

Choose preferences carefully - pressure for increasing course cut-offs likely to continue

prepared by Andrew Stanton, Managing Director, UAC

School-leavers applying for admission to universities over the next two years are likely to find that the competition for places will be fierce. More than ever, applicants should consider including courses with a spread of UAI cut-offs in their preferences, in order to ensure that they receive an offer if the cut-offs for the courses they expect to enter rise significantly.

Following the Federal Government's announcements relating to funding for tertiary education, universities have indicated that they expect pressure for a contraction in the size of their intakes to continue. The University of Sydney has already announced that it will cut its intake by 10 per cent and other universities are likely to announce cuts, too.

Nearly all universities have been carrying student loads over their agreed targets because over-enrolments have attracted additional government funding. (Some universities are over-enrolled by more than 20 per cent). From 2005, however, universities will be penalised financially for being over-enrolled by more than two per cent. Whilst the Government has advised that there will be provisions for reducing over-enrolments over time, universities do not appear confident that these provisions will be sufficient to allow them to reduce load fast enough to prevent financial penalties being imposed.

The Federal Government has announced that it will increase the number of funded places over four years from 2005. It is not known, however, how these places will be distributed among universities or States, so universities consider they will have to start reducing student loads now, as they may not receive any of the additional places.

The most effective way for universities to reduce their student loads is to reduce the size of their annual intakes. While demand for university places is expected to remain at current levels or increase over the next few years, the contraction in the numbers of offers is likely to push cut-offs up across the board.

The pressure on universities will be intense during this period. Some universities may

attempt to soften the impact for school-leavers by reducing the proportion of Form B (or non-school-leaver) applicants, thereby minimising the reductions in school-leaver intakes. Universities have to consider such moves carefully in order to maintain levels of equity of access to higher education across the community.

There will be a number of additional factors arising from the Federal Government's initiatives, should they be implemented, that impact on demand:

- Universities that already have high demand may raise their HECS charges by the maximum 30 per cent permitted by the Federal Government. This may reduce the demand for some courses at those universities as applicants look to alternatives. These applicants would further increase the demand for courses at other universities.
- The contraction in offers to funded places may increase the demand for full-fee paying courses, although it is difficult to see universities achieving the 50 per cent maximum enrolment for full-fee students that the Government will allow for most courses.
- The Government will manage the numbers of places available by discipline, both by setting enrolment targets for universities and also by setting the HECS charges for specific disciplines.
- The additional places that the Government will introduce over the next few years may not reflect the current distribution of over-enrolment places, shifting loads between universities and States.

It is difficult to know the actual effects that the changes to higher education funding will have in such a complex system, especially as the legislation may be modified before it is passed by Parliament. It is certain, however, that there is a high potential for the next couple of cohorts of Year 12 students to face high cut-offs and reduced intakes. Applicants should be aware of this when choosing preferences. Their parents, teachers and other advisers should also adjust their advice and expectations accordingly.

Applicants should make use of all nine preferences available on the UAC application

form. They can still use higher preference positions for 'aspirational' courses, but should try to be realistic with middle preferences and provide a safety-net with their lower preferences.

UAC does not know what the cut-offs for courses will be until allocation runs on UAC's computers are finalised, shortly before offers are released. However, UAC will endeavour to gather what information it can from its member universities and make it available to schools and other parties as early as possible, so that applicants may make the best-informed decisions possible before changes of preferences close.

Key dates for 2004 admissions

As a helpful tool UAC has again produced bookmarks listing our contact details and key dates for 2004 admissions.

With your reference material you will receive a bookmark for each of your students.

Key dates are also available on the UAC web site and on the inside front cover of the *UAC 2004 Guide*.

A copy for the:

- Principal
- Careers Adviser
- Year 12 Adviser
- Curriculum Adviser

Copies of the current and previous newsletters can be downloaded from the UAC web site at www.uac.edu.au. Look under 'Publications - Download'.

University

news & updates

Southern Cross University

New media course

333103 Bachelor of Media

On-campus at Lismore. Majors include Screen, Journalism and Multimedia arts. Refer to the UAC 2004 Guide for further details.

