

Apply to Uni Guide

For students & their families

2025



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Apply to Uni Guide

For students & their families

A guide to university applications for students commencing study in 2026. Created by Study Work Grow Pty Ltd in 2025.

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The advice in this guide may be subject to change at any time. In our experience, admission centres and universities can change their entry requirements and processes. You should always check directly with the organisation for the latest information before applying. We have verified the information in this guide directly with the organisations, but in some cases it may differ from that published on the admission centre or university website or in their printed materials.

SCHOOL LICENSED EDITION (APPROVED FOR SHARING WITHIN A SCHOOL)

In this guide...

The basics

Choosing what and where to study

Life at university

Preparing to apply

After the application

Alternative pathways

Detailed application information

Australia

New Zealand

United Kingdom

Republic of Ireland

United States

Canada

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The basics of university applications

Thinking of heading to university after you finish school?

The application process can seem a bit overwhelming, but it's actually pretty simple. In this guide, we're going to cover everything you need to know to apply with confidence and increase your chances of receiving an offer.

First, let's go through some of the basics you need to know about university applications.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO APPLY

The first is through a centralised application platform (such as [VTAC](#), [UCAS](#), or [OUAC](#)), where you submit a single application to multiple institutions.

The other is applying directly to the institution itself for a specific course. If you want to apply for a course at another university, you'll need to submit a separate application there.

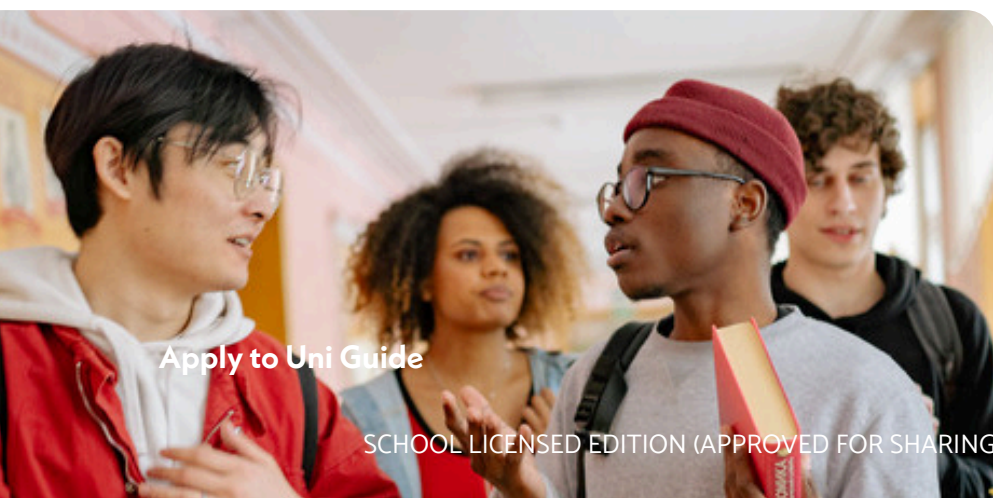
You need to identify which process is right for you before starting, as not every method is open to everyone, and certain institutions only accept applications through one particular process. They also typically have different cut-off dates and fees.

YOU CAN ONLY APPLY FOR A HANDFUL OF COURSES AT ONCE

When you submit an application, there will be a maximum number of courses you can choose from, called preferences or options. Listing multiple preferences gives you the best chance of receiving an offer.

Some institutions (like the [Tertiary Admissions Centres](#) in Australia) will make offers based on the order of your preferences. So if there's a course you really want to study, put it at the top of your list.

Other institutions (like [UCAS](#)) do not take the order of your preferences into account, so you have an equal chance of receiving an offer for any of your chosen courses.





YOU CAN APPLY FOR ANY COURSE AT ANY INSTITUTION

This doesn't necessarily mean you'll receive an offer. But rest assured your results are recognised equally by every university, and you can apply wherever you want (including to overseas institutions in many cases).

The minimum grades you need to receive an offer will be different for each institution and course.

You might also need to undertake extra tests or interviews or submit a portfolio.

THERE CAN BE COSTS INVOLVED

In some cases, regardless of whether you're applying through a centralised platform or direct to the institution, you'll need to pay an application fee.

Late applications typically attract much higher fees, so note any key dates and start researching early. There may also be a fee if you change your application after submission.

Application fees are also usually non-refundable, so make sure you've double-checked everything before you hit submit.

Choosing what and where to study

Deciding you want to go to university is just the first step - you'll also need to know what you want to study and where you want to study it.

This means comparing different universities and course options, which can feel a little overwhelming considering just how many there are. But there are things you can do to help narrow your options down.

Let's go through some important information you can use to choose the right course and university for you.

Subject areas

Eligibility criteria

Study modes

Fees and costs

Placements and work experience

Location

Support options

Making your decision



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Subject areas

Before you start looking at shiny university brochures and going to open days, take a minute to think about the kind of things you want to study and the career you want down the track. You can approach this different ways depending on how certain you are about your future.

HAVE A CAREER IN MIND?

Some careers require a specific qualification before you can start working, or you might need to study a course that has been accredited or endorsed by an industry or government body.

If you have one of these careers in mind, do some research first to see which specific courses will allow you to qualify. You might also like to chat with some people already in the field and ask what pathway they took.

NOT QUITE SURE YET?

Start by identifying the subject areas you're both interested in and good at. Then, search for courses in those subject areas.

Look for more general degrees which give you a wide range of possible career options and allow you to specialise down the track.

