

STOP PRESS!!!

Change to UAI Rules

for the 2006 HSC

For 2006 NSW HSC student and thereafter, Rule 1 - the eligibility rule for a UAI - has changed. Under the new rule students must satisfactorily complete at least eight units of Category A courses to be eligible for a UAI. The UAI eligibility rule has not previously specified a minimum number of Category A units to be eligible for a UAI.

This change has been introduced to ensure that all students who receive a UAI will have their UAI based on 10 units.

Under the existing UAI eligibility rule (current for the 2004 and 2005 HSC), students who complete 10 units of UAI courses, including less than eight units of Category A courses will receive a UAI based on less than 10 units, even though it may be very low. Such students will not get a UAI from the 2006 HSC.

The change also means that Rule 1 - Eligibility for a UAI mirrors Rule 2 - Calculation of the UAI, which restricts to two the number of Category B units that can be included in the calculation of the UAI. With the change, UAI Rules 1 and 2 will be complementary.

As Year 10 students are now choosing their Year 12 program of study, please make sure

checks are in place to ensure that students are enrolled in the correct courses if they wish to receive a UAI. Also, as students move into Year 11 and Year 12 and change their course enrolments it is important to check that they still maintain a minimum of eight units of Category A courses in their program of study.

The changes to the UAI rules will be included in the 2007 Year 10 Booklet.

From the 2006 HSC, Rule 1 - Eligibility for a UAI, is as follows: To be eligible for a UAI you must satisfactorily complete at least 10 units (including at least two units of English) of UAI courses including at least eight units of Category A courses. Courses completed must include at least three Board Developed courses of two units or greater and at least four subjects.

UAI courses

UAI courses are Board Developed courses for which there are examinations conducted by the Board of Studies that yield a graded assessment. These are the only courses that can be included in the UAI calculations. UAI courses are classified as either Category A courses or Category B courses.

Students Beware!

The "Bored of Studies" web site (www.boredofstudies.org) which, among other things, claims to be able to predict UAIs, uses data taken from the UAC web site and the Scaling Report without the permission of UAC or the Technical Committee on Scaling.

There are many factors that can affect the scaling from one year to the next and Year 12 students are warned that they should use caution when using predicted UAIs from the Bored of Studies web site.

Neither UAC nor the Technical Committee on Scaling endorse the use of the data by the authors of that web site.

Order Year 10 booklets

by Monday 10 May

Orders from schools for the *University Entry Requirements Year 10 Booklet* are due at UAC by Monday 10 May 2004.

Prepared by UAC on behalf of the participating institutions, the booklet shows prerequisites, assumed knowledge and recommended studies for university courses commencing in 2007.

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. Leaflets promoting the booklet and raising awareness of UAC will be sent to you in April for distribution to your Year 10 students.

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 Monday 10 May 2004. UAC will then send you an invoice, allowing seven 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.

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'.

Higher education reforms

The Australian Government has announced a package of higher education reforms effective from 1 January 2005.

Some of the important points include:

1. Types of students

- Domestic students can be offered a place as either a 'Commonwealth supported student' or a 'fee paying student'.
- For Commonwealth supported students the Australian Government contributes towards the cost of the course - students pay only a 'student contribution'. Each institution sets its own student contributions for each unit of study, so student contributions will vary between institutions and courses.
- For fee-paying students the Australian Government does not contribute towards the cost of the course - students pay a 'tuition fee'. Each institution sets its own tuition fees for each course, so the tuition fees will vary between institutions and courses.

2. Partial deregulation of student contributions

- The Australian Government will no longer set student contributions through the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS).
- Each institution will set its own student contributions for each unit of study, so student contributions will vary between institutions and courses. These student contributions must be within a range set by the Government (see table).
- Course costs will depend on the individual subjects chosen. The estimated student contributions listed in the table are for full-time students for a full year. The maximum is indexed each year according to movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

3. Student Learning Entitlement (SLE)

- All Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens and holders of Australian permanent visas will receive Student Learning Entitlement (SLE).

