more accurately forecast the number of offers needed to fill available places.

The higher education sector expanded in the 1970s with the growth in alternative tertiary education providers and the introduction of a no-fee policy. As a result, applications for higher education boomed and the demands on public funds increased. Attention turned to ways of continuing this expansion while reducing costs, and the three founding institutions were joined by 18 colleges and institutes.

In the 1980s, the NSW Government pushed higher education providers to broaden their admission procedures beyond the scaled aggregate. UAC played a leading role in coordinating a new system for its institutions and the Technical Committee on Scaling was established.

The 1990s was a decade of technological development, with the implementation of a centralised admissions system, including centralised assessment and data management. As the focus shifted to ensuring equity in education, a centralised application for educational access schemes was created.

In 1995, UAC became a not-for-profit company overseen by the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee (NSWVCC).

The early 2000s saw the launch of UAC's website and then the move to online applications. As the decade progressed, UAC's services expanded to include mid-year admissions, centralised postgraduate applications, fee-paying courses and an application gateway for overseas students studying local Year 12 programs. At this time UAC became a founding member of the International Association of Admissions Organisations.

As the sector became more competitive in its student recruitment, UAC diversified and, in 2012, welcomed private providers. UAC launched the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) in 2014 to help institutions process early offers for Year 12 students.

As an innovation leader, UAC used blockchain technology to release digital ATAR notices in 2017.

In recent years, UAC has expanded beyond its traditional centralised admissions service to include UAC Connect (bespoke solutions for direct admissions to individual education providers) and technological solutions that support the higher education sector.

Today, our mission is to provide excellence in admissions services and promote equity of access to tertiary education.

UAC strategy

In 2026, UAC's Strategic Plan was renewed to position us for success as the government moves towards a reformed, more regulated sector.

Our purpose

UAC exists to provide admissions services for member universities in NSW and the ACT. Aligned with our charitable purpose, UAC seeks to reduce barriers to higher education and broaden access for all students.

Our strategic priorities

UAC's 2026 to 2028 priority areas are:

- Improve value from our core admission services.
- Ensure our operations and delivery are efficient, fit-for-purpose and aligned to core admission services.
- Strengthen our engagement with government and education providers to ensure our services best meet member needs in a changing environment.

Our core services

- ATAR calculation and distribution
- Centralised admission
- Direct admission
- Equity program management

Our values



Excellence in service. We always strive to be the best we can be for institutions and students. We're known for the quality and security of our admissions services, and we value innovation and curiosity in helping us achieve excellence.



Passion. We're passionate about education and care deeply about our role in helping students access it. We approach what we do with energy and enthusiasm, and our people really enjoy working at UAC.



Integrity. We're known as a trusted and objective source of advice to institutions and students and that's important to us. We're honest, ethical and fair. The principles of equity and sustainability are embedded in our culture.



Collaboration. We love working together and with others to achieve common goals. We actively engage with our stakeholders so we can understand their challenges and deliver the admissions services that will best help them meet those challenges.



Respect. We believe all people deserve to be treated with respect, kindness and compassion. We value the principles of diversity and inclusion and it's important to us to help find ways to support increased entry into tertiary education.



Products and services

UAC Centralised

UAC Centralised processes applications for university admission for more than 80,000 applicants annually.

It provides complete online application services, including: a centralised application and assessment process; management of the allocation process; and the provision of associated resources, information and services for applicants, potential applicants, other interested parties and the general public. UAC Centralised processes applications for:

- domestic and international Year 12 students undertaking Australian qualifications, the New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement or the International Baccalaureate and seeking admission to undergraduate courses
- domestic post-school applicants seeking admission to undergraduate courses
- domestic applicants seeking admission to postgraduate coursework programs.

The ATAR

Each year around 50,000 school leavers apply through UAC for admission to courses offered by universities in NSW and the ACT. For most courses there are more applicants than places. Applicants must be ranked to allow selection to take place. This ranking is determined by the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

The ATAR is calculated solely for use by tertiary institutions, either on its own or in conjunction with other criteria.

Calculation of the ATAR is the responsibility of the Technical Committee on Scaling on behalf of the NSWVCC. The Technical Committee on Scaling is responsible for translating policy decisions into processes, and for developing and maintaining programs that ensure the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the individual ATARs.

ATARs are calculated and distributed to NSW students by UAC, which also provides support for the ATAR, including online resources, information sessions for students and schools, and a dedicated ATAR Enquiry Centre following the release of the results.

Equity programs

UAC supports and promotes equity of access to tertiary education through various programs.

Educational Access Scheme

Most of UAC's participating institutions participate in the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) to help students who have encountered significant educational challenges gain admission to tertiary study.

UAC administers EAS applications on behalf of institutions, including the provision of centralised applications and assessment, the distribution of eligibility letters and the provision of associated resources, information and services.

Equity Scholarships

UAC administers Equity Scholarships (ES) on behalf of institutions to help university students who are financially in need meet the costs associated with tertiary study. It provides centralised applications and assessment, offer processes and the provision of associated publications, information and services.

Schools Recommendation Scheme

The Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) is one way institutions make early offers to current Australian Year 12 students who have applied for undergraduate admission through UAC. SRS applications are assessed centrally at UAC using criteria other than (or in addition to) the ATAR, including school recommendations and senior secondary studies results.