We recommend you avoid super specific degrees (such as dentistry) unless you also like the career they lead to.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

It may take some time, but we recommend looking at lots of different courses in the one subject area. For example, if you're interested in health, don't just stop at medicine - look at pharmacy, nursing, physiotherapy, speech pathology, nutrition, health science, or counselling. You might find something interesting you hadn't considered before.





Eligibility criteria

If you think you've found the perfect course, the next step is to make sure you're eligible to apply. While each university and course has its own specific entry criteria, here are some of the common things you might need to consider.

ENTRY SCORES

Universities usually require you to complete high school to a specific minimum standard before you can be considered for entry.

Certain degrees might require higher overall or individual subject results too.

INTERVIEWS, TESTS, AND PORTFOLIOS

Sometimes you'll need to complete or submit additional evidence alongside (or instead of) your academic results. If this is the case, we recommend you start preparing early to ensure you know exactly what's required.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

In some cases, a degree might have very specific entry requirements. This includes things such as health and police checks for nursing, or working with children checks for teaching.

PREREQUISITE SUBJECTS

Some courses have prerequisite subjects as part of their entry criteria - this means you'll need to have taken a specific subject at school to be eligible to apply.

Most universities that deliver courses in English will have high school English as a prerequisite for most courses.

Specialised degrees may also have other specific prerequisites. For example, medicine degrees usually require you to study biology and chemistry, while for engineering degrees you'll probably need to achieve good results in mathematics.

WHAT IF I DON'T MEET ALL THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

If you're concerned you won't meet the eligibility criteria, it's worth doing a bit of reading to see if there are any alternative entry pathways into your chosen course.

Study modes

You have multiple options to choose from when it comes to how you study your degree, giving you the flexibility to fit your studies around other commitments.

FULL-TIME

This is typically the most popular option for school leavers, and is generally the fastest path to completing your degree.

Whether you're considered a full-time student will depend on the number of subjects you study each semester or term, and can vary between universities.

ONLINE OR DISTANCE

The past few years have seen a huge uptake in universities moving their learning online, and it's an option that's more popular and accessible than ever.

Even if you don't live close to a university or can't afford to move, you can access the same degrees as anyone else.

MIX IT UP

Can't decide? No problem - most universities offer blended options too, meaning you can combine both on campus and online study to suit your needs.

In many cases you can also switch between studying full-time to part-time (and vice versa) if your circumstances change.

PART-TIME

Unsure if you can commit to full-time study? You might like to consider part-time study.

Most universities offer courses part-time, meaning you can reduce the number of subjects you take each semester or term.

It will take you longer overall to finish your degree, but you'll have extra time for your other commitments, such as work or care.

ON CAMPUS

If you're looking for the full campus experience, this is the option for you.

You'll be able to attend lectures in-person, take advantage of all the facilities, and meet new people face-to-face.

Fees and costs

Unfortunately, not a lot of things in life are free - and this includes most tertiary courses. It's important to take a look at not only how much you'll need to pay, but what your options for covering these costs are.

TUITION FEES

Tuition fees make up the majority of the cost of university study. Universities typically charge per subject or year of study, and fees vary between courses and institutions.

You can often defer your tuition fees to a loan, which means you don't need to pay upfront - but you will still need to pay it back at some point down the track.

OTHER EXPENSES

Aside from tuition fees, there are other expenses involved with studying too. This can include things like:

- Textbooks and other course materials
- A laptop or tablet
- Travel to and from campus
- Accommodation and living expenses
- Club and society fees

FINANCE OPTIONS

While study can be expensive, there are ways to ease the load. Common finance options include loans, payment plans, scholarships, grants, and government assistance schemes.

The types of finance and amount you can apply for can vary based on several factors, including your study load, whether or not you are a citizen, if you're experiencing personal or financial hardship, and more.

Universities are happy to help if you have any questions about fees and finances, and can often direct you to any available support options.



Placements and work experience

University study isn't all just reading and essays - many degrees offer opportunities for hands-on experience in real workplaces too.

MANDATORY PLACEMENTS

In some cases, work placements are a mandatory part of your course. This means you need to complete one before you can graduate, just like you would a normal subject.

Mandatory placements are common in areas such as health and education. How long your placement runs depends on your course and professional requirements. They can vary in length from just a few weeks, up to an entire semester (or even a year).

If a placement is a mandatory part of a course, this information should all be detailed in the course handbook, including when you need to complete it by, how long it's expected to be, and more.

OPTIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES

Many courses also come with optional or voluntary work experience opportunities, often in the form of internships or summer programs. They're common in areas such as business and arts.

These types of work placements are generally done outside of your course, and many students undertake them during the holidays.

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Location

Another important factor to consider when researching your future study options is location. This includes both where the university is and where you currently live.

MOVING AWAY

Would you be willing to move to another city (or even state or country) to study your dream course?

Moving away comes with a whole other set of considerations, like finding accommodation, moving expenses, living independently, and potentially even needing to work to cover day-to-day costs.

If you're unable (or unwilling) to move, you might be able to study online, or search for an alternative closer to home.

TRANSPORT OPTIONS

If you know you'll be commuting to and from campus, make sure you think about these things:

- How long will your commute be?
- Is there parking if you drive?
- Are there accessible and reliable public transport options?
- How much will it cost (fuel, fares, etc.)?
- Would it be possible to walk, cycle, or carpool with a friend?
- How close is it to work or other places you might regularly travel to/from?

THE LOCAL AREA

You won't be spending all your time on campus, so think about the wider area around the university too.

Consider safety, ease of access to shops and other important facilities, research the cost of living in the area too.

Don't forget to look into social options such as cafés and sporting clubs, as well as other lifestyle factors that might be important (access to parks or beaches, rural or metropolitan setting, etc.).



