



Steps 2 Study for Post-School Applicants

Not all uni applicants are recent school-leavers; in fact, nearly 40% of uni students are over 24 years of age.*

There are many reasons to go back to study. You may want to establish a new career in a different industry, add to your existing skills, or turn a hobby or passion into a career.

As an older student, you'll bring life and work experience, commitment, and formal and informal learning to tertiary study, which gives you a higher chance of success.

**Department of Education and Training*

Types of courses

Undergraduate courses. Most people who are returning to study since leaving school or TAFE are first-time university students and would apply for an undergraduate course.

Applying through UAC

The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) receives and processes applications for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate courses at participating institutions, mainly located in NSW and the ACT.

You can apply for courses through UAC if you are:

- an Australian or New Zealand citizen
- a permanent resident of Australia
- the holder of an Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa.

What information will I need?

In addition to your personal contact details, you may need to provide:

- Australian or overseas Year 12 qualification name, school, year completed and student number
- TAFE student number, qualification and years attended
- Australian or overseas tertiary qualification, university student number and years attended
- employment details.

Include all your complete and incomplete studies and qualifications (including your Year 12 studies and AQF Certificate IIIs and above) in your application, even if you think they're too old. Some unis will still assess them. However, the following qualifications won't be assessed by tertiary institutions, so there's no need to include them in your application:

- Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificates I and II
- Statements of Attainment
- TAFE Statements

- courses delivered by Australian private providers that are not accredited (or accreditation can't be proved). Only courses accredited under the Australian Qualifications Framework, or by the relevant state/territory accreditation authority, will be taken into account.

When do I apply?

Some courses have early closing dates and you won't be able to select a course after it has closed.

Check the UAC website for all the dates by which you need to apply, provide documents and change your preferences to be guaranteed consideration in each offer round.

Join us on social media to keep informed about key dates for admissions, course updates and events, or subscribe to our email newsletter, *Directions*, which will remind you of important dates.

How much does it cost to apply?

Apply before midnight on 30 September: \$70.

Apply from 1 October: \$200.

These fees are subject to change. Visit uac.edu.au/fees for more information.

Learn more about the application process and apply online at uac.edu.au/how-to-apply.

What happens next?

After you've applied through UAC, download and carefully check your Confirmation of Application to make sure everything in your application is correct. If you need to change your contact details or course preferences, or add study that you didn't originally include, simply log back in to your application. For other changes, notify UAC in writing as soon as possible.

Additional selection criteria

For some courses you may need to provide a personal statement, complete a questionnaire, submit a portfolio of work, attend an audition or interview, or complete a test.

Providing documents

If you need to provide any documents to UAC in support of your application, you'll be told in your Confirmation of Application. Upload documents to UAC's website by logging in to your application. The instructions provided will make clear whether any documents can be sent to UAC in hard copy.

For more information on managing your application, visit uac.edu.au/manage.

How will I be assessed?

Entry to uni as a post-school applicant is not based on your age, but rather on a number of factors, including:

- your results for Year 12 studies, if you completed Year 12
- the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), which assesses your ability to think critically. Check whether your chosen institution accepts STAT, and visit stat.acer.org for details.
- post-secondary courses commenced or completed
- your employment experience. Some institutions consider paid employment of more than 12 months and unpaid or voluntary work. Visit uac.edu.au/admission for further information.

Other factors may also be taken into account when you apply, including whether you:

- meet all course prerequisites and/or course entry requirements. Courses related to health, welfare and teaching, require you to satisfy additional requirements. Visit uac.edu.au/special-requirements.
- meet any additional selection criteria
- have qualifications or experience that will help you get selected ahead of other applicants (eg working in a similar area to the course to be studied).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

Most institutions have a special admission scheme specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Qualifications Assessment Service

UAC's Qualifications Assessment Service (QAS), provides prospective applicants with an assessment of their qualifications. This may be used as a guide for determining your eligibility for courses offered by UAC's participating institutions. Visit uac.edu.au/qas for details.

Pathway courses

If you don't meet the standard admission criteria for a degree course there are plenty of pathway options available.

University non-degree courses

Consider applying for a lower level course such as a diploma or tertiary preparation course. You'll develop the skills required to succeed in a bachelor degree, such as research and essay writing. You can then go on to use your diploma to meet the admission criteria for a degree, or if you decide you don't want to pursue further study you'll still walk away with a qualification.

If you are not competitive for a degree course, an institution may make you a 'slipback offer' – an offer to a lower-level course (eg diploma). These are released up to two days after scheduled offer rounds. You can access them in the same way as standard offers.

TAFE and private college courses

Institutions may take into account completed TAFE or private college qualifications such as Certificate IV, diploma, advanced diploma, associate diploma and associate degree. Check with the university as to which level of qualification will make you competitive for admission into a bachelor degree.

You can also study a TAFE tertiary preparation course, which covers study skills as well as subject-specific content.

Offers

Most offers for semester 1 admissions are made in December and January. Offers are sent via email. Visit uac.edu.au/ug-offers for further information.

After you enrol in a course, you have until the census date at the end of March to pay your fees, sign up for a HECS HELP or FEE HELP loan, or withdraw without penalty from the course.

What will my course cost?

There are two main types of courses for domestic students: Commonwealth-supported place courses (CSP) and Domestic fee-paying courses (DFEE).

Commonwealth-supported place courses (CSP)

Most undergraduate courses are CSP courses, which require you to pay only part of the cost (a student contribution) – the Australian Government pays the rest. The size of your student contribution depends on the institution and your area of study.

For current student contribution amounts, visit studyassist.gov.au.

Domestic fee-paying courses (DFEE)

Domestic fee-paying (DFEE) courses require you to pay the full cost of your course (a tuition fee). There is no subsidy from the Australian Government.

The amount you pay for your tuition fee depends on the institution and the type of course. Each institution sets its own tuition fees for each DFEE course. These are set out in the course descriptions on the UAC website.

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

Commonwealth legislation allows Australian higher education providers to charge a fee for student services and amenities of a non-academic nature, regardless of whether students intend to use the services and amenities provided. The fee may be spent on amenities and services such as sporting and recreational activities, employment and career advice, child care, financial advice and food services.

For more information, visit the Department of Education and Training website at education.gov.au.

What financial help can I get?

Australian Government payments

Administered by the Department of Human Services, the Australian Government provides financial help to eligible students through payments such as Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY. You may also be eligible for other benefits.

For more information, visit humanservices.gov.au.

Equity Scholarships

Equity Scholarships can help with the costs associated with higher education and are primarily awarded to students from low socio-economic backgrounds. To apply and find out more, visit uac.edu.au/equity.

Other scholarships

Most institutions offer a range of merit scholarships. Contact – or check the website – of the institution you're interested in attending.