Qualifications Assessment Service

UAC's Qualifications Assessment Service (QAS) enables prospective applicants to have their qualifications assessed before they apply for tertiary study.

UAC Connect

UAC Connect is a bespoke admissions solution that provides full or tailored coverage of the admissions process from application to offer generation within the customer's environment and brand. UAC provides various levels of admissions services to 12 institutions and processes more than 130,000 applications annually.

Elite Athlete and Performer Scheme

The Elite Athlete and Performer Scheme recognises the significant commitment of students competing or performing at state, national, international or professional levels. It enables institutions to consider an applicant's academic and elite achievements when assessing their application. Through the scheme applicants can receive adjustment factors to enhance their selection rank when applying for eligible courses at participating institutions.

UAC Reach

Reach is a data-driven marketing solution that delivers direct messaging and display advertising to Year 12 students, UAC applicants, influencers and 2 million web visitors as they make important decisions about their tertiary education.

UAC Advance

UAC Advance is designed to streamline and simplify the process of awarding credit for previous study and recognition of prior learning or advanced standing. It integrates existing admissions, student management and enquiry tools to verify prior learning directly from national tertiary record databases. It provides consistent, reliable and fast credit outcomes for staff and applicants and enhances student recruitment and the student experience for universities.

CredNet

UAC's CredNet platform is an industry-leading credentialing platform that issues verifiable credentials using distributed ledger technology. It supports lifelong learners and provides assurance to those faced with the challenge of credential verification.

CredNet offers credential creation, verification and management via a self-service portal for credential issuers. CredNet also provides a tamper-proof digital wallet for credential holders to safely store, access and share their credentials.

Insights

UAC's Insights dashboard is a subscription service that provides institutions with high-level views of application statistics, demographics, course preferences and offers, both current and historical. It highlights applicant trends to help with informed decision-making based on accurate business intelligence.

UAC at a glance

		32 Participating institutions	4 Apply direct institutions
160 UAC staff	2,668 Undergraduate courses offered	610 Postgraduate courses offered	79,322 Undergraduate applicants
5,937 Postgraduate applicants	53,852* Year 12 applicants	105,977 Undergraduate offers made	5,603 Postgraduate offers made
135,952† UAC Connect applications received	2,198 Qualifications Assessment Service applications received	8,426 Equity Scholarships applications received	27,883 Educational Access Scheme applications received
27,926 Schools Recommendation Scheme applications received	60,432 ATARs released	70.75 Median ATAR	53 Students who received the top ATAR of 99.95

Statistics cover the 2025–26 admissions year: April 2025 to March 2026. From 2025–26 admissions, Year 12 counts include international Year 12s and New Zealand Year 12s.

†Applicants can apply directly through UAC portals to several universities, so this figure is not the count of unique applicants, but the total number of applications received.



Corporate governance

UAC's corporate governance framework enables the organisation to make strategic decisions, provide high level services to stakeholders and meet expectations of transparency, accountability and integrity. UAC's risk management framework focuses on risk identification, risk mitigation and integration into business planning and operations.

The UAC Board is UAC's prime decision-making body. The Board determines UAC's strategies for operations and future development, and oversees risks, internal controls and regulatory activities. It reports to the NSWVCC on overall organisational performance.

The Board receives advice from:

- the Executive team, which monitors the management and performance of UAC and provides advice on corporate and strategic issues as needed
- the Audit and Risk Committee, which provides independent assurance to the UAC Board on the adequacy of UAC's governance processes, financial reporting, risk management, control frameworks and external reporting obligations
- the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, which assists the UAC Board in discharging its responsibilities in relation to the selection, appointment, remuneration and performance evaluation of the Managing Director, UAC Board and Board committees

UAC's external auditor is the Auditor-General of NSW. The Auditor-General provides an independent opinion on whether UAC's financial statements are true and fair and comply with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

UAC's main operational groups are the Executive team and the Users Committee. The Users Committee comprises representatives from each participating institution and provides advice to the Managing Director.

Our Board

Chair

Professor Denise Kirkpatrick

President
Nan Tien Institute
Appointed July 2020

Other directors

Professor Hind Benbya

Dean, Business School
Western Sydney University
Appointed November 2025

Professor Tyrone Carlin

Vice-Chancellor and President
Southern Cross University
Appointed January 2017

Mr Rob Chard

Sales Director
Fujitsu
Appointed January 2017 to November 2025

Mr Vincent Creighton

Managing Director
Universities Admissions Centre
Appointed April 2025

Mr Stuart Elmslie

Company Director
Appointed July 2026

Professor Rachel Gibson

Executive Dean, Faculty of Health
University of Canberra
Appointed November 2025

Ms Nicole Grainger-Marsh

Chief Executive Officer
Asuria Australia
Appointed January 2016

Professor Eric Knight

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (People and Operations)
Macquarie University
Appointed April 2022

Ms Cathy Kovacs

Company Director and Board Adviser
Appointed July 2020 to May 2026

Ms Robyn Petrou

Company Director
Appointed July 2026

Our management



Managing Director,
Vincent Creighton

Vincent Creighton joined UAC in April 2025 and leads the organisation as Managing Director. He is responsible for strategy, organisational performance and stakeholder value, working with the Board and Executive team to strengthen core admissions services, financial sustainability, institutional partnerships and technology-enabled service delivery.