Support options

Last (but certainly not least) are the support options offered by each university. There are typically a variety of services to help you navigate both study and life, from your first day all the way through to graduation.

DISABILITY AND INCLUSION SERVICES

If you're a student with disability (including neurodiverse students), you can often access specialised resources to help you settle in to university life and succeed in your studies.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES

University can be tough sometimes, so many institutions offer counselling and programs for students to support both mental and physical wellbeing.

FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS

If you're a First Nations student, you might have access to additional tailored study, financial, and wellbeing support.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Alongside scholarships and grants, many universities can also provide you with advice on managing your finances and connect you with other support options if you're struggling.

STUDY SUPPORT AND MENTORING

Unsure about referencing or essay structures? Struggling to find a study method that works for you? Your university probably offers workshops, courses, and access to mentors to help you succeed.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Need help navigating your future career options? Your university could help you find work experience or a job, as well as provide professional development opportunities.

ACCOMMODATION

Many universities offer on-campus student accommodation, as well as access to special student living services and facilities.

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

These are just some of the common support options offered, but there's often more - we recommend you check out the university's website to see everything provided.

Making your decision

Once you've done the research, you'll be prepared to choose. In general, multiple institutions will offer the same or similar courses, which means you have some flexibility in your choice.

Here's an overview of some important things to think about when comparing your university options:

- ☐ Do they offer the subject(s) I want to study?
- ☐ What is the eligibility criteria? Do they offer alternative entry pathways?
- ☐ Do they offer flexible learning options (e.g. part-time, online)?
- ☐ How much will it cost? Do they offer any financial support? How will I pay for it?
- ☐ Are there opportunities for work experience as part of their courses?
- ☐ How close is it to home? Am I willing to move? Is there on-campus accommodation?
- ☐ What support services do they offer? Is there something right for me if I need it?
- ☐ Are there extracurricular activities and clubs I can take part in or join?
- ☐ What facilities are there on campus (libraries, study spaces, shops, etc.)?
- ☐ What do other current and former students have to say about their experience?
- ☐ Do I feel confident with my choices?

WHERE CAN I FIND THIS INFORMATION?

Start by browsing the university's website, downloading the course handbook, and if you can, attend their [open day](#) or any other events for prospective students.

If you still have questions, you can always contact the university's future students team by phone, email, or online. Your school's careers advisor or guidance counsellor should also be able to provide you with resources and advice.

Life at university

University study is exciting, but it can also be challenging. Here's what you need to know about university life and how it differs from your high school experience.

STUDY HOURS AND WORKLOAD

While you might only spend a few hours a week in lectures and tutorials, your total study commitment will be much higher. Most of your learning will take place outside the classroom through reading, research, assignments, and exam preparation.

The general rule is that for every hour you spend in class, you should plan for 2 to 3 hours of independent study. This means your total study load could be anywhere from 35 to 50 hours per week.

Your day won't start at 9am and finish at 3pm either - you could have classes early in the morning or late in the evening.

INDEPENDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

This is probably the biggest change from school. Your university lecturers won't be pushing you as much as your school teachers do - you'll have to prioritise your studies and keep track of deadlines yourself.

If you're struggling, you need to be proactive and take action early before things get out of hand.

TERM STRUCTURE

Most universities operate on a semester system with two main semesters per year around 12 to 15 weeks long.

You'll generally also have a mid-semester break of 1 or 2 weeks, and a longer Summer holiday of 2 to 3 months.

Some universities use trimester systems with three shorter terms per year. You can also often elect to take an optional Summer semester, or intensive courses that can be finished in just a few weeks.



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Preparing to apply

Ready to apply? Here are the key steps to make sure you're fully prepared:



After the application

I SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION - WHAT'S NEXT?

After your application is complete, sit tight and wait until you're contacted by the institution. If you receive an offer, it will come with instructions on what you need to do next in order to accept and enrol. Pay attention to any dates mentioned and respond promptly to avoid your offer expiring or lapsing.

If you haven't already, this is also a great time to think about scholarships and accommodation, particularly as some options are only available to students who are already enrolled at the university.

HELP! I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT MY COURSE

Had a change of heart about your chosen course? Don't stress - in many cases, you can change the order of your preferences or even the courses you've selected after you've submitted your application. Just make sure you do it before any relevant cut-off or offer dates.

WHAT IF I DON'T GET IN?

If your application was unsuccessful, don't give up! You still have options.

You might wait for the next offer round, add a different course to your application, or start researching alternative pathways (see the next page for more details).

We'll cover more information about change of preference and offers in each country's section of the guide - but if you're feeling unsure or still have some unanswered questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your chosen institution.



Alternative pathways

You've gone through the process of applying and the agonising wait as offers are released...but you didn't secure a place in any of your course choices.

We know it can be disheartening, but if you really have your heart set on going to university, don't stress. There are heaps of other ways to get into your dream course - here are just a few.

BRIDGING COURSES

Lots of institutions offer what are known as bridging, transition, foundation, or preparation courses. As the names suggest, these are short courses - anywhere from a few weeks to a year in length - that help you build the skills and knowledge you need for further study.

Some of them are general and can be used for entry into any course, while others might help you meet prerequisite requirements for a subject you didn't take at school.

INTERNAL TRANSFERS

If you don't make it into a specific course, more often than not you might still receive an offer to a similar course with lower entry requirements. You can always do 6 to 12 months of study in this course, then transfer to your dream course.

Just remember you'll need to pass all your subjects, and in some cases achieve a minimum average grade.

ACCESS AND EQUITY SCHEMES

Sometimes things happen that are out of our control, and they can affect our performance at school. If this is the case for you, talk to your chosen university about any access or equity schemes you might be eligible for.

