Career Tools

NSW and ACT

Applying to University Survival Guide

2024-2025

UAC Universities Admission Centre

What is UAC?

UAC – the Universities Admissions Centre – is the central body that takes applications on behalf of many universities and private colleges in NSW and the ACT, but also some in other states.

UAC Institutions

You need to apply online through UAC for the following institutions:

- AIE Institute
- Academy of Interactive Technology
- Asia Pacific International College
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian College of Applied Professions
- Australian College of Physical Education
- Australian National University
- Avondale University
- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- CQUniversity
- Excelsia College
- Griffith University
- International College of Management, Sydney
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- MIT Sydney
- National Art School
- SAE Creative Media Institute
- SIBT
- Southern Cross University
- Torrens University Australia
- University of Canberra
- University of New England
- University of Newcastle
- The University of Notre Dame Australia
- The University of Sydney
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Wollongong
- UNSW Sydney
- UNSW Canberra - ADFA
- Western Sydney University

The information in this guide is summarised from the UAC website, which you should refer to as you prepare for and complete your application.

Direct Application Institutions

Applications for these institutions are not through UAC - you must apply directly to the institution to study their courses:

- AIBI Higher Education
- Academy of Interactive Entertainment
- Academy of Music and Performing Arts
- Australian Institute of Music
- Crown Institute of Higher Education
- Endeavour College of Natural Health
- JMC Academy
- William Angliss Institute

UAC Universities Admission Centre

Application Dates

3 April 2024	Applications open at 9am: • Domestic undergraduate applications • Schools Recommendation Scheme • Educational Access Scheme • Equity Scholarships
17 April 2024	Applications open at 9am: • International undergraduate applications
1 August 2024	Interstate and International Baccalaureate (IB) student applications open
7 February 2025	• Applications close for semester 1, 2025

Scan to view a full list of UAC dates and check for changes, or go to:
uac.edu.au/key-dates

UAC Fees

3 April 2024 to 30 September 2024 (11:59 pm)	**$80** (Early Bird)
1 October 2024 to 7 February 2025 (11:59 pm)	**$215** (Standard)

Year 12 Results/ ATAR

18 December 2024	**NSW HSC students** • Results released by NESA from 6am • ATARs released on UAC website from 9am
18 December 2024	**ACT Year 12 students** • Statement (including ATAR) issued by ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies • ATARs released on UAC website from 9am
TBA	**International Baccalaureate students**

UAC Universities Admission Centre

Your UAC PIN and Application Number

UAC sends your PIN (a 4 digit number) to the email address you have listed with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) or the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (ACT BSSS).

You need your PIN to access the application section of the UAC website. Once you have submitted an application, you will get a UAC Application Number.

It's important to save your UAC Application Number because you need it, along with your PIN, to make changes to your application and to access your offers.

Change of Preference

After submitting your initial application, you can change and reorder your preferences as many times as you like, both before offers are made and/or between offer rounds.

You make these changes within your existing application which you access via the 'Manage Your Application' button at www5.uac.edu.au/uacug.

How to List Your Preferences

The following is a good guide on how to think about your preferences:

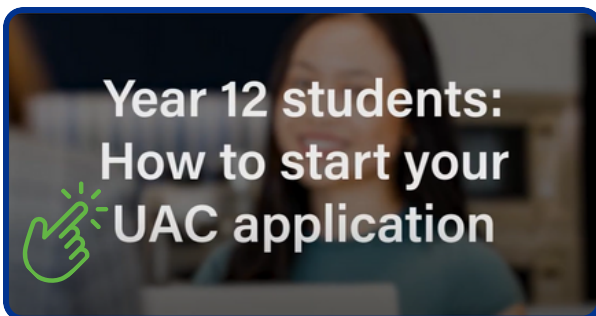|	
1st Preference	Your dream, ideal course. This is the one you REALLY want to do. Throw your hat in the ring… you just never know!!
2nd, 3rd & 4th Preferences	The next three courses you most want to do if you don't get your "dream" course. You will need to consider your anticipated ATAR here.
5th Preference	This should be a course with a lower published ATAR that might give you entry into university. From here you can start a course, do very well in your first year and reapply for a preferred course based on your university study/academic record.

