

Media release – Friday 11 December 2009

For immediate release

ATAR cut-offs and advice on changing preferences

When ATARs are released on Thursday 17 December, many HSC students will be thinking about their chances of getting into university. UAC expects about 20 000 students to change their course preferences after they receive their ATAR and have a more realistic idea of the courses they can get into.

Applicants can do their research now by comparing their ATAR with last year's cut-offs in the *UAC 2010 Guide* and at www.uac.edu.au but cut-offs for university study in 2010 won't be known until Main Round offers are released on Wednesday 20 January 2010.

Cut-offs change from year to year because they are determined by three factors which change every year and can't be predicted – the number of places available in the course; the number of applicants listing the course as a preference and the quality of those applicants.

Advice on changing preferences

- You can change preferences until midnight on Wednesday 6 January 2010 for the Main Round of offers – don't leave changing your preferences to the last minute.
- You need your UAC application number and UAC Personal Identification Number (PIN) to change your preferences.
- You can have up to nine preferences including any combination of courses.
- You can rearrange the order of your courses, add new courses or delete courses.
- List your preferences in the order you want them to be considered. Put the course you most want to do first, then the course you would next prefer to do, and so on. If you are not made an offer for your first preference, you will be considered for your second preference, and so on until you are made an offer or until there are no further preferences.
- Make sure the courses you add don't have early closing dates or prerequisites you cannot meet.
- Check last year's cut-offs in the *UAC 2010 Guide* or UAC's website to see if you have a realistic chance of gaining entry with your ATAR but remember that cut-offs can rise, fall or stay the same.
- Also remember that many institutions award bonus points so don't be put off a course that has had a higher cut-off in the past than your ATAR. Put your "wish" courses at the top of your list and work your way down.
- If your ATAR is not as high as you expected, you may need to think about alternative pathways to further study. Talk to the institutions – most have hotlines and special advisory days in January.
- Choose courses that you really want to do.

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