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LOWER LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

Your school results aren't the only way to qualify for entrance to university. You could also study a course at a lower level (e.g. vocational or diploma), then use that qualification to gain entry to a bachelor's course.

We recommend you find a course in the same or similar area as your intended university course, as it will help you better prepare - you might even receive credit towards your degree.

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY TESTING

If your grades were just short of the mark for your course, there are sometimes alternative tests you can take to meet the minimum entry requirements (such as [STAT](#)).

Note that not all universities will accept all tests, so do your research carefully before you commit to anything.

WORK AND LIFE EXPERIENCE

If none of these other pathways are quite right for you, you can always put your studies on hold for a bit and head out into the workforce.

By delaying your application for a couple of years, you can apply as a mature age student instead of a school leaver, and the university will take into account your work and life experience as well as (or sometimes instead of) your school results.

Detailed application information

Australia

New Zealand

United Kingdom

Republic of Ireland

United States

Canada

Find out about key dates, fees, applications, and offers - plus we've provided links straight to the institutions' websites where you can either start your application or read more.

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Australia

Macquarie University, Sydney

In Australia, most university applications for school leavers are processed by the Tertiary Admissions Centre (or TAC) in each state or territory.

The TAC you apply through will depend on where the institution you want to attend is based, **not** where you are currently attending school. So if you live in Brisbane but want to go to university in Melbourne, you will be applying through VTAC.

UAC

VTAC

QTAC

SATAC

TISC

UTAS

Direct applications

Early closing dates

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Exact requirements can differ from state to state, but as a general rule, here are some of the things you should have on hand before you can submit an application:

- An account with the TAC or university you want to apply to
- An official transcript of your results (most TACs will obtain this information automatically)
- Your student number/ID
- A [Unique Student Identifier](#) (USI)
- A way to pay any application fees

WHAT IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

Unless you're undertaking the IB Diploma Programme or the New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), you must apply to your chosen institution directly. You'll also need to obtain a [student visa](#) to study in Australia, unless you are a New Zealand citizen.

If English is not your first language, you will need to submit proof of English language proficiency as part of your application (such as [IELTS](#) or [TOEFL](#)).



The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) processes applications for courses offered at participating institutions in NSW and the ACT.

KEY DATES

2 April	UAC applications open, including EAS, SRS, and Equity Scholarships
5 September	SRS application deadline
30 September	Early bird application fee deadline
18 November	EAS application deadline for December Round 2 offers
27 November	December Round 2 application deadline
18 December	Change of preference deadline for December Round 2 offers HSC results and ATARs released
23 December	December Round 2 offers released - first offers made to Year 12s
6 February	Final application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **five** (5) preferences in your application. You can change your preferences as many times as you like for no cost up until the relevant cut-off date.

Each offer round has its own specific closing date for change of preference.

[See them all here.](#)

FEES

\$82	Early bird applications
\$215	Regular applications
\$80	Postgraduate applications
Free	Digital ATAR Advice Notice*
Free	Change of preference

* Free until midnight 11 Mar 2026

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

UAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. Most Year 12 students will start receiving offers in the first round after results are released. In 2025, this will be **December Round 2**.

You can receive **one** (1) offer in each round to the highest preference course you're eligible and competitive for.

Institutions can decide which offer rounds they participate in, so you might not hear back after every round. This doesn't mean your application was unsuccessful, but keep an eye on your application and contact the university if you're concerned.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, congratulations! Your next step is to **accept** the offer (if you're happy with it). You can accept by following the instructions the institution gives you. You must respond before any dates specified or your offer will expire.

Accepting an offer doesn't stop you from being considered in later offer rounds. Just make sure you **remove** the course from your preference list or **move** it to the bottom after accepting.

You can accept and hold multiple offers, but make sure you formally withdraw from all courses you are not proceeding with **before census date** to avoid paying any fees or receiving a penalty.

We recommend accepting your second or third choice offer as a safety net and waiting to see if you receive an offer for your first preference. Receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll receive one in the next round.

If you want to **defer** and start at a later date, you must follow any instructions provided in your offer letter. Note that deferral is generally not allowed for competitive courses.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)



The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) processes applications for courses offered at participating institutions in Victoria.

KEY DATES

4 August	VTAC applications open, including SEAS and scholarships
29 September	Timely application fee deadline
10 October	SEAS and scholarship application deadline
31 October	Late application fee deadline
5 December	Very late application fee deadline
11 December	VCE results and ATARs released
13 December	Change of preference deadline for December round offers
23 December	December round offers released - first offers made to Year 12s
13 January	Final application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **eight** (8) preferences in your application. You can change your preferences as many times as you like for no cost up until the relevant cut-off date.

Each offer round has its own specific closing date for change of preference. [See them all here.](#)

FEES

\$80	Timely applications (Yr 12)
\$100	Timely applications (other)
\$160	Late applications (all)
\$200	Very late applications (all)
TBC	Applications after 5 Dec
Free	Change of preference

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

VTAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. Most Year 12 students will start receiving offers in the first round after results are released. In 2025, this will be the **December offer round**.

You can receive **one** (1) offer in each round to the highest preference course you're eligible and competitive for.

Most course places are allocated in the first round of offers in January. After this, institutions will only continue to send offers if there are still places remaining in the course.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, congratulations! Your next step is to **accept** the offer (if you're happy with it). You will also be sent instructions from the institution on enrolling in your new course. Pay attention to any dates mentioned and enrol on time, or your offer might expire.

Accepting an offer doesn't stop you from being considered in later offer rounds. Just make sure you move the course lower down your preference list after accepting. Only move it below courses you would **genuinely consider** (not necessarily to the lowest preference place).