Chief Information Officer,
Dudley Collinson

Dudley Collinson oversees the Information Technology team. The team provides infrastructure management, system support, application development, service management and project delivery to UAC's clients and customers.



Chief Customer and Commercial Officer,
James Kevin

James Kevin leads the Customer and Commercial team in the areas of business development, marketing, student engagement and account management. The team focuses on customer experience for learners and partners, as well as being responsible for driving UAC's commercial growth and promoting the company's products and services.



Chief People Officer,
Jennie Edwards

Jennie Edwards leads the People and Culture team. The team provides advice and guidance to the organisation on a range of key matters including recruitment, engagement, training and development, industrial relations, compliance and payroll.



Chief Financial Officer, José Herrera Perea

José Herrera Perea joined UAC in July 2025 and leads the Finance team. He is responsible for financial management, budgeting and forecasting, statutory reporting, procurement, vendor management and client billing. The team supports sound decision-making, disciplined cost management, strong governance and UAC's long-term financial sustainability.



Chief Strategy and Engagement Officer, Kim Paino

Kim Paino leads the Strategy and Engagement team and is responsible for company strategy development, external engagement and government relations, stakeholder management and corporate communications. Kim is also UAC's media spokesperson. Kim led UAC as Interim Managing Director from October 2024 to April 2025.



Chief Operations and Products Officer, Nerida Bewick

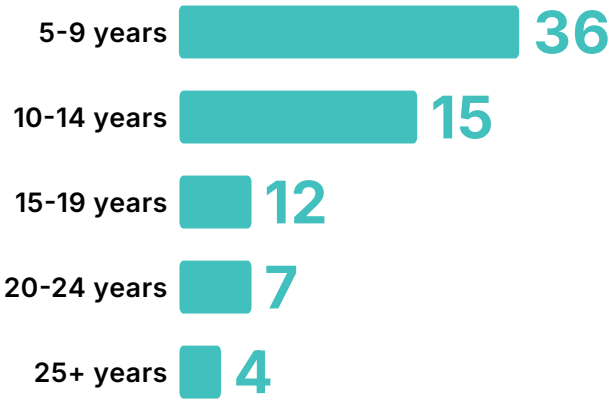
Nerida Bewick oversees the Operations and Products team, responsible for developing policies and procedures for admissions, assessing all applications and schemes processed by UAC, responding to applicant queries and using the data UAC generates to drive analytical decision-making and business planning. The team also manages the continued improvement of UAC's products and services.



Workplace profile

UAC has 160 employees with more than 80 per cent employed on a permanent, ongoing basis.

Staff service*



*Numbers include staff employed for 5 years or more.