New major option

A double major is now available within the 334100 Bachelor of Applied Science (Coastal Management, Environmental Resource Management, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, Marine Science and Management).

Tertiary Information Day

The P block gymnasium on the Lismore campus is the venue for the Tertiary Information Day on the NSW north coast, organised by Summerland Career Advisors, for Tuesday 29 July. The annual event involves around 40 tertiary education providers from Sydney-Brisbane, and is attended by around 600 secondary students from the Mullumbimby-South Grafton area. Contact Bill Goldie at Lismore High School on Tel: (02) 6621 5185.

University of Canberra

New courses - apply through UAC

The following courses are not listed in the UAC 2004 Guide, but are available through UAC.

Application procedure: Apply through UAC using the course code shown. UAC's closing dates for applications and changes of preferences apply - for details check the UAC 2004 Guide or from early August, UAC's web site.

365015 B Engineering 3F/EqP

This is one of a new generation of engineering courses, which emphasise the understanding of complete systems, in the converging field of telecommunications, network engineering, computer hardware and software engineering for example with the Internet, mobile phones and wireless networks. The course aims to

produce Engineering Graduates who have a strong command of practical skills so that you are immediately useful and valued in the workplace.

The course consists of a common core and specialisations covering the spectrum from software engineering, through computer systems to telecommunications and network engineering. Teamwork, project management and communication skills are developed in addition to the exploration of technical issues. Available topics include: object-oriented and artificial-intelligence techniques, distributed and database systems, compilers, networks, real-time systems, visual computing, fuzzy control and neural networks, and wireless and microwave communications.

The course is available with Honours and is accredited by the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

The title of your award will depend on the specialisation that you choose, for example: Bachelor of Engineering in Software Engineering

Graduates are in strong demand to work on complex software development projects, network engineering and optical and wireless systems. Employers include Federal Government Departments such as Defence, organisations like the Bureau of Statistics and Telstra, and small to medium companies in information and communications technologies.

366125 B Business Informatics 3F/EqP

The Bachelor of Business Informatics is an interdisciplinary undergraduate degree program that provides a bridge between business and information technology areas. An important primary role for graduates is that of business analyst, who is a person who designs or redesigns 'systems' (both manual and IT) to meet business requirements. Other roles are as an information analyst, who investigates information needs and designs systems to support them, a system architect, who is concerned with integration of business systems, and as an information systems manager who deals with areas such as service provision and outsourcing. These people need to understand the intent and context of systems. They must be able to address issues of work practice and information needs beyond purely IT based solutions. They must understand people and organisations, including impacts of actions on the business as a whole and interactions between people rather than just interfaces to computer systems.

This degree develops the necessary theoretical frameworks and skills using an integrated sequence of subjects drawn from the business and information systems disciplines, bringing them together through case studies and an internship in the final year.

Cancelled courses

The following courses have been cancelled and will not be offered for 2004 admissions:

365010 B Commerce in Management Sciences

366035 B Applied Economics/B Commerce in Management Sciences

365020 B Engineering in Computer Engineering

Applicants should refer to 365015 B Engineering (see new course)

365030 B Engineering Computer Engineering/B Laws

365055 B Engineering in Software Engineering

Applicants should refer to 365015 B Engineering (see new courses)

365040 B Engineering in Electronics and Communications Engineering

Applicants should refer to 365015 B Engineering (see new courses)

365050 B Engineering in Electronics & Communication Engineering/ B Laws

University of New South Wales

B Business @ ADFA

The University of New South Wales is offering a new B Business for 2004 entry at the University College, Australian Defence Force Academy. The course is three years full-time and students will be required to undertake a sequence of core business courses and choose from a specified range of business electives. Career opportunities include logistics, procurement, personnel administration, intelligence analysis, and general administration.