You can accept and hold multiple offers, but make sure you formally withdraw from all courses you are not proceeding with **before census date** to avoid paying any fees or receiving a penalty.

We recommend accepting your second or third choice offer as a safety net and waiting to see if you receive an offer for your first preference. Receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll receive one in the next round.

If you don't receive any offers in the main rounds, you may still be eligible for a **supplementary offer**. To receive supplementary offers, you must give VTAC permission to be considered for courses with vacancies.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)



The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) processes applications for courses offered at participating institutions in Queensland.

KEY DATES

5 August	QTAC applications open, including EAS
30 September	Early application fee deadline
8 December	December round application deadline January round application deadline
18 December	QCE results and ATARs released
19 December	Change of preference deadline for December round offers
23 December	December round offers released - first offers made to Year 12s
6 January	Change of preference deadline for January round offers
15 January	January round offers released
12 February	Final application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **six** (6) preferences in your application. You can change your preferences as many times as you like up until the relevant cut-off date, but must pay a fee after three (3) changes.

Each offer round has its own specific closing date for change of preference.
[See them all here.](#)

FEES

\$70	Early applications (Yr 12)
\$150	Late applications (Yr 12)
\$120	Early applications (other)
\$155	Late applications (other)
Free	First 3 changes of preference
\$70	4th+ change of preference

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

QTAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. Most Year 12 students will start receiving offers in the first round after results are released. In 2025, this will be the **December offer round**.

You can receive **one** (1) offer in each round to the highest preference course you're eligible and competitive for.

Participation in each offer round is at the discretion of each institution. They may choose to make offers only for certain courses or may not make any offers in some rounds.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, congratulations! Your next step is to **accept** the offer (if you're happy with it). You will be sent instructions from the institution to help you enrol in your new course. Pay attention to any dates mentioned and enrol on time, or your offer might expire.

If you still want to be considered for your other preferences in later offer rounds, you will need to provide a **conditional response** (either accept or decline). This tells the institution that you're interested but doesn't count as a formal acceptance. Keep in mind that receiving a different offer in the next round means your **original offer will expire**.

You can accept and hold multiple offers, but make sure you formally withdraw from all courses you aren't proceeding with **before census date** to avoid any fees or penalties.

We recommend accepting your second or third choice offer as a safety net and waiting to see if you receive an offer for your first preference. Receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll receive one in the next round.

If you want to **defer** your offer, you'll need to contact the institution and ask about their procedures. Note that deferral is generally not allowed for competitive courses.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)

SATAC

The South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) processes applications for courses at institutions in SA and the NT.

KEY DATES

4 August	SATAC applications open
30 September	Early application fee deadline
1 December	Equal consideration deadline for Semester 1 offers
15 December	SACE/NTCET results and ATARs released
5 January	Change of preference deadline for Semester 1 offers
15 January	Mid January round offers released - first offers made to Year 12s
28 January	Second January round offers released
5 February	Further offers sent each Tuesday and Thursday
12 March	Final offer round for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **six** (6) preferences in your application. You can change your preferences as many times as you like for no cost up until **5 January 2026**.

Note that if you make changes to your preferences after **specified dates** you may not receive an offer.

FEES

\$60	Early applications (Yr 12)
\$210	Late applications (Yr 12)
\$100	Early applications (other)
\$250	Late applications (other)
Free	Change of preference

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

SATAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. Most Year 12 students will start receiving offers in the first round after results are released. For students applying in 2025, this is the **Mid January 2026 offer round**.

You can receive **one** (1) offer in each round to the highest preference course you're eligible and competitive for.

Participation in each offer round is at the discretion of each institution. They may choose to make offers only for certain courses or may not make any offers in some rounds.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, congratulations! In most cases, SATAC **accepts the offer on your behalf**. To change your response, you must login to your SATAC application and do it manually. Information about enrolment will be in your offer letter or sent to you by the institution. Note any important dates or you could risk losing your place in the course.

If you still want to be considered for your other preferences in later offer rounds, you'll need to respond (either accept, reject, or defer) and indicate that you **still wish to be considered for higher preferences**. Then move any courses you still want to be considered for above the course you already received an offer for.

You can accept and hold multiple offers, but make sure you formally withdraw from all courses you're not proceeding with **before census date** to avoid any fees or penalties.

We recommend accepting your second or third choice offer as a safety net and waiting to see if you receive an offer for your first preference. Receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll receive one in the next round.

Most courses are **deferrable** through SATAC. If a course doesn't allow deferrals, or if you need to contact the institution, this will be stated in the course's details in course search.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)



The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) processes applications for courses offered at participating institutions in Western Australia.

KEY DATES

3 June	TISC applications open, including EAS
28 November	EAS main round application deadline
19 December	WACE results and ATARs released
20 December	Change of preference deadline for main round offers Main round application deadline
24 December	Main round offers released
9 January	EAS second round application deadline
14 January	Change of preference deadline for second round offers Final application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026
20 January	Second round offers released

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **six** (6) preferences in your application. You can change your preferences as many times as you like for no cost up until the relevant cut-off date.

Each offer round has its own specific closing date for change of preference. [See them all here.](#)

FEES

\$95	Standard applications
\$350	STAT fee
\$30	UAAL/ATAR Certificate copy
Free	Change of preference

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

TISC makes offers in two rounds - the main round in December, and the second round in January. Most Year 12 students will start receiving offers in the first round after results are released. In 2025, this will be the **main offer round**.

All five participating universities may make early conditional offers to Year 12 students for some courses. The first round of early offers will be sent on **Monday 1 September**.