- SLE = access to seven years equivalent full-time study in a Commonwealth supported place (to be extended on a pro-rata basis if studying part-time).

4. Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)

- Australian citizens and holders of an Australian permanent humanitarian visa may pay their student contribution or tuition fee up front or they may request a Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) loan
- There are three types of HELP loans:
 - **HECS-HELP** is for eligible Commonwealth supported students to pay their student contribution;
 - **FEE-HELP** is for eligible fee-paying students to pay their tuition fee, up to \$50,000 (plus a 20% loan fee); and
 - **OS-HELP** is for eligible Commonwealth supported students who wish to study one or two study periods overseas, up to \$5,000 (plus a 20% loan fee).
- Repayments for all HELP loans will be contingent on income. Students will not be required to start paying their HELP debts until their income reaches \$35,000 in 2004-2005 and \$36,184 in 2005-2006.

5. Commonwealth Learning Scholarships (CLS)

- Australian citizens and holders of an Australian permanent humanitarian visa may be eligible for a CLS.
- The CLS Programme consists of:
 - Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships (CECS) to assist with general education costs; and

- Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships (CAS) to assist with accommodation costs.

6. Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS)

- The Australian Government is establishing a new web-based information management system, the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS).
- Students will be able to access HEIMS to check on their liability under HELP loans, and their use of SLE and CLS.
- The public will be able to access HEIMS for links to course information.

7. Commonwealth Higher Education Student Support Number (CHESSN)

- Every student receiving Commonwealth assistance (through a Commonwealth supported place, a HELP loan, or a CLS) must have a Commonwealth Higher Education Student Support Number (CHESSN).
- Students will use their CHESSN to access HEIMS.
- The CHESSN will stay with the student throughout their academic life, allowing eligibility for Commonwealth support to be monitored.

8. More information

- Available from the web site www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au (click on "Reforms" to access Fact Sheets and Student Information).

Band	Estimated student contribution range for 2005
National Priorities (teaching, nursing)	\$0 to \$3,840
Band 1 (humanities, arts, behavioural science, social studies, foreign languages, visual and performing arts)	\$0 to \$4,800
Band 2 (accounting, commerce, administration, economics, maths, statistics, computing, built environment, health, engineering, science, surveying, agriculture)	\$0 to \$6,837
Band 3 (law, dentistry, medicine, veterinary science)	\$0 to \$8,004

University

news & updates

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 2005 is **30 September 2004**.

Students wishing to apply for entry to the Bachelor of Medicine program must do three things:

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

On-time applications for UMAT close on **11 June 2004** (an application fee applies). Late applications close on 25 June 2004 (an additional late fee applies).

In 2004 UMAT will be held on 28 July 2004 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 2004 and may be obtained by contacting the Program Officer (BMed). Applications close on **30 September 2004** – 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

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

On-time applications must be lodged with UAC by **30 September 2004**. 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 30 November 2004 (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 introduced a new admissions process for 2004 entry.

In addition to submitting a UAC application by 30 September 2004, 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 **11 June 2004** at www.acer.edu.au;
- **Interview** – main round to be held late September - early October 2004, final round to be held early January 2005. It is anticipated that about 500 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 and also submit a structured Curriculum Vitae (CV), which can be downloaded from that web site.

Both must be submitted by **Friday 30 July 2004**. 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

Open days in 2004

Australian Catholic University

Canberra Campus 28 August
North Sydney Campus 11 September
Strathfield Campus 11 September

Australian Maritime College

Newnham Campus 15 August
Campus tours can be arranged by appointment; for further information Freecall 1800 030 277.

Australian National University

Open Day 28 August

Charles Sturt University

Open Day / Every Day
Albury-Wodonga Campus 22 August

La Trobe University

Albury-Wodonga Campus 22 August

Macquarie University

11 September

Southern Cross University

For campus tours and special events, contact SCU on 1800 111 890.