In addition to lodging a UAC application, applicants must submit an application for entry to the Australian Defence Forces. See www.defencejobs.gov.au for details. For further details on the B Business at ADFA see www.adfa.unsw.edu.au

UNSW EXPO – Be curious

UNSW Expo 2003 will take place at the Kensington Campus of the University of New South Wales on 6 September 2003, from 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Courses and Careers Day is an integral part of UNSW Expo and includes a full program of lectures as well as the Roundhouse Advisory Centre where prospective students can talk to staff and current students about undergraduate programs, admissions and the student experience.

UNSW will be host to a range of interactive demonstrations and displays, sports events, concerts and entertainment, while offering a range of music, drama and science exhibits. A number of high quality lectures will take place on the day, bringing in speakers from across Australia, and around the world.

Prospective students and their families are encouraged to attend Expo 2003 to explore the UNSW community and sample the UNSW experience.

For further information see www.expo.unsw.edu.au or telephone 9385 1844 or 9385 1866

University of Western Sydney

New degrees at UWS!

UWS, recognising the advances in science and technology has created a new suite of degrees to help educate professionals in the growing industries. Hawkesbury campus has three new science degrees, Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science), Bachelor of Science (Gene Science) and Bachelor of Animal Science. The Federal Government is working with the University on a \$255 000 two-year project to identify ways to incorporate Nanotechnology into the manufacturing processes of local industry in the Campbelltown-Camden region. To assist this, UWS is also offering a Bachelor of Science (Nanotechnology) at Campbelltown.

UWS now has a Bachelor of Housing degree, which is available to school leavers, focusing solely on the housing market.

Recognising that technological advances are making the world a smaller place UWS also has a new Bachelor of Business (International Business) degree.

For details contact the UWS Course Information Centre 1800 897 669

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

UWS offers the following courses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students:

- Diploma in Aboriginal Studies
- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) AREP
- Diploma in Indigenous Australian Studies (AREP)
- Bachelor of Welfare (Aboriginal Community Studies)

For more information telephone 1800 032 923

University of Wollongong

Information Evenings

The University of Wollongong is holding Information Evenings for Year 12 students and their parents in September 2003. Attendees can expect to gain information on everything from early entry and scholarships to key dates for UAC applications. There will also be an opportunity to speak with representatives across all faculties. Bookings are essential. The dates are as follows:

- **Tuesday 9 September 2003**
University of Wollongong
University Hall,
Northfields Avenue, Gwynneville
6.30pm - 8.30pm
- **Wednesday 10 September 2003**
Cronulla Sharks
Captain Cook Drive, Cronulla
6.30pm - 8.30pm
- **Monday 15 September 2003**
Sutherland Entertainment Centre
30 Eton Street, Sutherland
6.30pm - 8.30pm
- **Tuesday 16 September 2003**
Campbelltown Catholic Club
Cnr Camden Road and Kellicar Road,
Campbelltown
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Bookings on 1300 367 869.

Early Entry

At the University of Wollongong we recognise that the UAI is not the only indication of your aptitude to excel at university level.

The Early Entry program allows current Year 12 students to apply for early acceptance into a number of our degrees. Successful applicants will receive either a guaranteed place or a place that is conditional upon the results of their final exams. Entry is based on the student's

academic record (including Trial HSC results) and an interview. Please note that students will need to still apply for University entry through UAC (Universities Admission Centre).

For more information contact 1300 367 869.

For your information

UAI Information Sheet with PIN letter

UAC has prepared an information sheet on the UAI which will be sent to Year 12 students' homes with their PIN letter in early August. The information sheet answers some of the "what", "who", "how" and "when" of the UAI. In early December, prior to the release of this year's UAI, Year 12 students will receive the booklet "You and Your UAI" which deals with the subject in more depth.

UAC 2004 Guides for interstate students

Interstate careers advisers should have received a letter from UAC about ordering copies of the *UAC 2004 Guide* for students interested in applying for UAC courses.

If you have not already done so, please send in the order form attached to the letter now, or email UAC using the online enquiry form on our web site.