You can receive **one** (1) offer in each offer round to the highest preference course you're eligible and competitive for.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, congratulations! Your next step is to **accept** the offer (if you're happy with it). You'll be given instructions from the institution to help you enrol in your new course. Pay attention to any dates mentioned and enrol on time, or your offer might lapse.

Upon accepting an offer, you **won't be made any other offers** in subsequent rounds, so only accept if you are sure this is the course you'd like to do.

If you still want to be considered for your other preferences in the second offer round, you'll need to use the **automatic safety net** to save your offer (**do not** accept, reject, or defer it). Then move any courses you still want to be considered for above the one you received an offer for.

If you receive an offer in the next round, it will **automatically cancel** the previous offer - you can't hold two offers at the same time. If you don't receive a new offer, you will be **re-offered** your first offer, so don't stress about losing your place.

If you want to **defer**, there will be details in your offer about whether this is possible and what you need to do next. Keep in mind any deadlines for deferral. Note that **deferral counts as acceptance** of the offer, so you won't be made any further offers.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)



As the only university in the state, the University of Tasmania takes direct applications from all applicants.

KEY DATES

25 June	2026 course applications open
26 June	Schools Recommendation Program applications open
28 July	SRP Round 1 application deadline
1 August	Bachelor of Medical Science, Doctor of Medicine applications open
4 September	SRP Round 1 offers released SRP Round 2 application deadline
25 September	SRP Round 2 offers released
30 September	Bachelor of Medical Science, Doctor of Medicine application deadline
4 October	SRP Final Round application deadline
30 October	SRP Final Round offers released
January	Regular offers released progressively
TBC	Final application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **five** (5) preferences in your application, and can change them at any time up until the final offer date.

FEES

Free

No charge for applications

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

UTAS makes offers to students on a rolling basis throughout the application period. Most Year 12 students can expect to receive an offer in **early January** after results are released.

UTAS continues to make offers up to **Thursday of week one** of the study period or until places in the course are full. The time taken to respond to your application will vary depending on the type of application, how accurate and complete it is, and the time of year.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, congratulations! Your next step is to **accept** the offer (if you're happy with it). Upon accepting, you'll be given instructions from UTAS to help you enrol in your new course. Pay attention to any dates mentioned and enrol on time, or your offer might lapse.

You might receive **multiple offers** from UTAS if you selected more than one course preference in your application, and you have been assessed as eligible and competitive for entry. You can accept more than one offer if you're still unsure about what course you'd like to do - but you must withdraw from all but one **before the census date** of the upcoming study period.

If you receive an offer for your highest preference but still want to be considered for your lower preferences, you can accept to the offer and then **reorder your existing preferences**. Make sure your preferred course is at the top of the list.

If you accept an offer for a lower preference, you will continue to be assessed for offers for all higher preferences, up until either the course is full or offers end.

If you haven't met the entry requirements or prerequisites for the course you applied for, you may be offered a place in an alternative course.

If you'd like to **defer**, there will be details in your offer about whether this is possible and any next steps you need to take. Keep in mind any deadlines for deferral as well.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)

Direct applications

Each institution has its own application processes, dates, and fees, so browse their website first to ensure you're prepared. Here is a general timeline that most follow:

June - August	Course applications open
October - November	Early course applications deadline
Mid/Late December	First offers made to Year 12 students based on ATAR
January - March	Offers made progressively until the start of the academic year
February - March	Semester 1 begins and final course application deadline

You can apply for **as many institutions and courses as you like**, including applying for other courses through a TAC. Most institutions allow you to change your course preferences in your application as long as it's done before the closing date.

OFFERS

If you receive an offer and are happy with it, you should **respond and accept** as soon as possible, as places can fill quickly. Your offer usually comes with a response deadline - if you miss it, the offer can lapse and the place will be re-opened.

If you receive more than one offer, you can usually accept multiple if you haven't made up your mind. Just remember to **withdraw all but one** before any specific deadlines to avoid any fees or penalties.

Accepting an offer from one institution won't stop you from receiving offers from others, so feel free to have a 'backup' course accepted while you wait.

If you want to **defer** and start your course at a later date, you'll need to contact the institution and ask what your next steps are. If you can't defer, you may need to withdraw your application and apply again next year.

Early closing dates

Some courses have earlier closing dates - this is usually because they're competitive or have extra entry requirements so the institutions need more time to process and assess applications.

If a course you want to apply for is on this list, we recommend preparing and submitting your application as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out.

Note: There may be courses that close early that we have missed - you should start researching early and pay close attention to any relevant dates.

NEW SOUTH WALES & AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2 September	Macquarie Co-op Programs
12 September	CSU Dental Science / Veterinary Biology & Veterinary Science
14 September	UTS Industry Degree Academy Program
25 September	CSU/WSU Joint Program in Medicine
30 September	UON/UNE Joint Medical Program UNSW Medical Studies & Doctor of Medicine
5 October	Notre Dame Assured Pathway to Medicine
10 October	UTS Accounting
31 October	CSU Paramedicine USYD Sciences Po Dual Degrees
1 December	ANU Bachelor of Health Science / Philosophy, Neuroscience & Psychology
6 December	USYD Veterinary Biology & Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
14 December	USYD Double Degree Medicine & Dentistry Programs (for assessment day 1)

VICTORIA

29 September	Monash Medical Science & Doctor of Medicine UniMelb Fine Arts / Music
30 September	La Trobe Psychological Science
3 October	RMIT Architectural Design
2 November	RMIT Design (Animation & Interactive Media) / Graphic Design
7 November	La Trobe Biomedical Science (Medical)
5 December	UniMelb Doctor of Medicine - Guaranteed Pathways
8 December	RMIT Medical Radiation
13 December	Fed Uni Community Services / Conservation and Ecosystem Management / Early Childhood Education / Food and Nutrition / Mental Health / Psychological Science