Diversity

Staff come from 31 different cultural backgrounds

31

Generations



9% Baby Boomers

35% Gen X

51% Millennials

5% Gen Z

Gender balance

60% Female



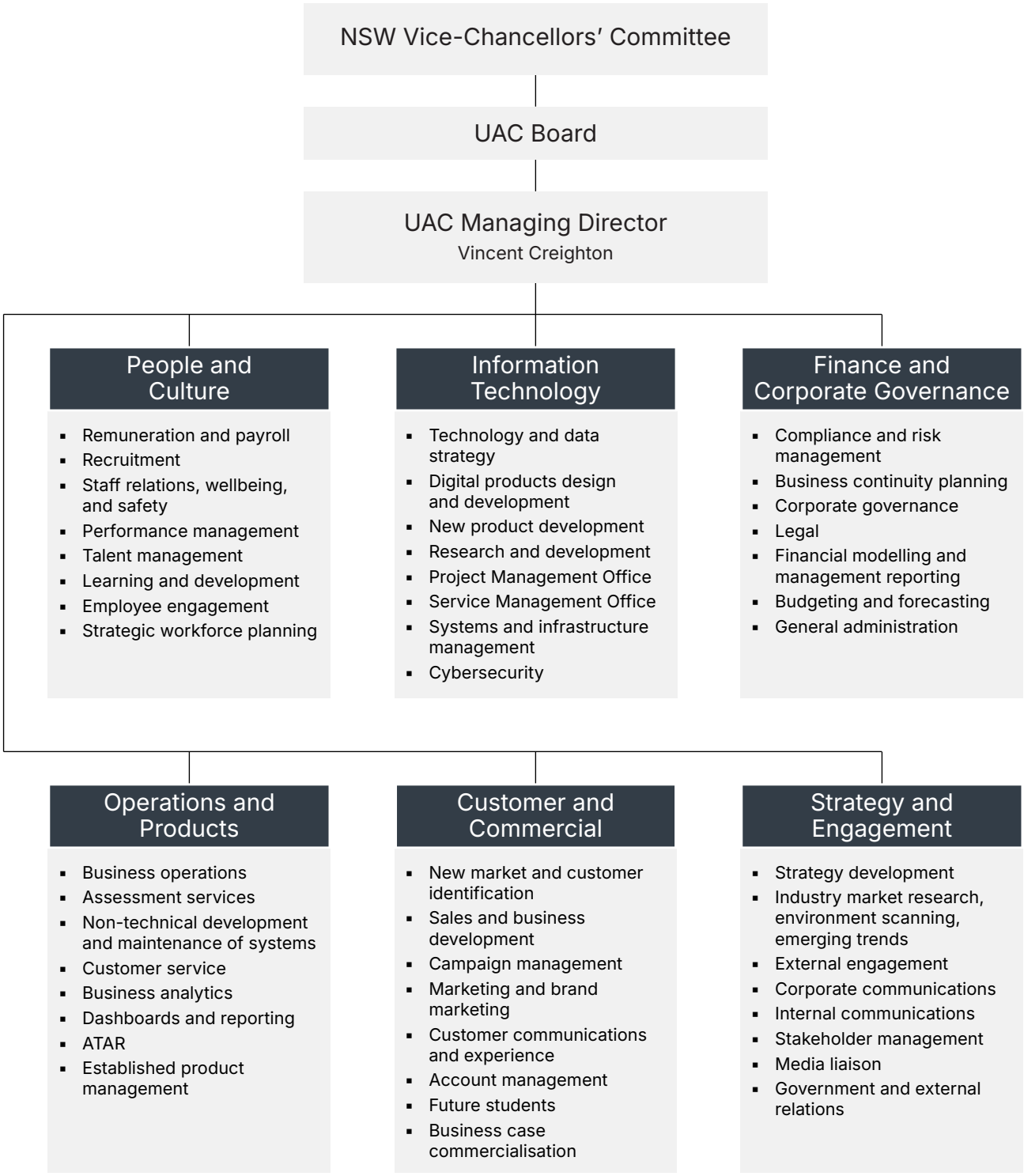
43% Executives

37% Managers

66% Other employees

Workplace profile statistics as at 30 March 2026.

Organisational structure





Part 2: Year in review

The admissions year

April 2025

Domestic undergraduate applications opened on 2 April for semester 2, 2025 and for 2026 courses. Applications for international Year 12 students opened on 16 April.

UAC's fifth Student Lifestyle and Learning Report was released. This was the largest student survey ever with nearly 18,000 Year 12 students from across Australia participating. It revealed a surge in students wanting work experience and internship opportunities as part of their degree.

May 2025

UAC welcomed new Managing Director, Vincent Creighton.

Community Engagement attended the HSC and Careers Expo, Randwick, with more than 11,000 attendees.

June 2025

The Elite Athlete and Performer Scheme (EAPS) launched. The scheme helps applicants whose rigorous training and performance commitments have impacted their Year 12 studies.

Course Compare was released on UAC's website, enabling prospective students to compare the key details of up to five courses side by side.

The final component of the Course Hub data management platform was released, allowing institutions greater control of the course information that appears on UAC's website.

Bond University launched the full UAC Advance credit management product suite, allowing potential students to estimate the credit they could receive for previous study and enabling Bond to process fast credit outcomes.

July 2025

UAC launched the Cumulative Disadvantage Scheme. The initiative recognises that disadvantage is rarely experienced in isolation. By assessing cumulative disadvantage, UAC can provide institutions with a fairer and more accurate picture of applicants' circumstances.

July is the busiest month for UAC's Community Engagement team. Since the opening of admissions, they attended 151 in-person events and delivered 63 online presentations. They also held the first of many UAC Digital live webinars on the Schools Recommendation Scheme.

August 2025

Postgraduate applications closed. UAC received more than 5,900 applications for postgraduate study in 2025. The most popular areas of study were psychology, law, health and teaching.

September 2025

Postgraduate applications for study in 2026 opened.

Celebrating its tenth year, the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) applications closed on Friday 5 September with a record number of applications. Nearly 28,000 students applied for SRS – a 3.3 per cent increase on the previous year's record intake.

UAC's website received a facelift with changes to the structure of the home page resulting in a 16 per cent increase in home page views and a 12 per cent increase in active users.

October 2025

The Executive Committee for Thai University Central Admissions visited UAC for an overview of the centralised admissions system and ATAR-based digital admissions model.

November 2025

UAC released more than 15,900 offers (early offers) to Year 12 students through the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS). SRS offers are based on criteria other than a student's ATAR, such as their Year 11 results and ratings from their school.

December 2025

ATARs were released on Thursday 18 December. More than 60,400 students were eligible for an ATAR – the highest number of ATAR-eligible students ever. The median ATAR was 70.75.

More than 41,000 offers were made in UAC's largest offer round for 2026 university study.

UAC hosted a delegation from the Gansu Provincial Department of Education, giving an opportunity to discuss admission practices in the Tertiary Sector in both Australia and China.

January 2026

UAC released a further 13,200 offers, giving Year 12 students a further opportunity to receive an offer to their preferred course. These January Round 1 offers included the first offers for highly sought-after courses such as medicine.

February 2026

Applications for semester 1, 2026 closed.

March 2026

Final semester 1, 2026 offers were released. UAC received 79,322 applications for undergraduate study in the 2025–26 admissions year. A total of 105,977 offers were made to these applicants.



Strategic highlights

UAC and Bond University advance

UAC successfully partnered with Bond University to implement Advance, a comprehensive AI-powered credit management platform that transforms how the university assesses advanced standing. The platform embeds intelligent automation directly into Bond's admissions process, replacing manual assessment workflows with real-time credit evaluation. Key capabilities include a credit application portal, a credit calculator, AI-powered smart recommendations, credential authentication powered by machine learning, UAC-automated verification services, and real-time integration with Bond's existing systems. The credit calculator enables prospective applicants to assess whether their previous qualifications may count toward a Bond degree before they submit an application.

