

10 Common terms and abbreviations

The following terms and abbreviations are often used by the participating institutions. Exact definitions are usually included in the institution's calendar and/or handbooks. Words or terms in *italics* in the definition have their own entry in this section.

Academic year

The part of the year when students are enrolled at a university. The academic year usually starts in February–March when classes begin, and ends with the examination period in November–December. It may comprise two teaching periods (semesters or terms) with intervening breaks.

ACT

Australian Capital Territory.

Additional selection criteria

These are compulsory requirements, either in addition to, or instead of, admission requirements, which you must meet to be considered for selection into the course. Examples of additional selection criteria include interviews, auditions, portfolios, supporting statements, questionnaires and tests.

Admission requirements

The minimum qualifications required for you to be considered for entry to a particular course. Entry to many courses is competitive. The attainment of minimum qualifications does not guarantee you will be offered a place.

Advanced diploma

An award requiring two or three years full-time, or equivalent part-time, study. The Advanced diploma is the highest of the undergraduate diploma awards.

Associate degree

An award requiring two years full-time, or equivalent part-time, study comparable to the first two years of a three-year degree course.

Assumed knowledge (see also Prerequisites)

Some institutions assume you have a knowledge of specified NSW HSC courses or equivalent prior to beginning your course.

If you do not have the assumed level of knowledge but have met the *admission requirements* you may still be selected for the course, but you may have some difficulty coping with your studies. Bridging or introductory courses may be recommended for some students who do not have the assumed level of knowledge.

ATAR (see Australian Tertiary Admission Rank)

Australian Development Scholarship (ADS)

Australian Development Scholarships provide opportunities to people from selected developing countries to study in Australia.

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)

The Australian Qualifications Framework covers 12 national qualifications issued by secondary schools, vocational education and training providers, and higher education institutions. AQF qualifications were first issued in January 1995. Pre-AQF qualifications will continue to be recognised.

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) replaced the Universities Admission Index (UAI) in 2009.

The ATAR is a measure of academic achievement in the HSC that assists institutions with ranking applicants for selection to tertiary education courses. The ATAR is calculated by the tertiary institutions and released by UAC. The ATAR is a rank, not a mark.

Bachelor degree

An award requiring three or more years full-time, or equivalent part-time or other study.

Bridging courses

Some institutions offer bridging or introductory courses to enable you to achieve the required level of assumed knowledge. The inclusion of one or more of these subjects in the first-year program, however, could prevent you from completing your course in the minimum time.

Career opportunities

The career or area in which you will be qualified to work after completion of the course.

Clinical placements

Clinical placements help you develop skills relevant to your study and are a requirement for many courses in health-related fields. They may be undertaken during semester or in semester breaks and can vary in duration from regular one-day placements to block periods of several weeks. Costs such as instruments, uniform, accommodation or travel may be incurred.

Clinical placements involve supervised practice in approved clinical situations, including teaching hospitals, private hospitals and clinics, community health centres, and specialist areas including drug and alcohol, early childhood and women's health services. Check with the institutions for details.

Combined/double degrees

Combined/double degrees allow students to complete two degrees in less time than would be taken if the two degrees are studied sequentially.

Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)

This is a register of all Australian educational providers who offer courses to people studying in Australia on student visas and lists the courses offered.

Core

A common set of units/subjects, usually compulsory within a course or program of study.

Course prerequisites (see Prerequisites)

DEEWR

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations formerly known as the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

Deferment

Permission to delay starting a course, usually for one year.

DEST (see DEEWR)

DIAC

The Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Diploma

An undergraduate award usually placing more emphasis on practical skills than on theoretical content. Also, a postgraduate award requiring one year full-time, or equivalent part-time, postgraduate study.

Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act

DEEWR regulates the education and training sector and its involvement with overseas students studying in Australia on student visas. It does this through the ESOS Act and associated legislation which protects the interests of these students by providing tuition and financial assurance. The legislation makes sure that there is a nationally consistent approach to registering education providers so that the quality of the tuition and services offered to students remains high.

Enrolment

After you have been offered and have accepted a place in a course you will be required to enrol at a certain time. Each institution has its own enrolment procedures and in many institutions special advice is available about courses and enrolment plans. Successful applicants receive enrolment details with their offer.

ESOS Act (see Education Services for Overseas Students Act)

Honours

Institutions adopt one of two approaches to honours. In a three-year undergraduate course or part-time equivalent, honours may be available as an additional year of full-time study or part-time equivalent to meritorious students. In a four-year course or longer, honours may be awarded on the basis of superior performance in the course.

