

## UAC key dates for 2004 admissions

### UAC 2004 Guide

The UAC 2004 Guide will be distributed to schools from the week beginning Monday 21 July 2003. The Guide will be available from newsagents from Friday 1 August 2003.

### Applications

Early August 2003	applications open
Tuesday 30 September 2003	on-time applications close
Friday 31 October 2003	late applications close with \$80 late fee
Friday 28 November 2003	late applications close with \$90 late fee
Tuesday 3 February 2004	final close of applications with \$100 late fee

### HSC and UAI

Thursday 18 December 2003	2003 NSW HSC results released
Friday 19 December 2003	UAIs released by UAC (web site + Infoline)

### Change of preferences

Mid-August 2003 – 5 January 2004	for consideration in Main Round
19 January 2004 – 23 January 2004	for consideration in Late Round
2 February 2004 – 3 February 2004	for consideration in Final Round

### Offers

Friday 5 December 2003	Early Round offers e-released
Saturday 3 January 2004	Preliminary Round offers e-released
Monday 19 January 2004	Main Round offers e-released
Monday 2 February 2004	Late Round offers e-released
Saturday 7 February 2004	Final Round offers e-released

## Order Year 10 booklets by Friday 30 May

Orders from schools for the *University Entry Requirements Year 10 Booklet* are due at UAC by Friday 30 May 2003.

Prepared by UAC on behalf of the participating institutions, the booklet shows prerequisites, assumed knowledge and recommended studies for university courses commencing in 2006.

The purpose of the booklet is to help Year 10 students make informed choices about which HSC courses they should study in Years 11 and 12 in preparation for tertiary study. It also outlines the UAI rules and provides an overview of the areas of study available at universities. This year we are sending each Year 10 student an introductory leaflet to increase awareness of the booklet.

Each Year 12 school in NSW and the ACT will receive four complimentary copies. Additional

booklets cost just \$3.50 each (incl. GST). The minimum order is 10 booklets.

### How to order

Schools complete the order form that accompanies this issue of UAC News.

Mail your order to UAC **by Friday 30 May 2003**. UAC will then send you an invoice, allowing 7 days for payment. Once your payment has been received at UAC, your booklets will be sent to you.

Members of the public can also buy copies of the booklet for \$3.50 over the counter at UAC's premises at Homebush Bay.

Individual copies of the booklet ordered through the mail cost \$3.50 plus postage and handling.

### Erratum...

#### 'You and your UAI' 2002 booklet

In the last year's 'You and your UAI' booklet we failed to include information on 'Courses completed in previous years'. There should have been a section which informed students that their scaled marks are calculated in the year they complete the course. If they accumulate courses towards their HSC, their marks are not re-scaled each year they are eligible for a UAI.

The information will be updated accordingly and included in this year's 'You and your UAI' booklet which is released in early December 2003.

### UAC STATISTICS FOR 2003 ADMISSIONS

Applications totalled just over 78 000 with 42 784 of those from NSW and ACT Year 12 students.

Over 35 000 applications were received from non-Year 12 applicants.

A total of 59 897 offers were made.

### 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](http://www.uac.edu.au). Look under 'Publications – Download'.

# What a difference a year makes!

## **An article on the 2002 UAI from Professor George Cooney, Chair, Technical Committee on Scaling**

*(reproduced from an article published in the Macquarie University News, March 2003)*

What a difference a year makes! The release of the results from the 2001 HSC was followed by a period of intense media attention, and confusion and some anger from students and their parents. Much of the anger was directed towards the relationship, or lack of it, between the reported HSC marks and the Universities Admission Index, the ubiquitous UAI.

In contrast, after the release of the 2002 HSC results there was almost a deafening silence. There was the usual media focus on high performing students and the schools from which they came, but then silence! No further mention of the UAI or the HSC; nothing.

### **What made the difference?**

At the heart of the confusion arising at the end of 2001 and during the early part of 2002 was a lack of understanding about the way HSC achievement was reported. The ensuing discussion in the media and elsewhere did, however, bring into sharp relief the different methods by which student achievement is reported. In the ensuing discussions and debates and through the dissemination of a great deal of explanatory material to schools and professional associations, there was an increased understanding of the way HSC marks and the UAI complement each other.

A student's Record of Achievement presents a profile showing the standards they achieved in the courses they studied. On the other hand, a student's UAI is a number indicating their overall academic achievement, not against a standard, but against other students. The UAI allows the comparison of students who have completed different combinations of courses.

A student's Record of Achievement and their UAI are used for different purposes. The former shows their strengths and weaknesses across the courses they have studied, the latter shows only their overall position in relation to other students. As such, it is used by universities as one way, but not the only way, of selecting entrants for their courses.

The lack of controversy in 2002 resulted from this increased understanding of the distinction between HSC marks and the UAI, as students and teachers were more aware of what to expect.

