

**Media release – Tuesday 12 December 2006**

For immediate release

## **Hints and advice: UAI cut-offs and changing preferences**

AFTER the release of UAIs on Wednesday 20 December 2006, HSC students can gauge if they have a realistic chance of being offered a place in their preferred university course, and can change their course preferences before university offers are released.

According to UAC Managing Director Andrew Stanton, UAI cut-offs for entry in 2007 will not be known until offers are released, however, students can compare their UAIs with last year's published cut-offs in the *UAC 2007 Guide* and on UAC's website at [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au).

"Last year's cut-offs are supplied as a general guide to help students assess their chances of obtaining a place in a particular course," Mr Stanton said.

"But students must be mindful of the fact that cut-offs for particular courses can change by more than the usual few points. UAC therefore advises students to make careful use of all nine of their preferences and include courses for which they have a realistic chance of being selected."

Mr Stanton said UAI cut-offs were determined by the interaction of three factors – the number of places available in the course; the number of applicants listing the course as a preference; and the quality of those applicants.

"Due to these factors, cut-offs vary from year to year and are impossible to predict before applicants are selected for a particular course in a particular year," he said. "For example, if there is a significant increase in demand for a course without more places being made available, then the cut-off is likely to rise."

If students do need to re-evaluate their choice of courses, they have until midnight on Thursday 4 January 2007 to change their course preferences before the Main Round of offers. This can be done via UAC's website at [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au). The only cost to applicants is their internet access charge.

Alternatively, changes can be made using the UAC InfoLine on 1900 957 500. Calls are charged at 82.5c per minute (higher from mobile telephones) from anywhere in Australia, and the service is not recommended from public telephones.

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For further information (media only) contact:  
Kim Paino, Director Information Services, Universities Admissions Centre on (02) 9752 0760.

## Advice from UAC about changing preferences

- You can change preferences until Thursday 4 January 2007 for consideration in the Main Round of offers. Changes via UAC's website at [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) or UAC InfoLine (1900 957 500) will be accepted until midnight.
- You need to know your UAC application number and UAC Personal Identification Number (PIN) to change your preferences.
- Don't leave changing your preferences to the last minute.
- You can have up to nine preferences including any combination of courses.
- As well as rearranging the order of your preferences you can add or delete courses.
- List your preferences in the order you want them to be considered, i.e. 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 then be considered for your second preference, and so on until you are made an offer or until there are no further preferences.
- Don't waste a preference – check to ensure the courses you add don't have early closing dates or prerequisites you cannot meet.
- Check last year's UAI cut-offs (from page 73 of the *UAC 2007 Guide* and on UAC's website) and gauge whether you have a realistic chance of gaining entry with your UAI. Remember that cut-offs can rise, fall or remain constant.
- Talk to institutions about your course options – most have hotlines and special advisory days in January for HSC students.
- If your UAI is not as high as you expected, you may need to consider alternative pathways to further study.
- Choose courses that you really want to do.

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