IFEE courses

Courses that are available to International students. IFEE stands for international fee-paying.

International students

These are students who are NOT Australian or New Zealand citizens (including dual citizens) or permanent residents of Australia and who meet the entire cost of their studies through tuition fees.

Major studies (see also Minor studies)

Areas of in-depth study or specialisation within a course consisting of a sequence of subjects/units in a single discipline generally studied throughout the course. Major studies comprise more subjects/units than minor studies. In some courses you can take more than one major. Some institutions may refer to major studies as majors or specialisations. For details of major studies offered in courses, read the course descriptions on the UAC International website at www.uac.edu.au/international/

Minor studies (see also Major studies)

Areas of study within a course consisting of a sequence of subjects/units in a single discipline. Minor studies comprise fewer subjects/units than major studies. Some institutions may refer to minor studies as sub-majors, or additional or supporting subjects/units. For details of minor studies offered in courses, read the course descriptions on the UAC International website at www.uac.edu.au/international/

NSW

New South Wales.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

OSHC is insurance that provides cover for the costs of medical and hospital care, which international students may need while they are in Australia. The Australian Government requires all international students on a student visa to purchase an approved OSHC policy.

Part-time study

A method of completing a course offered to students who, for employment or other reasons, are unable to undertake full-time study.

Part-time study is not available to international students.

Postgraduate courses

These are courses usually available only to people who have qualified for an appropriate first degree/diploma. They are not available to school leavers. They include:

- Graduate/Postgraduate certificate
- Graduate/Postgraduate diploma
- Postgraduate degree, Masters or Doctorate.

Practical/industrial experience

Supervised practice that takes place in an approved workplace and helps you develop skills relevant to your study. It may be undertaken during semester or in semester breaks and can vary in duration from regular one-day placements to block periods of several weeks. Costs may be incurred for the purchase of instruments, uniforms, accommodation or travel. Check with the relevant institutions.

Prerequisites (see also Assumed knowledge)

An essential prescribed level of achievement that must be reached in a specified course/s in the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent before an applicant is considered for selection. An institution may specify course prerequisites, subject prerequisites or no prerequisites. If prerequisites are not required, a level of assumed knowledge is usually specified.

Course prerequisites

Some courses require you to have achieved a specified standard in a NSW HSC course or equivalent before you will be offered a place in the course.

If you have not satisfied the course prerequisite/s you cannot be selected for the institution's courses, even though you may have met the admission requirements.

Subject prerequisites

Some particular subjects within a tertiary course require you to have achieved a specified standard in a NSW HSC or equivalent course/s before you are allowed to enrol in those particular subjects. If you have not satisfied the subject prerequisite/s, but have met the admission requirements, you may still be selected for the course, but may be unable to take the particular subject within the course.

Some institutions offer bridging or introductory courses that enable people who do not meet subject prerequisites to achieve the required HSC standard.

If you include one or more bridging courses in your program, however, you may find that you cannot complete your tertiary course in the minimum time.

Professional recognition

A professional body or bodies may recognise a course, enabling graduates to apply for membership and/or registration to practise in the profession.

Recommended studies

These are NSW HSC or equivalent courses that the institutions suggest will assist you in your chosen university course. If you have not studied these courses your chances of selection are not affected.

Semester pattern

The academic year is usually divided into first and second semesters, or teaching periods. Students can start courses at the beginning of first (February/March) and, in some cases, second (July) semester. Some institutions call them autumn and spring semesters. Others refer to sessions or half-years.

Specialisation (see Major studies)**Strand (see also Major studies)**

A coherent sequence of studies in one area extending throughout a course.

Subject prerequisites (see Prerequisites)**Tuition fee**

Determined by each institution, the amount that international students must pay as their study costs.

Undergraduate course

A course leading to a first qualification, namely an Associate degree or a Diploma, or a first degree of Bachelor.

Universities Admission Index (UAI)

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) replaced the Universities Admission Index (UAI) in 2009.

International students

Now that you have your copy of the *UAC 2012 International Booklet*, make sure that you can apply through UAC International for study in 2012.

If you are an international student and currently studying:

- an Australian Year 12 in 2011
- an International Baccalaureate
- a New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Level 3 in 2011

you can apply through UAC International.

International students not currently studying one of the above must apply direct to the institutions, not through UAC.



If you are an Australian or New Zealand citizen (including dual citizens) or an Australian permanent resident, you are not an international student and you do not use this booklet to apply to UAC.

You need a copy of the *UAC 2012 Guide*, available from your school or from newsagents or UAC.