Postgraduate admissions for Summer session, semesters 1 and 2, 2004

Following UAC's successful pilot of applications to select semester 2, 2003 postgraduate coursework programs being processed through it, UAC will launch the admissions process for postgraduate coursework programs at seven participating institutions for Summer session, semesters 1 and 2, 2004. The seven participating institutions are: Australian Catholic University, Australian National University, Macquarie University, University of New England, University of Newcastle, University of Technology, Sydney and University of Western Sydney. Applications open on 1 September 2003.

The UAC 2004 Postgraduate Coursework Booklet, containing course details and application form, will be available from UAC and the participating institutions from the end of August. Prospective applicants must also access the postgraduate web site at www.uac.edu.au for updates, new and cancelled courses. Apply-By-Web will again be available to prospective postgraduate applicants.

Apply-By-Web

for Year 12 Students

Applications for university admission in 2004 open in early August. Year 12 students, with access to a credit card, can lodge their university application via the web at www.uac.edu.au. Payment of the \$15.00 UAC processing charge must be using a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Bankcard only). There are now two versions of Apply-By-Web available to Year 12 students. Applicants will be asked to determine which version they are required to use according to their need to supply supplementary information.

Students who do not have access to a credit card can use the Apply-By-Telephone, which bills the \$15.00 processing charge to the telephone account holder's account. Those applicants who use Apply-By-Telephone and are required to supply supplementary information will be required to do so by a Supplementary Form A contained in the Year 12 version of the Guide.

Information and handy hints for applying via the web can be found on page 14 of the *UAC 2004 Guide* or from early August, on the web site at www.uac.edu.au. Before applying students should check that they can access Apply-By-Web at www.uac.edu.au. They should know their credit card number and expiry date of the card and they should also know the UAC codes for their choice of courses.

To access Apply-By-Web students should be using browser versions Netscape 6.0 or Internet Explorer 5.0 or above.

Fees and Charges

for 2004 admissions

UAC Guide

Year 12 NSW and ACT students (distributed through schools)	Free
Non-Year 12	\$14.00

Processing charge

Year 12 Apply-By-Web	\$15.00
Year 12 Apply-By-Telephone – higher from mobile telephones; service not recommended from public telephones; service provided by Dialect Solutions	\$15.00
Non-Year 12	\$34.00

Late fee (all applicants)

Wednesday 1 October – Fri 31 October 2003	\$80.00
Sat 1 November – Fri 28 November 2003	\$90.00
Sat 29 November 2003 – Tues 3 February 2004	\$100.00

UAC Infoline - call 1900 957 500

Higher from mobile telephones; service not recommended from public telephones; service provided by Dialect Solutions	82.5c per minute
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Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT)

Sit one test (either Multiple Choice or Written English)	\$85.00
Sit both tests on same day	\$113.00
Sit both tests on different days	\$170.00
Change your registration	\$34.00
Additional STAT result notice	\$34.00

Changing preferences

Apply-By-Web	No UAC charge
InfoLine	82.5c per minute
In writing	\$34.00

All UAC charges and fees include 10% GST.

Where to find details in the UAC Guide about

Application closing dates	inside front cover
Charges and fees	page 6
Apply-By-Web Instructions	page 14
Apply-By-Telephone Instructions	page 15
Applying interstate	page 45
The selection process	page 9
Changing preferences	page 13
Offer rounds	page 24
Supplementary Form A	page 49
The UAI	page 40
University open days	page 98
Distance education	page 86
Deferment	page 92
Interstate Year 12 conversions	page 88

All of the information outlined above will be available on the web at www.uac.edu.au from early August 2003.

Tertiary admissions centre web sites

NSW & ACT - UAC

www.uac.edu.au

Queensland - QTAC

www.qtac.edu.au

Victoria - VTAC

www.vtac.edu.au

Western Australia - TISC

www.tisc.edu.au

South Australia - SATAC

www.satac.edu.au

Other useful sites

HECS

www.hecs.gov.au

Centrelink

www.centrelink.gov.au

TAFE New South Wales

www.tafensw.edu.au

NSW Board of Studies

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Year 12 Checklist

for applying to university

✓ Do you know your PIN ?