QUEENSLAND

25 August	UQ Music
29 August	Griffith Acting / Musical Theatre / Music
30 September	CQU Medical Science (Pathway to Medicine) / Medical Sonography Griffith Dental Health Science JCU Dental Surgery / Medicine & Surgery / Veterinary Science UQ Doctor of Medicine (Provisional Entry) UniSQ Biomedical Sciences (Medicine Pathway)
3 October	Griffith Animation / Film & Screen Media Production / Game Design & Production
7 October	QUT Creative Arts (Acting)
30 November	UQ Veterinary Science

QUEENSLAND

8 December	CQU Echocardiography & Cardiac Physiology / Medical Imaging / Oral Health / Physiotherapy
29 December	Griffith Clinical Exercise Physiology / Dental Hygiene / Medical Science / Midwifery / Occupational Therapy / Paramedicine / Physiotherapy UniSC Medical Science

SOUTH AUSTRALIA & NORTHERN TERRITORY

30 September	Adelaide Dental Surgery / Medical Studies & Doctor of Medicine / Oral Health / Veterinary Bioscience
10 October	CDU Clinical Science Medicine & Doctor of Medicine
1 December	Flinders Clinical Sciences & Doctor of Medicine / Clinical Sciences / Midwifery / Nursing / Performance (Acting & Directing)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

31 August	Murdoch Veterinary Science
30 September	Curtin Medicine & Surgery UWA Assured Pathway to Dentistry & Medicine
5 October	Notre Dame Assured Pathway to Medicine
10 October	ECU Arts (Acting & Music Theatre)
28 November	UWA Assured Pathway to Podiatry / Nursing

TASMANIA

30 September	UTAS Medical Science & Doctor of Medicine / Nursing / Paramedicine
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New Zealand

In New Zealand, there is no centralised application process - each institution takes applications directly and have their own application processes, dates, and fees.

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Exact requirements can differ depending on where you're applying, but as a general rule, here are some of the things you'll need to have on hand before you can submit an application:

- A personal email address
- An official transcript of your results
- Your National Student Number, Candidate Code and Centre ID Code, or Personal Code
- A form of identification, such as a birth certificate, passport, or citizenship certificate
- A way to pay any fees

WHAT IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

The application process for international students is generally the same as domestic students. Each university will have information about the equivalent results you need to achieve to gain entry to your chosen course.

You'll also need to obtain a [student visa](#) to study in NZ, unless you are an Australian citizen.

If English is not your first language, you will need to submit proof of English language proficiency as part of your application (such as [IELTS](#) or [TOEFL](#)).

AUT

Lincoln

Massey

Auckland

UC

Otago

Waikato

VUW

Entry pathways

Auckland University of Technology

Te Wānanga Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau

AUT has three campuses across Auckland as well as a number of specialist locations. They offer courses across a wide variety of fields.

KEY DATES

July

Course applications open for 2026

1 December

Application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **five** (5) preferences in your application. They can be changed at any time before an offer is sent.

FEES

Free

Standard applications

\$50

Discretionary entrance fee

OFFERS

There are three possible outcomes for your application. The first is your application being **confirmed** - your application is successful and you're eligible to enrol into your course.

You may also receive a **provisional offer**. This means your offer is confirmed provided you meet any conditions, such as fulfilling University Entrance requirements.

If your offer is **declined**, AUT may still make you an offer in an alternative program, or you can contact them to discuss other options.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Lincoln University

Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki

Lincoln University has a single campus in Lincoln, about a 30-minute drive from Christchurch. Their courses are focused on land-based sectors such as agriculture and horticulture.

KEY DATES

All year

Course applications open

1 February

Application deadline for courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can apply for **one** (1) qualification at a time. To apply for another, you need to submit a new application.

FEES

Free

Standard applications

\$100

Late enrolment fee

OFFERS

Once Lincoln has everything they need for assessment, and if you meet the criteria for your chosen qualification, you will receive an **offer letter** via email.

If there are any **conditions** attached to your offer, such as needing to supply extra documentation, make sure you fulfil them as soon as possible to avoid missing out on a place.

If your application is **unsuccessful**, Lincoln will contact you to discuss your other options, such as enrolling in a university preparation course.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Massey University

Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa

Massey University has three campuses across New Zealand – Auckland, Wellington, and Manawatū campus in Palmerston North. They offer courses in almost any field imaginable.

KEY DATES

All year	Course applications open
1 November	Application deadline for Aviation
30 November	Application deadline for Māori Visual Arts
13 January	Application deadline for Te Aho Tātairangi: Bachelor of Teaching and Learning Kura Kaupapa Māori
31 January	Application deadline for Commercial Music (Music Practice), Nursing, and Social Work
5 February	Application deadline for all courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can apply for **one** (1) qualification at a time. To apply for another, you need to submit a new application.

FEES

Free	Standard applications
\$268.80	B/Aviation application fee

OFFERS

If your application to study has been accepted, Massey will send you an email with an **Offer of Place**. You can **accept**, **decline**, or request to **defer** the start date or change your study location.

If your application is dependent on results from a university entrance qualification, you may receive a **conditional** Offer of Place.

[FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY](#)

University of Auckland

Waipapa Taumata Rau

The University of Auckland is the country's largest university, with campuses located across Auckland, Whangārei, Leigh, and Waiheke Island. They offer a wide range of programmes.