### **So, what were the major issues in 2002?**

The first was the apparent lack of relationship between HSC marks and UAIs.

To use the reported HSC marks to estimate a UAI is obviously difficult. It is sufficient to say that to get a high UAI a student must not only have high HSC marks but be ranked highly in their courses.

The second concerned what courses contributed to the UAI. Again, this is not an easy question. Sufficient to say is that a student's position in a course is just as important as the value of the scaled mean. If a student is near the top in a course, the scaled mark for that course will be high, almost independent of whether the scaled mean is low or high.

During 2002 there were many urban myths about which courses students should study to maximise their UAIs. Despite the rumours, the choice of which course to study should not be determined by what is perceived to be the likely effect of scaling. Choice of which courses to study should be determined only by the interests, demonstrated abilities and the utility of individual courses for the future career plans of the student concerned. The scaling process is designed to allow students to choose according to these principles and not, as far as university selection is concerned, be disadvantaged by their choice. It treats all students on their merits.

These issues will not go away because of the perceived importance of the UAI for individual students, but with increased understanding of how student achievement is reported there may be a reduction in the number of urban myths and misconceptions.

**The Report on the Scaling of the 2002 NSW Higher School Certificate is currently in production.**

**Two printed copies of the report will be sent to schools at the end of May 2003.**

# University

## news & updates

### Southern Cross University

#### New (HECS-based) courses available in 2004 to school leavers

- 334400 *B Environmental Tourism Management*  
 334900 *B Indigenous Tourism Management*  
 336000 *B Laws (undergraduate entry)*  
 334410 *B Applied Science/B Business in Tourism (combined degree)*  
 337400 *B Business in Tourism/ B Indigenous Studies (combined degree)*  
 332200, *B Management and Professional Studs*  
 332270

#### Cancelled courses

The following courses have been cancelled and will not be offered for 2003 Mid-year admissions:

- 336110 *B Legal and Justice Studies*  
 336300 *Assoc. Degree Law (Paralegal Studies)*

#### Changes to course delivery

A number of SCU courses are now also offered externally. For the latest information on all SCU courses available in 2004, visit <http://www.scu.edu.au/courses>

#### New Freecall number

Freecall number now available for Student Services - 1800 626 481

### University of Canberra

#### New courses for MYA-03

Since the publication of the 2003 Mid-year supplement the following courses have been added by UC for 2003 Mid-year admissions:

- 365020 *B Engineering Computer Engineering*  
 365040 *B Engineering Electronics and Communications Engineering*  
 365055 *B Engineering in Software Engineering*  
 365180 *B Software Engineering*

Course descriptions for the above courses are located on UAC's web site: [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au).

### University of Newcastle

#### Entry into Medicine

The closing date for the submission of the Faculty of Health application form for entry to the Bachelor of Medicine program at the University of Newcastle in 2004 is **30 September 2003**.

Students wishing to apply for entry to the Bachelor of Medicine program should:

##### 1 Register to sit the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)

On-time applications for UMAT close on **13 June 2003** (an application fee applies). Late applications close on 27 June 2003 (an additional late fee applies).

In 2003 UMAT will be held on 30 July 2003 at various locations across Australia. Registration forms may be obtained from:

UMAT Office  
 ACER Assessment Services  
 Private Bag 55  
 Camberwell VIC 3124  
 Telephone: (03) 9277 5673

All enquiries concerning UMAT should be directed to the UMAT Office.

##### 2 Apply directly to the University of Newcastle

Faculty of Health application forms will be available in June 2003 and may be obtained by contacting the Program Officer (BMed). Applications close on **30 September 2003** – late applications WILL NOT be considered under any circumstances. Further information may be obtained by contacting:

The Program Officer (BMed)  
 Faculty of Health  
 Medical Sciences Building  
 University of Newcastle  
 Callaghan NSW 2308  
 Telephone: (02) 4921 5680  
 Email: [bmed-admissions@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:bmed-admissions@newcastle.edu.au)

##### 3 Apply to the Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT) Pty Ltd (UAC)

On-time applications must be lodged with UAC by **30 September 2003**. Students who wish to be considered for B Medicine must have lodged a UAC application and included B Medicine as a preference by the late closing date of Friday 28 November 2003 (late fee applies).

Candidates must lodge all **THREE** of the above applications to be eligible to be considered for entry to the B Medicine program at the University of Newcastle.

### University of New South Wales

#### Entry into Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine at UNSW developed a new admissions process in 2003.

In addition to submitting a UAC application by 30 September 2003, the selection criteria for students currently in Year 12 are:

- **academic merit** – a minimum UAI of 95.00 in the HSC is required;
- **UMAT** (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Services Admissions Test) – a test designed to assess general attributes and skills gained through prior experience and learning. Apply by **13 June 2003** at [www.acer.edu.au/unitest](http://www.acer.edu.au/unitest);
- **interview** – main round to be held late September - early October 2003, final round to be held early January 2004. It is anticipated that about 450 applicants will be interviewed.