Connect with UAC

Connect with UAC to have the latest information and reminders at your finger tips
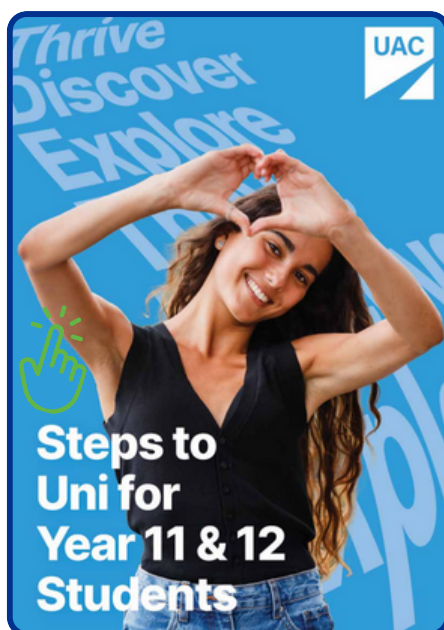
UAC Universities Admission Centre

How to Apply to UAC

Learn exactly how to start your UAC application in just 1 minute and 39 seconds!
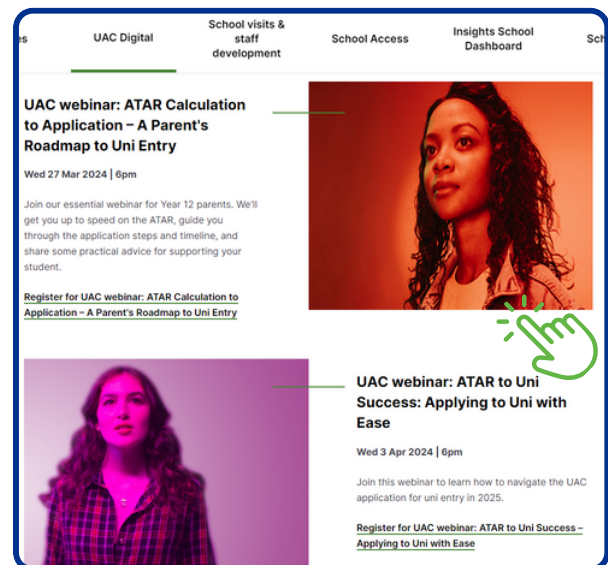

Steps to Uni

Download your copy that outlines the UAC application process, explains the purpose of the ATAR, and how you're selected for courses.

UAC Digital

Have your ATAR and university admissions questions answered by the UAC Community Engagement team at upcoming live events.

Course Compass

Not sure which course to apply for? Don't know where to start looking? In just a few short steps, Course Compass shows you the paths taken by people whose studies at school were just like yours.

Schools Recommendation Scheme

What is the SRS?

Institutions can use the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) to make you an early course offers using criteria other than, or in addition to, your ATAR.

SRS criteria can include your:
- School's rating of your aptitudes.
- Year 11 studies.
- Educational Access Scheme (EAS) application (if you've made one).

You're eligible to apply for the SRS if you're a domestic Year 12 student (from any state in Australia) or if you're completing the IB. International students are not eligible to apply.

How Do I Apply?

- Follow the link displayed after you complete your UAC application.
- UAC will then ask your school to provide a professional assessment of your suitability for tertiary study.
- After your school has completed its assessment, your application will be processed by UAC and considered by participating institutions.

SRS Dates

3 April 2024	SRS applications open 9am for NSW/ACT students.
1 August 2024	Interstate and IB student applications open.
16 September 2024	SRS applications close.
8 November 2024	First SRS offers.

Types of SRS Offers

There are two types of SRS offers:
Conditional
These require you to meet other criteria before the institution will make you an unconditional offer. Requirements may include:
- a minimum ATAR,
- course prerequisites,
- personal statement, portfolio, audition, interview or test.

