

## Change to UAI Rules

### for the 2006 HSC

For 2006 NSW HSC students and thereafter, Rule 1 - the eligibility rule for a UAI - will change. 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 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 2008 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.

## UAC

### School Kits

Every year UAC sends to schools a kit containing the following:

- an audio cassette - demonstrating the UAC Apply-By-Telephone and the UAC InfoLine
- one copy of the UAC Apply-By-Telephone script
- one copy of the UAC InfoLine script
- a set of UAC overheads
- bookmarks to hand out to your Year 12 students

This year we are planning on sending this information on a CD, eliminating the need to use and send a vast amount of paper. The bookmarks with important dates that once were sent as part of the school kits will now be printed as part of the Guide, for students to tear-off and use as a ready reference.

## Order Year 10 booklets

### by Monday 9 May

Orders from schools for the *University Entry Requirements 2008 Year 10 Booklet* are due at UAC by Monday 9 May 2005.

Prepared by UAC on behalf of the participating institutions, the booklet shows prerequisites, assumed knowledge and recommended studies for university courses commencing in 2008.

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 \$4.40 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 9 May 2005. 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 \$4.40 over the counter at UAC's premises at Homebush Bay.

Individual copies of the booklet ordered through the mail cost \$4.40 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](http://www.uac.edu.au). Look under 'Publications - Download'.**

# Higher education reforms

## The Australian Government's higher education reforms took effect 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 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 tuition fees vary between institutions and courses.

### 2. Partial deregulation of student contributions

- The Australian Government no longer sets student contributions through the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS).
- Each institution sets its own student contributions for each unit of study, so student contributions vary between institutions and courses. These student contributions must be within a range set by the Government (see table).
- Course costs depend on the individual subjects chosen. The 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.

- CLS are administered on behalf of the Australian Government by individual institutions. Institutions are responsible for conducting their own application and selection procedures, within Government guidelines.

### 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 sites [www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au](http://www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au) and [www.goingtouni.gov.au](http://www.goingtouni.gov.au)

Band	Student contribution range for 2005
National Priorities (teaching, nursing)	\$0 to \$3,847
Band 1 (humanities, arts, behavioural science, social studies, foreign languages, visual and performing arts)	\$0 to \$4,808
Band 2 (accounting, commerce, administration, economics, maths, statistics, computing, built environment, health, engineering, science, surveying, agriculture)	\$0 to \$6,849
Band 3 (law, dentistry, medicine, veterinary science)	\$0 to \$8,018

# University

## news & updates

### Open days in 2005

#### Australian Catholic University

Canberra Campus 27 August  
North Sydney Campus 10 September  
Strathfield Campus 10 September

#### Australian Maritime College

Newnham Campus 14 August  
Campus tours can be arranged by appointment; for further information Freecall 1800 030 277.

#### Australian National University

Open Day 27 August

#### Charles Sturt University

Open Day / Every Day  
For Campus tours/appointments and course information, contact CSU on 1800 334 733

#### La Trobe University

Albury-Wodonga Campus 21 August

#### Macquarie University

Open Day 10 September

#### Southern Cross University

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

#### University of Canberra

27 August

#### University of New England

Open Day 9 September

#### University of New South Wales

Courses and Careers Day 3 September  
Aust. Defence Force Academy 27 August

#### University of Newcastle

Callaghan Campus 10 September  
Ourimbah Campus 17 September

#### University of Sydney

Camperdown and Darlington Campus,  
Mallett Street Campus  
Sydney College of the Arts  
Sydney Conservatorium of Music 27 August

#### University of Technology, Sydney

UTS Information Day,  
Broadway Campus 27 August  
UTS Information Evening  
Kuring-gai Campus 7 September

#### University of Western Sydney

Open Day 21 August  
Parramatta Campus

#### 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.

### University of

#### New South Wales

#### Entry into Medicine

The selection criteria for students currently in Year 12 are:

- Academic merit - a minimum UAI or equivalent of 95.00 is required to be eligible for consideration;
- UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test). See shaded box below for further information.
- Interview - main round to be held late September 2005, final round to be held early January 2006. 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:

1. Register to sit the UMAT. See shaded box below for further information.
2. Register their interest at [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au) by **29 July 2005**.
3. Submit a Faculty of Medicine Application Form also by **29 July 2005**, which can be downloaded from [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au)
4. Submit a UAC application by **30 September 2005**.