Your Personal Identification Number (PIN) is a four-digit number. You need your PIN to submit your UAC application and access details about your application such as your course preferences, offers, and your UAI (if you are a 2003 NSW or ACT Year 12 student).

Keep a record of your PIN in a secure place. Do not divulge your PIN to anyone unless you want them to have access to your personal information.

NSW HSC students receive a PIN notification from UAC in the mail in early August. You must use this PIN to access both UAC services and the Board of Studies HSC Results Services. If you do not receive your PIN at the same time as your classmates, contact UAC.

If you lose your PIN and need a replacement, you must submit a written request to UAC. If you send your request through the mail, ensure you apply well in advance of needing your PIN to allow time to process and deliver your PIN. If you submit your request over the counter, you must provide a signed photo-identification (ie. drivers licence, student card).

All other Year 12 students use the first four digits of their date of birth as their PIN. For example if your birthday is 3 October, your PIN is 0310. If your birthday is 1 February, your PIN is 0102.

If you are having difficulty using your PIN email UAC via our web site or call UAC on (02) 9752 0200.

✓ Are you moving house?

It is important that you provide UAC with an up-to-date address and telephone number so that we can easily contact you. You can change your address after submitting your UAC application via:

- UAC's web site - www.uac.edu.au
- the change of address form at the back of the UAC 2004 Guide.

Telephone, email and fax requests will not be accepted for security reasons. You must also separately notify the Board of Studies of your new address.

✓ Do you need to provide Supplementary information?

Some 2003 Year 12 students may need to submit supplementary information as a part of their application. Refer to page 12 of the UAC 2004 Guide for details. There are two ways in which to provide this information. If you are using Apply-By-Web, you may submit information via this application. There are two versions of Apply-By-Web for Year 12 students. Read the instructions which accompany the application to decide which version you are required to use. If you are using Apply-By-Telephone, you must submit your supplementary information via the paper Supplementary Form A contained in the Year 12 student edition of the UAC 2004 Guide.

✓ Do you need someone to act on your behalf?

If you will be away for all or part of the admissions period (August 2003 - February 2004) and need to authorise someone to act on your behalf during your absence you will need to advise UAC.

You can do this by either:

- submitting a Supplementary Form A (question 14)
- providing a letter which authorises someone to act on your behalf. The letter must contain your UAC application number, your full name and signature, and the full name and signature of the person authorised to act on your behalf.

If you are going overseas remember to take a copy of the UAC Guide, your UAC number and your PIN with you.

✓ Are you eligible to apply for Educational Access Schemes?

Most of the universities in NSW and the ACT have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) which are designed to help provide access to university for students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage such as:

- disrupted schooling
- home environment and responsibilities
- personal illness/disability.

UAC's EAS booklet contains information about the universities' schemes and includes an EAS application form. EAS applications must be submitted to UAC by Tuesday 30 September 2003.

See your careers adviser early for information about the schemes and to get an EAS booklet. If you think you are eligible, start organising your EAS application as early as possible as you will need to supply supporting documents and statements.

Keep a copy of your EAS application form and documents. Why? You may have to provide a copy of your EAS application form and all documentation to the university if you require on-going support during your studies.

✓ Are you studying overseas?

If you are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or New Zealand citizen studying a 2003 Australian Year 12 overseas, you will not be able to use the Apply-By-Telephone facility to submit your application.

You must use either Apply-By-Web or complete a specially designed application form that has been sent to overseas schools offering Australian Year 12 studies.

For more information see your careers adviser or contact UAC via its web site at www.uac.edu.au or call UAC on + 612 9752 0200.

Contacting UAC

Telephone	(02) 9752 0200
Web site:	www.uac.edu.au
Email:	use the online enquiry form on UAC's web site
Location:	Quad 2, 8 Parkview Drive, Homebush Bay NSW
Postal address:	Locked Bag 112, Silverwater NSW 2128
Office hours:	8.30 am - 4.30 pm (Monday to Friday)

On-time applications close on Tuesday 30 September 2003