Unconditional
These offers have no other requirements you need to meet - you're in!

These institutions will make SRS offers for 2025 – view their criteria

- AIE Institute
- Australian Catholic University
- Australian College of Physical Education
- Charles Sturt University
- International College of Management, Sydney
- Macquarie University
- National Art School
- SAE Creative Media Institute
- Torrens University Australia
- University of Canberra
- University of Newcastle
- University of Notre Dame Australia
- University of Technology Sydney
- Western Sydney University

Educational Access Scheme

What is the EAS?

The Educational Access Scheme (EAS) may help if you faced difficult circumstances in Year 11 and/or 12.

If you qualify for EAS and your ATAR is lower than required for a course, a university might raise your selection rank which increases your chance of receiving an offer.

Note that every university has different rules about how they use EAS, so while it can certainly help your application, it can't guarantee you an offer.

You can see examples of how EAS may work to increase your selection rank and learn about different institutions' rules here.

Am I Eligible?

To apply for EAS you must:
- Be a domestic student. International students cannot apply.
- Demonstrate that your studies were negatively affected in Year 11 and/or 12.

EAS Doesn't Apply If...

- The difficult circumstances arise after September, because they will not impact your Year 12 performance.
- Illness or misadventure impacts your final exams - NESA has a different process for this.

EAS Dates

3 April 2024	EAS applications open.
21 November 2024	Deadline to submit EAS application and documents to guarantee you receive your EAS eligibility letter after release of HSC results and ATARs and before the deadline to change preferences for December Round 2.
7 February 2025	EAS applications close.

How Do I Apply?

Start your EAS application early!

It can involve time consuming tasks like collating documents, going to appointments, and getting other people to write statements.

Read the EAS FAQ page before applying.

Educational Access Scheme

This is a quick summary of categories for which you may be eligible. You still need to view the specific criteria and supporting evidence requirements for each category.

It's also a good idea to check that the institution(s) you're applying to participate in EAS.

Disadvantage Codes

EAS covers 9 categories:
- Disrupted schooling
- Financial challenges
- Severe family disruption
- Excessive family responsibilities
- English language difficulties
- Personal illness/disability
- Refugee and humanitarian status
- School environment
- Socio-economic disadvantage

Disrupted Schooling

Code	Eligibility criteria
D01A	You attended three or more different secondary schools in Australia during Years 10, 11 and 12 or equivalent.
D01B	You moved to Australia after the beginning of Year 11 and English is your first language.
D01C	You moved interstate during Year 11 and/or Year 12 or equivalent.
S01D	You studied any of your Year 12 courses through distance education, an Access program or School of Now as a result of circumstances beyond your control or choosing.

Financial Challenges
You should claim all financial challenges that apply to you. You cannot claim F01C if you are eligible for F01A or F01B.

Code	Eligibility criteria
F01A	You received Youth Allowance, Austudy or ABSTUDY during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent.
F01B	You received another Centrelink means tested benefit such as the Disability Support Pension.
F01C	You experienced exceptional challenges during Year 11 and/or Year 12 or equivalent.
F01D	Your parent/s or guardian/s received Family Tax Benefit Part A during Year 11 and/or Year 12 or equivalent.

Educational Access Scheme

Severe Family Disruption

Code	Eligibility criteria
H01A	Your home environment was severely disrupted due to the death of an immediate family member or close friend during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent.
H01B	Your home environment was severely disrupted due to the severe or life-threatening illness/disability of an immediate family member or close friend.
H01C	Your home environment was severely disrupted due to the relationship breakdown & separation of your parents during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent. OR You (the applicant) experienced separation due to relationship breakdown.
H01D	Your home environment was severely disrupted due to criminal/legal matters during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent.
H04A	You, or your parents, or any of your siblings have experienced severe abuse for a period of at least six months during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent.
H04B	You are currently placed, or have previously been placed, with an Out of Home Care provider due to government agency intervention.
N01D	Your education has been negatively impacted during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent due to the impact of a natural disaster. Natural disasters in Australia can include, but are not limited to, heatwaves, bushfires, droughts, floods, severe storms and tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides.

