To be offered a place in a course you must:

1. be eligible to be considered
2. be selected in competition with other eligible applicants
3. have paid the UAC processing charge.

To be eligible you must:
- meet the admission requirements of the institution offering the course.
- meet the entrance requirements of the course. Some courses have course prerequisites or additional selection criteria set by the institutions.

Courses with additional selection criteria usually have early closing dates – to see if the course you’re interested in has course prerequisites, additional selection criteria or an early closing date, check the course description in the UAC Guide or on UAC’s website at www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/course-search.

To be selected you must:
- compete against other eligible applicants. Being eligible to be considered for a course does not guarantee you a place in the course.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For those completing Year 12 in 2015

2015 NSW HSC students
For Year 12 applicants, their selection rank for tertiary entrance is their ATAR.
In addition to the ATAR, some courses specify course prerequisites which you have to satisfy before you can be considered for an offer. Some courses also have additional selection criteria such as a personal statement, questionnaire, portfolio of work, audition, interview or test, which are considered either instead of, or together with, the ATAR.
Institutions may also allocate bonus points to a student for a particular course. In that case, the student’s selection rank for that course will be their ATAR plus bonus points. As the bonus points schemes for each institution, and often for each course, are different, a student’s selection rank can be different for each course they list in their course preferences.

Cut-offs
The course cut-off is the minimum selection rank required by Year 12 applicants for selection into a course. The interaction of three factors determines cut-offs:
1. the number of places available in the course
2. the number of applicants for the course
3. the quality of those applicants.
These three factors mean that cut-offs change from year to year and are impossible to predict before applicants are selected for a particular course in a particular year. The cut-offs for any course can rise, fall or remain the same from year to year.
Course cut-offs are determined when Main Round offers are made in January. This means cut-offs for entry to courses in 2016 won’t be known until selection is actually made during the offer rounds.
Therefore Main Round course cut-offs from the previous year are listed in the UAC Guide and in UAC’s online course. They are intended to be used as a guide only and are supplied to help you assess your chances of getting into a particular course and decide on your preferences.
Cut-offs indicate the lowest rank accepted for entry into the course – they don’t represent the average ability of the students accepted for the course. The cut-offs also include any bonus points, so some applicants may have received an offer to the course even though their ATAR was below the cut-off.

2015 interstate Year 12 students
All Australian states and territories use a common scale, or index, which allows the comparison of overall measures of achievement in Year 12 across time and states. Admission to most tertiary courses is based on your measure of overall achievement in the following studies:
- For ACT Year 12 applicants, the ATAR as provided by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (ACTBSSS) is used.
- For Queensland Year 12 applicants who are eligible for an Overall Position (OP), the rank as provided by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is used to derive an equivalent ATAR. Students who complete a Queensland Senior External Examination are not eligible for an OP; UAC calculates a UAC rank for these students.
- For South Australian and Northern Territory Year 12 applicants, the ATAR as provided by the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre is used.
- For Tasmanian Year 12 applicants, the ATAR as provided by the University of Tasmania and calculated by the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority is used.
- For Victorian Year 12 applicants, the ATAR as calculated and distributed by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre is used.
- For Western Australian Year 12 applicants, the ATAR as provided by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre is used.

In addition to the ATAR, some courses specify course prerequisites which you have to satisfy before you can be considered for an offer. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/interstate.shtml for further information on course prerequisites and interstate courses comparable to NSW HSC courses.

2015 International Baccalaureate students
For 2015 International Baccalaureate (IB) students, a UAC rank is derived from your IB score. Note that IB students who are an Australian or New Zealand citizen (including dual citizen), an Australian permanent resident visa holder or an Australian permanent resident humanitarian visa holder apply as Year 12 students through UAC.

Non-standard Year 12 students
Non-standard Australian Year 12 students include those completing Year 12 programs of study through Australian Christian Education, Rudolph Steiner Education and home schooling. These students apply as non-Year 12 applicants through UAC. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/non-Year-12.shtml for further information.

New Zealand NCEA Level 3 students
For students who have completed the NCEA Level 3, an Interstate Transfer Index (ITI) will be calculated by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and provided to UAC; this will be used in the selection process, provided that you have fulfilled university entrance requirements as set by NZQA. For further information, visit www.nzqa.govt.nz.
NCEA Level 3 students apply as a non-Year 12 applicant through UAC.

For those with previous Year 12 studies
Each institution sets its own admission requirements for applicants who are applying solely on a previous Year 12 or International Baccalaureate (IB) result achieved before 2015.
If you completed your senior secondary studies before 2015, you apply as a non-Year 12 applicant through UAC.