In the selection of students for entry, these three criteria will be equally weighted.

Applicants are required to register their interest at [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au) and also submit a structured Curriculum Vitae (CV), which can be downloaded from that web site.

Both must be submitted by **Friday 25 July 2003**. The CV should include why you want to study medicine at UNSW, details of your relevant personal qualities and skills, your non-academic interests and activities and a brief description of your life experience. Schools will be asked to comment on school-related activities and achievements. This CV may be used as one of the criteria for selection for interview and a source of information to set the context of the applicant's interview.

For further information read the Faculty's web site: [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au)

#### New courses for MYA-03

Since the publication of the 2003 Mid-year supplement the following courses have been added by UNSW for 2003 Mid-year admissions:

- 425001 *B Engineering Materials Science and Engineering*  
 429019 *B Science (Computer Science)*

Course descriptions for the above courses are located on UAC's web site: [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au).

# For your information

## Reference copies - UAC 2003 Guide

Boxes of Guides from last year are available to schools to use as reference copies. Each box contains 20 Guides (max. of 2 boxes per school). Call (02) 9752 0200 to reserve your copies.

The boxes can be collected from UAC's off-site warehouse at no charge. However, we require schools to allow at least 24 hours from reserving your copy to pick-up. Boxes can also be sent to schools for \$25 per box (incl GST), with payment by cheque or money order or pay by credit card over the phone.

**Note:** At time of going to press we only have a small number of boxes remaining.

## UAI cut-offs for 2003 admissions

You can view and download copies of the UAI cut-offs used for the Main and Late Round of offers from UAC's web site. Look under 'UAI cut-offs for 2003 admissions' on the home page or under 'Course search'.

## 2003 Mid-year admissions

Applications for mid-year admissions are now open through UAC. There are over 300

courses available. *The UAC Mid-Year Supplement for 2003 Admissions*, containing details of all courses being offered and an application form, is available from UAC.

Applicants also have the option of accessing the same information, plus any recent updates, from the web site at [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) and applying online via Apply-By-Web.

## Postgraduate admissions for semester 2, 2003

UAC has launched applications to select postgraduate coursework programs at four participating institutions for semester 2, 2003 admissions. The four institutions: Macquarie University, University of New England, University of Newcastle and University of Technology, Sydney together offer around 150 courses through UAC.

The *UAC 2003 Postgraduate Coursework Booklet*, containing course details and application form, is available from UAC. Applicants also have the option of accessing the information, with updates, from the web site at [www.uac.edu.au/postgraduate.html](http://www.uac.edu.au/postgraduate.html) and applying online via Apply-By-Web.

## Scholastic Aptitude Test - SAT®

The SAT is recognised widely around the world (in particular the United States) and may be a useful addition to students' results for those seeking admissions to universities outside Australia. Some Australian universities also recognise the SAT for admission purposes. It is your responsibility to find out whether SAT results can be used for admission to the courses you are considering and which version (SAT I - Reasoning and or SAT II - Subject Tests) you are required to sit.

The SAT is held six times a year at thousands of testing centres around the world. Students wishing to sit the test in NSW or the ACT can register through UAC or directly through the College Board in America. Interested candidates should contact UAC to obtain an information pack and a copy of the International Registration Bulletin.

For further information about the SAT

- Contact UAC on (02) 9752 0200
- Contact the SAT Program at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

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# Open days in 2003

## Australian Catholic University

Canberra Campus	23 August
North Sydney Campus	13 September
Strathfield Campus	13 September

## Australian Maritime College

Campus tours can be arranged by appointment; for further information Freecall 1800 030 277.

## Australian National University

23 August

## Charles Sturt University

Albury-Wodonga Campus

Open Day-Every Day  
17 August

## La Trobe University

Albury-Wodonga Campus

17 August

## Macquarie University

13 September

## Southern Cross University

Coffs Harbour Education Campus	12 August
Lismore Campus	23 August
Tweed Gold Coast Campus	9 August

## University of Canberra

23 August

## University of New England

12 September

## University of New South Wales

Courses and Careers Day	6 September
Australian Defence Force Academy	23 August

## University of Newcastle

Callaghan Campus - Courses and Careers Information Day	6 September
Ourimbah Campus	6 September

## University of Sydney

Camperdown and Darlington Campus and Mallett Street Campus	30 August
Faculty of Health Sciences, Cumberland	30 August
Sydney Conservatorium of Music	30 August
Orange Campus	Open Day-Every Day

## University of Technology, Sydney

UTS Information Day, Broadway Campus	30 August
UTS Information Evening, Kuring-gai Campus	10 September

## University of Western Sydney

Parramatta Campus	24 August
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## University of Wollongong

For campus tours and special events contact UoW on 1300 367 869

For information on days for schools visits, contact the individual institution.