The Faculty of Medicine Application Form includes questions on why applicants want to study medicine at UNSW, details of their relevant personal qualities and skills, their non-academic interests and activities and a brief description of their life experience. Schools will be asked to comment on school-related activities and achievements and submit a predicted UAI.

Please note that the Faculty of Medicine Application Form will be used to set the context of the applicant's interview **but is not used in identifying applicants for interview**. The UAI (predicted or actual) and the UMAT score are used to identify applicants for interview. For further information read the Faculty's web site: [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au)

### University of Newcastle

#### Entry into Medicine

The closing date for the submission of the Faculty of Health direct university application form for entry to the B Medicine program at the University of Newcastle in 2006 is **30 September 2005**. Students wishing to apply for entry to the

B Medicine program (both 480720 HECS and 490720 Local Fee) must do three things:

**1 Register to sit the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)**  
See shaded box below for further information.

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

Faculty of Health direct university application forms will be available in June 2005 and may be obtained by contacting the Program Officer (BMed). Applications close on **30 September 2005** - 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 UAC**

On-time applications must be lodged with UAC by 30 September 2005. Students who wish to be considered for B Medicine must have lodged a UAC application and included B Medicine (either 480720 HECS and/or 490720 FEE) as a preference by the late closing date of 30 November 2005 (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 (480720 HECS and 490720 Local Fee) at the University of Newcastle.*

### Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)

In 2005 UMAT will be held at various locations across Australia on

**27 July 2005**

On-time applications for UMAT close on **10 June 2005** (an application fee applies). Late applications close on 24 June 2005 (an additional late fee applies).

Registration forms may be obtained from:

UMAT Office  
ACER Assessment Services  
Private Bag 55  
Camberwell VIC 3124  
Telephone: (03) 9277 5673  
[www.acer.edu.au](http://www.acer.edu.au)

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

# For your information

## Reference copies - UAC 2005 Guide

Boxes of Guides from last year are available to schools to use as reference copies. Each box contains 20 Guides (maximum of three 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 by credit card over the phone.

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

## Report on the Scaling of the 2004 NSW HSC

The 2004 Scaling Report will be available in May-June 2005. 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](http://www.uac.edu.au/admin/uai.html)

## Written changes of preference

Changes of preference can no longer be made in writing. Preference changes can only be made via the UAC web site or UAC InfoLine.

## Offer lists

Each school in NSW and the ACT should by now have received a list of 2004 Year 12 students from their school who were made an offer for 2005 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.

## 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.

## UAI cut-offs for 2005 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 2005 admissions' on the home page or under 'Course search'.

## 2005 mid-year admissions

Applications for mid-year admissions are now open through UAC. There are more than 400 courses available. The *UAC 2005 Mid-Year Admissions Supplement*, 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.

# UAC key dates for 2006 admissions

## UAC 2006 Guide

The UAC 2006 Guide will be distributed to schools from the week beginning Monday 25 July 2005. The Guide will be available from newsagents from Monday 1 August 2005.

## Applications

Early August 2005  
Friday 30 September 2005  
Monday 31 October 2005  
Wednesday 30 November 2005  
Thursday 2 February 2006

applications open  
on-time applications close  
late applications close with \$92 late fee  
late applications close with \$103 late fee  
final close of applications with \$114 late fee

## HSC and UAI

Friday 16 December 2005  
Saturday 17 December 2005

2005 NSW HSC results e-released by BOS  
UAI e-released by UAC (to be confirmed)

## Change of preferences

Mid-August 2005 - 5 January 2006  
18 January 2006 - 23 January 2006  
1 February 2006 - 2 February 2006

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

## Offers

Friday 28 October 2005  
  
Friday 2 December 2005  
Wednesday 4 January 2006  
Wednesday 18 January 2006  
Wednesday 1 February 2006  
Wednesday 8 February 2006

Distance Education offers e-released (to be confirmed)  
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

## Changing addresses

UAC receives the addresses of Year 12 students from the files held by the NSW Board of Studies. Every year UAC sends out thousands of undeliverable letters because Year 12 students have either not notified the Board of Studies of a change of address, or the address is incomplete.

Encourage your students to make sure that the address held for them by the Board of Studies is accurate and complete.

## UAC statistics for 2005 admissions

Applications totalled almost 77 000 with over 42 000 of those from Year 12 students.

Almost 34 000 applications were received from non-Year 12 applicants.

A total of 67 850 offers were made compared to 58 488 for 2004 admissions.