Elite athletes and performers championed

The Elite Athlete and Performer Scheme (EAPS) launched, offering eligible students adjustment factors to enhance their selection rank when applying for eligible courses at participating universities. Designed to acknowledge both academic and extracurricular achievements, EAPS is aimed at students who have had to balance high-level training, competition, rehearsal or performance alongside their Year 12 studies.

Cumulative disadvantage recognised

The Cumulative Disadvantage Scheme is a significant new initiative within UAC's Educational Access Scheme. The scheme recognises that disadvantage is rarely experienced in isolation. By assessing cumulative disadvantage, UAC can provide institutions with a fairer and more accurate picture of applicants' circumstances with no extra burden on them. This is a major step forward in supporting the participation and success of equity groups in higher education.

Course search enhancements

Each year, UAC's website attracts more than 2 million visitors seeking information on studying at university and navigating the admissions process. Of these, over 500,000 use the course search functionality to explore their study options. To better support applicants in making informed decisions, UAC launched Course Compare. The tool allows users to compare up to five courses side-by-side, displaying key details including areas of study, location, program duration and attendance mode so that they can more effectively evaluate their options and choose courses that align with their goals and circumstances.

Course Hub final stage

UAC successfully completed the rollout of the Course Hub data management platform. This final phase marked a significant shift in how course information is managed: institutional users can directly maintain their own UAC Centralised and direct application course data within UAC's systems. The platform also introduced functionality for institutions to add and update course descriptions that display on the UAC website. By providing institutions with greater control of their course information, Course Hub has streamlined the data management process and enhanced overall data quality and consistency across all UAC channels. This self-service capability ensures that prospective students access more accurate and timely course information while reducing administrative burden on both institutions and UAC.

Institution portal improvements

Institution Hub, UAC's online portal for institution resources, was refreshed. The redesign featured a more intuitive and contemporary interface with several key improvements to the user experience. A reorganised menu structure streamlined navigation, while quick links provided faster access to frequently needed information and resources. Beyond the visual refresh, UAC also enhanced the service experience through operational improvements, including refined categories on the Institution Service Desk and a more efficient process for managing committee memberships. Together, these upgrades have created a more user-friendly platform that better supports institutions in their day-to-day interactions with UAC.

Product enhancements

As part of our commitment to meeting the admissions needs of our institutions, UAC implemented more than 200 enhancements resulting from internal and customer-requested changes to our systems and processes.

Accessibility

A key achievement this year was the formalisation of WCAG 2.1 AA as UAC's recommended accessibility standard for products, while allowing flexibility to set an appropriate baseline for different products. Significant accessibility improvements were specifically made to the Equity Scholarships platform.

Embracing AI

UAC further embraced artificial intelligence during 2025-26 admissions, beginning with comprehensive AI awareness training for all staff across the organisation. The Community Engagement team provided an early success story in leveraging AI by using it to develop its 2026 outreach schedule. By analysing school data, they refined their engagement strategy to better target under-represented schools and connect with students in regional and rural areas.

An internal AI assistant, Chat UAC, was launched early in 2026, designed to enhance staff productivity and support smarter ways of working across the organisation. Renamed ECHO (Employee Chat Help Officer), ECHO represents a meaningful step in UAC's broader commitment to embedding AI thoughtfully into our workplace. The development of a website chatbot, AskUAC, is also underway to help applicants with UAC processes.

Smooth and swift ATAR release

Each December, ATAR release day brings more than 60,000 Year 12 students to UAC's website to access their results. Committed to making this high-stakes moment as smooth and stress-free as possible, UAC configured a new server infrastructure for the 2025 ATAR release. The upgrade delivered immediate and significant improvements, enabling substantially faster ATAR retrievals for students. The results were impressive: ATARs were released at 9am, and by 9.15am, 38,000 unique students – 63 per cent of the cohort – had successfully accessed their results. The enhanced system proved particularly valuable in 2025, which saw a record number of ATAR-eligible students.

New generation application

UAC launched New Apply in April 2026 – a fully redesigned application portal representing the culmination of more than 18 months of work across the organisation.

Built with the needs of applicants in mind, New Apply breaks the application process into clear, manageable steps, guiding users through entering their details, uploading qualifications and selecting course preferences with confidence. The redesign delivers a significantly smoother and more intuitive experience, while also enhancing UAC's data integrity, reducing maintenance overhead and enabling faster delivery of future improvements.

Key new features include real-time verification of Unique Student Identifiers (USI), identity and account

management via AWS Cognito, strengthened security with two-factor authentication, and enhanced accessibility meeting WCAG 2.2 AA standards.

Enterprise resource planning

UAC enhanced its operational efficiency in 2025 with the launch of Technology One as our enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform. Phase one consolidated Finance functions into a single, integrated system.

The platform streamlined everyday administrative tasks, simplifying the process for submitting expense claims, travel requests and credit card reconciliations. The Finance team also benefited from stronger compliance and reporting capabilities, with integrated payroll and finance functions reducing manual data handling and improving audit controls.