Excessive Family Responsibilities

Code	Eligibility criteria
H03A	You've had excessive responsibility for care of children and/or other family members during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent.
H03B	You've had excessive work requirements during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent for at least one of the following: • supporting yourself, while living independently • supporting your family • responsibility to work in the family business
H03C	You've had excessive responsibility for the care of yourself, while living independently, with no family or partner support, during Year 11 and/or Year 12 or equivalent.

Educational Access Scheme

English Language Difficulty

Code	Eligibility criteria
L01A *Domestic Year 12 applicants only*	All of the following: • you are a current Australian Year 12 applicant • you experience difficulty with the English language • you came directly to Australia from a non-English speaking country • you began your education in an Australian school in Year 11 and/or Year 12 or equivalent.
L01B *Domestic Year 12 applicants only*	All of the following: • you are a current Australian Year 12 applicant • you experience difficulty with the English language • you came directly to Australia from a non-English speaking country • you began your education in an Australian school during Years 7–10.

Personal Illness/Disability

Code	Eligibility criteria
P01A	If during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent you experienced: • a severe and long-term or a severe and recurrent medical/psychiatric condition or disability OR • a learning, sensory, physical, psychological or other disability/disorder.

Refugee and Humanitarian Status

Code	Eligibility criteria
R01A	You are, or have previously been, the holder of one of the following Australian refugee visas: • Global Special Humanitarian (subclass 202) • Humanitarian Stay (subclass 449) • Protection visa (subclass 866) • Refugee visas (subclass 200, 201, 203 and 204) • Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851) • Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790) • Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa (subclass 786) • Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785)

Educational Access Scheme

UAC automatically generate an EAS application for you, if:

- The residential address you enter in your UAC undergraduate application is identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as being in the lowest 25% of socio-economic disadvantage in Australia.

- You currently attend a school classified as an Australian rural, regional or remote school identified as inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Statistical Geography Standard – Remoteness Area (ASGS-RA).

School Environment

Code	Eligibility criteria
S01R	- If you are completing Year 12 at a regional, rural and/or remote school in Australia, UAC will automatically generate an 'electronic' application for you. You will receive an email notification of this within 24 hours of submitting your undergraduate application. If you receive this notification, do not claim this category in your EAS application. - Only claim this category manually in your EAS application if you attended a regional, rural and/or remote school during Year 11 or 12 and have since transferred to a school in a metropolitan area. - If you have manually claimed S01R in your EAS application, you will need to provide supporting documents.

Socio-economic Disadvantage

Code	Eligibility criteria
AG01 & AG02	After you've applied for undergraduate admission through UAC, they will automatically generate an electronic EAS application for you (i.e.: you don't have to submit an application) if the residential address you entered in your UAC undergraduate application is identified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as being in the lowest 25% of socio-economic disadvantage in Australia.

Applying From Interstate

How to Apply

Once you know the courses you're applying for, the application will take you about 20 minutes. Here's a checklist of what you need to apply:

- A personal email address to start your application.
- Your Year 12 student number (you'll also be asked to enter a PIN, which is your date of birth – you can change it after you've applied).
- Your Unique Student Identifier (USI) (if you don't have one, create your USI).
- Your UCAT candidate number, if you're apply for a medicine degree.
- Your chosen courses (up to five if you're a domestic applicant for undergraduate study) and their course codes, which can be found on the course search on UAC's website and in the dropdown menu in the application itself
- A credit card (MasterCard or Visa) to pay the processing fee. You can also pay by BPay.

Dates and Fees

1 August 2024	UAC applications open for interstate students
1 August 2024 to 30 September 2024 (11:59 pm)	$80 (Early Bird)
1 October 2024 to 7 February 2025 (11:59 pm)	$215 (Standard)

QLD Year 12 Students

You need to sign up to the **QTAC ATAR portal** and provide consent for QTAC to share your ATAR with interstate tertiary admission centres. UAC won't be able to assess your application if you don't do this.

Good Luck!