University of Canberra

28 August

University of New England

Open Day 10 September

University of New South Wales

Courses and Careers Day 4 September
Aust. Defence Force Academy 28 August

University of Newcastle

Callaghan Campus 4 September
Ourimbah Campus 4 September

University of Sydney

Camperdown and
Darlington Campus,
Sydney Conservatorium of Music
and Mallett Street Campus 28 August
For Campus tours call 1300 362 006
For Orange campus tours call (02) 6360 5555

University of Technology, Sydney

UTS Information Day,
Broadway Campus 28 August
UTS Information Evening
Kuring-gai Campus 7 September

University of Western Sydney

Open Day 22 August

University of Wollongong

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

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

For your information

Reference copies - UAC 2004 Guide

Boxes of Guides from last year are available to schools to use as reference copies. Each box contains 20 Guides (maximum of two 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 2004 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 2004 admissions' on the home page or under 'Course search'.

How to... avoid delays and late fees

Too many Year 12 students leave applying to UAC until the last minute, and then have trouble with the inevitable delays caused by congested telephone and internet lines at on-time closing. Even if students are unsure of their preferences, encourage them to apply early - preferences can always be changed after they have applied, and as often as they wish. Leaving it to the last minute causes undue stress for students (who are probably under enough pressure as it is!) and could mean they are charged a late fee.

Report on the Scaling of the 2003 NSW HSC

The 2003 Scaling Report will be available in May 2004. Each school will receive two reference copies.

The Preliminary Report and associated tables are available to download from the UAC web site at www.uac.edu.au/admin/uai.html

Offer lists

Each school in NSW and the ACT should by now have received a list of 2003 Year 12 students from their school who were made an offer for 2004 admissions. To protect the privacy of students, the list does not include offers to fee-paying courses or offers made to students who have requested that we withhold this information from their school.

2004 Mid-year admissions

Applications for mid-year admissions are now open through UAC. There are more than 300 courses available. The *UAC Mid-Year Supplement for 2004 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 and applying online via Apply-By-Web.

UAC key dates for 2005 admissions

UAC 2005 Guide

The *UAC 2005 Guide* will be distributed to schools from the week beginning Monday 26 July 2004. The Guide will be available from newsagents from Monday 2 August 2004.

Applications

Early August 2004
Thursday 30 September 2004
Friday 29 October 2004
Tuesday 30 November 2004
Friday 4 February 2005

applications open
on-time applications close
late applications close with \$82 late fee
late applications close with \$92 late fee
final close of applications with \$102 late fee

HSC and UAI

Friday 17 December 2004
Saturday 18 December 2004

2004 NSW HSC results released
UAIs e-released by UAC (web site + Infoline)

Change of preferences

Mid-August 2004 – 6 January 2005
19 January 2005 – 24 January 2005
2 February 2005 – 4 February 2005

for consideration in Main Round
for consideration in Late Round
for consideration in Final Round

Offers

Friday 3 December 2004
Wednesday 5 January 2005
Wednesday 19 January 2005
Wednesday 2 February 2005
Wednesday 9 February 2005

Early Round offers e-released
Preliminary Round offers e-released
Main Round offers e-released
Late Round offers e-released
Final Round offers e-released

PINs for Year 12 students

From 2005 admissions, UAC will no longer use the NSW Board of Studies PIN for Year 12 applicants.

UAC is currently developing a new procedure for Year 12 PINs - more information will be in the next issue of *UAC News* and in the *UAC 2005 Guide*.

UAC Statistics for 2004 admissions

Applications totalled just above 79 000 with almost 43 000 of those from NSW and ACT Year 12 students.

Over 36 000 applications were received from non-Year 12 applicants.

A total of 58 488 offers were made with 32 847 offers to Year 12 students.