For those with other studies
If you have completed or partially completed a tertiary course, institutions may take any or all of the following into account when considering your application: tertiary studies, secondary studies, post-secondary studies, and other relevant factors such as employment experience.
If you have partially completed a tertiary course and want to transfer to another course at a different institution, you must apply through UAC. If you want to transfer to another course at the same institution, check with your institution to see if you need to apply through UAC or through the institution. In either case you may be eligible for advanced standing – contact the institution for further information.

Are there any studies I shouldn’t include in my application?

AQF Certificates I and II, Statements of Attainment, TAFE Statements and courses delivered by Australian private providers that are not accredited are not assessed by UAC.

For those with overseas qualifications

If you are applying on the basis of overseas secondary or tertiary qualifications, contact the relevant institution/s to discuss your eligibility for admission before you apply through UAC.

For details of commonly accepted and not accepted overseas secondary qualifications visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/overseas.shtml.

If you have qualifications from countries where English is not the standard language of instruction, you must provide evidence of English language proficiency. Read Undergraduate fact sheet 9: English Language Proficiency.

Pathway courses

Most institutions offer pathway options for applicants who don’t meet the entry requirements for their degree courses or need further support and preparation before studying at degree level. These generally include non-degree courses offered by the institution, such as foundation studies, preparatory courses and Certificate, Diploma-level or Associate Degree courses.

If you successfully complete a pathway course, an institution may guarantee you entry into a particular degree courses. Otherwise you can use your pathway course studies to apply and compete for admission to other degree courses. You may also be awarded credit for some studies undertaken in your pathway course.

A number of UAC’s participating institutions offer pathway courses that you can apply to through UAC. For more information, visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/pathway-courses.shtml.

Slipback offers to pathway courses

Some institutions may offer you a place in a pathway course – even if you don’t apply for it – if you’re not eligible or competitive enough to receive an offer to the course to which you’ve applied. This means that you may receive an offer to a lower-level course instead of the course you have listed in your preferences. This is known as a slipback offer. Slipback offers are released up to two days after scheduled offer rounds and you can access them in the same way as standard offers. For more information, visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/pathway-courses.shtml.

Alternative entry

Most institutions offer alternative entry to applicants who do not meet the usual admission requirements. When considering your application, institutions may take into account tertiary preparation courses, TAFE courses, the Special Tertiary Admissions Test, alternative entry schemes and programs, professional/paraprofessional qualifications, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, employment experience. For more information visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/admission/alternative-entry.shtml.

Does UAC or the institution decide who is made an offer to a course?

The institutions decide who they will make offers to. UAC does not select applicants and does not have the power to persuade institutions to make a particular offer or to question decisions made by institutions.

The selection process

Remember that if you receive an offer you must accept it by the date specified or you may lose your offer.

You can choose up to nine course preferences and the courses can be a combination of any course type.

In some offer rounds only your first preference will be considered, or only consecutive preferences at the same institution. For offer rounds in which all preferences are being considered, your course preferences are considered in the order you have listed them in your application. If there is no place available in the course listed as your first preference, your second preference will be considered and so on until an offer can be made or you have no more preferences.

You will only receive one offer per offer round, to your highest preference for which you are eligible and competitive enough, regardless of the type of courses you include in your application.

For further information about course preferences, read Undergraduate fact sheet 5: Offers and enrolment.

Entry schemes and bonus points

Educational Access Schemes

Most of UAC’s participating institutions have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) to help students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to university. For further information visit www.uac.edu.au/eas and download UAC’s EAS booklet.

Early offer schemes

Some institutions have early offer schemes for Year 12 students. Through these schemes, Year 12 applicants may be selected for courses independently of their final Year 12 results and on the basis of a range of criteria, including recommendations provided by schools/colleges.

Schools Recommendation Schemes

Schools Recommendation Schemes (SRS) enable schools to recommend current Year 12 students, who are UAC applicants, for early offers of undergraduate admission. SRS aim to assist access to higher education for current Australian Year 12 students using a wide range of selection criteria, including school recommendations, senior secondary studies, and personal awards and achievements. For further information visit www.uac.edu.au/srs and download UAC’s SRS booklet.

Year 12 subject bonus points


Regional bonus points

A number of institutions apply bonus points to a selection rank if an applicant lives and/or undertakes their Year 12 schooling in a certain area. Visit www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/ATAR/regional-bonuses.shtml for links to further information.