At the end of June, Phase Two of the Technology One project went live, introducing human resources and payroll functionality that enables staff to lodge leave applications and timesheets, track flexitime and update their personal details. The new functionality further integrates core business processes, creating a more efficient and connected system for managing UAC's operational needs.

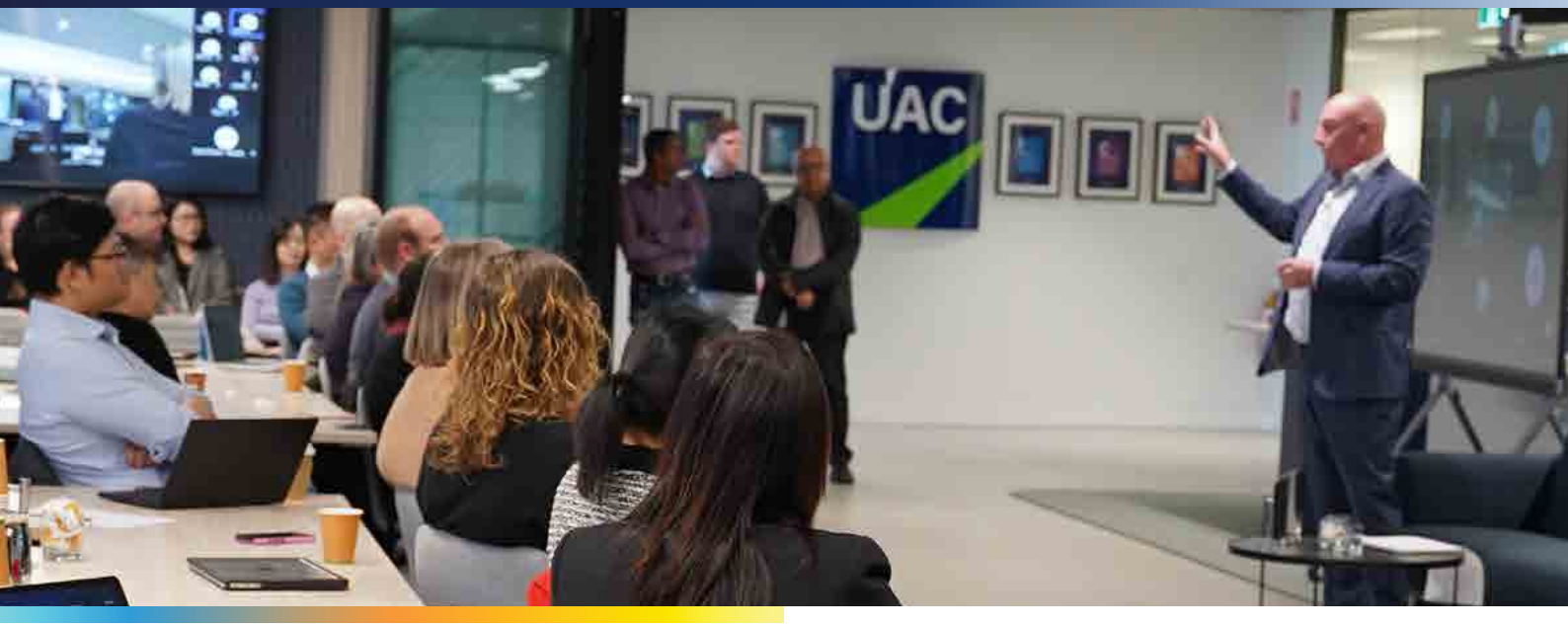
Client relationship management

UAC strengthened its client relationship management capability in 2025 with the implementation of a customer relationship management (CRM) system to support more effective account management. The rollout was complemented by the introduction of structured account plans, providing a more comprehensive view of client engagement across admissions, assessment and service delivery. Together, these initiatives have enhanced the account management team's ability to build stronger client relationships, identify opportunities and deliver more coordinated support.

ATAR simplified

Prior to 2025, NSW ATAR courses operated under a two-tier classification system: Category A (most ATAR courses) and Category B (mostly VET courses). However, from 2025 this classification system has been abolished. The removal of these categories eliminated the 8-unit Category A requirement, significantly expanding ATAR eligibility to include students whose course selections previously would have made them ineligible for an ATAR. This change represents a more inclusive approach to university admissions, recognising a broader range of educational pathways.





Engagement

Government

UAC actively engages with government stakeholders to ensure that higher education admissions processes have visibility within the broader education policy landscapes.

Throughout the year, UAC made submissions on issues relevant to the sector including the Productivity Commission's inquiry and report, Building a Skilled and Adaptable Workforce, which explored ways to support Australia's workforce through a more flexible post-secondary education and training system. UAC's submission led to a demonstration of its credit management solution, Advance, which helps universities assess prior learning more efficiently and consistently.

Executives also met regularly with key government and sector leaders to discuss policy changes and emerging issues affecting higher education and admissions. These included the NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, Prue Car; Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Steve Whan; Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Justin Clancy; Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning, Julian Lesser; Deputy Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, Jeremy Kurucz; CEO of NESA, Paul Martin; and Executive Director of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), David Turvey.

Our institutions

UAC engages regularly with its member institutions, whether it is gaining feedback on their changing needs in admissions, analysing demand-side changes or discussing enhancements to systems and processes. This engagement is supported through a range of forums, information sessions and training events.

Information sessions

Operations team leaders hosted a training session on changes to assessment for 2025–26 admissions as well as programs such as the Schools Recommendation Scheme. More than 50 institution staff attended the session to hear about the assessment of Year 11 results, the application process and how queries from applicants are handled.

The Account Management team also initiated a series of targeted Lunch & Learn sessions to strengthen engagement with private education providers.

Users Committee meetings

The Users Committee is UAC's primary forum for engaging with member institutions, facilitating feedback and exchanging information. Meeting quarterly, the committee discusses operational priorities, reviews processes and policies, and provides input to support continuous improvement across UAC's services.

The July 2025 meeting had two guest speakers: Paul Martin, NESA CEO, discussing curriculum reform, and Barney Glover, Commissioner Jobs and Skills Australia and then Interim-Commissioner at ATEC, who spoke about big-picture sector issues.

Workshops were also held to gather feedback on new projects, including the new course management platform (Course Hub) and a new application platform.

Australian tertiary admissions centres

Throughout 2025, UAC worked with fellow Australian tertiary admissions centres through ACTAC (Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres) to deliver a series of joint media releases, strengthening awareness of the tertiary admissions sector and promoting its collective role in supporting students' transition to higher education.

ATAR technical group

UAC hosted the biennial ACTAC ATAR Technical Group workshop in September 2025. Participants came from every jurisdiction in Australia as well as New Zealand and included UAC's Research and Statistics Manager and ATAR coordinator, Helen Tam.

The gathering included guest speakers from the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and the International Baccalaureate organisation. While the ATAR is a national measure, it is calculated separately by each state. Although there are many common elements in the calculation process, each state has its own scaling algorithms, aggregation rules and policies for students with special circumstances. There were discussions about alternative measures of student achievements (such as general capabilities) and how they may co-exist with or add to the ATAR as a selection tool for university admissions.

Biannual ACTAC meeting

UAC attended the biannual ACTAC (Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres) meeting in October. ACTAC meets to promote best practice and close national collaboration in tertiary admissions. The event brings together operations, IT and communications directors from tertiary admissions centres around Australia. These meetings play an important role in maintaining collaboration across admissions centres, helping ensure admissions run smoothly across the country.

Pilot skills recognition program

UAC participated in the national SkillSPARK pilot in partnership with the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC), Learning Creates Australia and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). The pilot explored strengths-based approaches to university admissions and provided an opportunity for UAC to contribute to national collaboration and research into recognising non-academic capabilities alongside traditional admissions measures.

Higher education sector

UAC regularly attends sector events, including conferences, roundtables, symposiums and forums to ensure our awareness of, and participation in, emerging trends affecting the higher education sector and its community stakeholders.

HoSA

UAC attended the Heads of Student Administration (HoSA) conference in New Zealand in September 2025. The conference brings together university student administration staff from Australia and New Zealand to foster excellence, collaboration and leadership in student experience and academic services.

Universities Australia

Members of the Executive team attended the highlight industry event, the Universities Australia Solutions Summit. Sessions included discussions on international education, productivity and skills, student experience, social licence, research and innovation, national sovereignty, and the impact of big data and AI.

Australian Council for Educational Research

Executives also attended an Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) roundtable discussion on the impact of early offers on students as part of the University Admissions Framework Project. Tasked by Australian Education Ministers in alignment with the Australian Universities Accord, the project helps shape a new national admissions framework designed to bring consistency, fairness and transparency to higher education pathways.

NAPSA

The Community Engagement team attended the 2025 National Association of Prospective Student Advisers (NAPSA) conference in Geelong. Members work throughout Australasia in collaboration with school careers advisers and guidance officers to promote further education as an option for secondary students and members of the community.

Schools

Supporting trusted sector partnerships

UAC works in close partnership with school governing bodies and education authorities to support the integrity of the admissions system. Through ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing and the secure exchange of Year 12 results data, UAC helps ensure the accurate calculation and timely release of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

UAC maintains a strong relationship with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), working closely with its staff throughout the year and particularly in the lead-up to key milestones such as the release of HSC results and ATARs. Regular engagement with NESA also supports collaboration on sector initiatives and public information campaigns.

During 2025–26, UAC continued to strengthen relationships across the education sector through engagement with Catholic Schools NSW and the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies, reinforcing collaboration and information sharing to support students, schools and tertiary education providers.

Students

We are More

UAC attended a gathering of We are More, a project coordinated by the South Australia SACE Board and Learning Creates Australia as a way to involve schools and communities around Australia in the value of recognising more of what young people know and can do. The group's focus is to look beyond academics to include general capabilities that help students transition to the next phase of their life.

Back on Track

Members of the UAC Access team attended the Back on Track educational support program, an initiative that helps children diagnosed with cancer stay connected to their learning, their school and their peers throughout treatment and recovery. Hosted at Westmead Children's hospital, it brings together students, families, educators and medical staff to talk candidly about aspirations, struggles and futures beyond illness. Access Manager Adam Hennessy delivered a tailored presentation about university entry, access schemes and support pathways, followed by a joint Q&A session for families, teachers and hospital staff. UAC's involvement in Back on Track reaffirms our belief that access to education should never be derailed by illness.

'Busting ATAR myths' SMH HSC study guide

UAC partnered with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to contribute to the ***Sydney Morning Herald's*** 'HSC Study Guide'.

UAC ATAR coordinator, Helen Tam, joined NESA CEO Paul Martin in a video to address common myths about the HSC and the ATAR. Responding to questions submitted by Year 12 students from Blaxland High School, they collaborated to explain how scaling works and how the ATAR is calculated, while encouraging students to choose HSC subjects based on their interests, strengths and future aspirations.

During the 2025–26 admissions cycle, UAC's Community Engagement team completed 259 engagement days, including 69 collaborative engagements with participating institutions. Over the same period, they delivered 210 presentations on university admissions, the ATAR and pathways to higher education.

The team also strengthened its understanding of the tertiary education and research sector through visits to partner organisations, including the St Vincent's Applied Medical Research Centre, home to St Vincent's Hospital, the Garvan Institute and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

Intern program

In 2025, UAC launched its internship program. The program aims to support students from participating institutions as they complete their degrees and prepare to begin their careers. The program provides valuable workplace experience while strengthening UAC's partnerships with its member institutions and helping develop the next generation of professionals.

International

UAC welcomed a visiting delegation from Thailand in 2025. The group was interested in learning about UAC's Centralised admissions system and ATAR-based admissions model. The group was particularly interested in how our approach promotes fairness, transparency and efficiency – insights that may help inform reforms to Thailand's higher education admissions process.

UAC hosted a delegation from the Gansu Provincial Department of Education, providing an opportunity to exchange insights and discuss tertiary admissions practices in Australia and China, including the similarities and differences between the two systems.

Community

Reconciliation Action Plan

During the year, UAC completed the development of its first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and submitted it to Reconciliation Australia for endorsement. The RAP represents UAC's formal commitment to reconciliation and provides a practical framework for building stronger relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, strengthening cultural capability across the organisation and embedding reconciliation into the way we work.

A cross-organisational RAP Working Group was established to guide the development of the RAP and will oversee its implementation. The RAP aligns with UAC's purpose of providing trusted admissions services and reflects our values of excellence, passion, integrity, collaboration and respect.

UAC's RAP focuses on how our admissions systems, equity programs, partnerships and workplace practices can contribute to more equitable and culturally responsive pathways into higher education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.

Volunteering

UAC values the power of volunteering to enhance community wellbeing and transform lives. As part of its U And Community program, a group of staff volunteered at St Vincent de Paul, helping to support the local community during the holiday season. The team spent the day decorating the office, packing food hampers and restocking the pantry with essential items for clients needing a quick meal.

Media

UAC continued its proactive media engagement program throughout the 2025–26 admissions cycle, issuing regular media releases to inform prospective students, parents and the broader community about key admissions milestones, trends and research.

A highlight of the year was the release of UAC's ***Student Lifestyle and Learning Report***, which generated strong media interest and coverage across national and metropolitan outlets.

With the Federal election taking place this year, there was particular interest in the report's findings on student attitudes towards voting in *The Daily Telegraph*. Media also highlighted the shift towards more practical decision-making among students, including growing demand for work experience and internship opportunities as part of their degree. The findings were covered by outlets including *The Australian* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Media interest in early offers was also significant, with coverage in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Newcastle Herald* and the *Guardian*, highlighting changing admissions trends and student pathways to higher education.

ATAR release day remained one of UAC's highest-profile media events, attracting extensive coverage across television, radio, print and online news. Coverage included appearances on Channel 7's breakfast show ***Sunrise*** and ABC News, along with prominent reporting in the ***Sydney Morning Herald*** and the ***Daily Telegraph***, reinforcing UAC's role as the authoritative source of admissions information in NSW and the ACT.



Part 3: Our people

Throughout the year, we come together to celebrate, connect and strengthen our sense of community through a diverse range of initiatives. From fundraising events to health and wellbeing programs, a casual morning tea, a seasonal celebration, or an acknowledgement of a project achievement, these activities give us the opportunity to collaborate, laugh and connect with colleagues and recognise the hard work, dedication and achievements of our people.

Health and Wellbeing Fest

UAC staff participated in the annual UAC Health and Wellbeing Fest. This included financial wellbeing sessions, webinars, visits from health professionals providing influenza vaccinations, a nutritionist advising on healthy eating and a counsellor. The week also included sessions on mindfulness, Zumba classes and massages.









R U OK?

Staff gathered for morning tea, some conversation starters and a game of 'Getting to Know You Bingo' as part of R U OK? Day. Conversation starters included 'If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?' (revealing some interesting insights into each other) and 'If you could choose, what would your superpower be?'

Recognising diversity

The Accessibility Committee marked Disability Week in June with a calendar of activities designed to challenge assumptions about disability and build understanding of the experiences of people living with disability. Activities included a colour contrast challenge and a game controller challenge, which gave staff an insight into some of the barriers people with disability can face when navigating the world.













Sustainability

UAC is committed to reducing its environmental impact and fostering a culture of sustainability across the organisation. In 2025, the Green Team sustainability committee supported Planet Ark's National Tree Day by distributing native seedlings for staff to take home. The initiative encouraged staff to connect with the natural environment while making a small but meaningful contribution to greening their homes and local communities.











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