KEY DATES

All year	Course applications open
1 July	Application deadline for Medical Imaging (Honours), Medicine and Surgery, Optometry, and Pharmacy
31 August	Application deadline for Music Audition 1
1 November	Application deadline for Music Audition 2
Early December	Application deadline for all courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can apply for a maximum of **six** (6) programmes. Your application **can't be changed** after submission.

FEES

Free	Standard applications
\$60	Special admission application

OFFERS

If you have been made an **Offer of Place**, you will be able to **accept** or **decline** it through the application portal. If you have a **conditional** Offer of Place, you will need to meet all the conditions before you can enrol.

If your application is **unsuccessful**, you may be referred to an appropriate foundation programme.

[FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY](#)

University of Canterbury

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

UC is based on the main Ilam campus in Christchurch, but also have a number of other locations, including the Dovedale campus, Arts Centre, Nelson campus, and field stations.

KEY DATES

All year	Course applications open
15 November	Application deadline for Fine Arts
1 December	Application deadline for Ako: Teaching and Learning
12 December	Application deadline for all courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **two** (2) qualification choices in your application.

FEES

Free	Standard applications
\$159	Late enrolment fee

OFFERS

If you are assessed as being eligible for admission, you will receive an **Enrolment Agreement** from UC.

If you haven't achieved University Entrance, you may choose to complete a **transition programme** to gain admission to UC.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

University of Otago

Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

The University of Otago is New Zealand's oldest university, with campuses in five main locations - Dunedin, Auckland, Christchurch, Invercargill, and Wellington.

KEY DATES

August	Course applications open
14 August	Application deadline for Dental Surgery, Dental Technology, Medical Laboratory Science, Medicine & Surgery, Oral Health, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy & Radiation Therapy
31 August	Application deadline for Teaching
1 September	Application deadline for Performance Music auditions
10 December	Application deadline for all courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can apply for up to **three (3)** programmes at a time. Contact the university if you wish to change courses.

FEES

Free	Standard applications
\$93	Special admission application

OFFERS

Once your application has been assessed, Otago will either **offer** you a place in the programme or **decline** your application. Your place may be **conditional** upon providing further information, completing further steps, or gaining University Admission.

If your application is unsuccessful, you may wish to try again next year, or contact the [Liaison Office](#) for advice.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

University of Waikato

Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

The University of Waikato has two campuses in New Zealand - the main campus is located in Hamilton, and the other is located in Tauranga.

KEY DATES

All year	Course applications open
1 December	Application deadline for Teaching
Mid February	Application deadline for all courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You may start and submit up to **three** (3) applications per entry year. They are processed by order of preference.

FEES

Free	Standard applications
\$100	Late enrolment fee

OFFERS

Upon confirming your application meets the university entrance requirements, you will be sent an **Offer of Place**. If you still have documents to provide or your school results aren't available yet, you'll receive a **conditional** offer.

If you do not meet the entry criteria or need further preparation for degree study, Waikato also offer a range of **bridging** and **pathway** programmes.

[FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY](#)

Victoria University of Wellington

Te Herenga Waka

Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington has campuses and facilities across Wellington and Auckland.

KEY DATES

All year	Course applications open
1 November	Application deadline for limited courses
1 December	Enrolment deadline for limited courses
20 January	Application deadline for all courses starting in Semester 1 2026

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can apply for **one** (1) qualification at a time. To apply for another, you need to submit a new admission application.

FEES

Free	Standard applications
\$123	Late application fee

OFFERS

Once your application has been approved, you will be sent an **Offer of Place** - you can then **accept** and proceed to enrolment, or **change**, **defer**, or **withdraw** the offer. If your offer is **conditional**, you must meet the outlined conditions to have your admission approved.

If your application is **declined**, you can consider re-applying for a future intake, or undertaking a **preparation** programme.

[FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY](#)

Entry pathways

There are several ways you can meet basic University Entrance (UE) requirements to study in NZ.

NCEA UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

This is the most common pathway school leavers use to gain entry to university. If you complete high school and meet the basic criteria, you'll be eligible for admission into any New Zealand university:

- NCEA Level 3
- 14 credits at Level 3 in each of three [approved subjects](#)
- 10 [Literacy](#) credits at Level 2 or above, made up of:
 - 5 credits in reading
 - 5 credits in writing
- 10 [Numeracy](#) credits at Level 1 or above, made up of:
 - co-requisite Level 1 Numeracy unit standard 32406 or Te Pāngarau unit standard 32412, or
 - certain achievement standards

Note that meeting this criteria **doesn't necessarily guarantee entry** into any qualification. You may still need to meet extra requirements, such as studying specific subjects, achieving a minimum entry score, completing an audition or interview, or submitting a portfolio.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE](#)

DISCRETIONARY ENTRANCE

If you're under 20 years of age and aren't awarded University Entrance, you may be eligible for Discretionary Entrance. Universities set their own requirements, but it generally requires a high standard of achievement in Year 12 and meeting literacy and numeracy standards.

If you are thinking of applying for Discretionary Entrance, speak with the enrolments office of the university you would like to attend.

PROVISIONAL ENTRANCE

If you just fall short of meeting University Entrance criteria, some universities may admit you to certain programmes of study through Provisional Entrance.

If you're admitted through Provisional Entrance, you may need to pass a restricted programme of study, or catch up on any missing credits before the beginning of the academic year.

Speak with the enrolments office of the university you'd like to attend and ask if they have any options for Provisional Entry. You may also like to consider options such as completing credits through [Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu–The Correspondence School of New Zealand](#).

SPECIAL ADMISSION

Special Admission to university is generally reserved for people over 20 years of age who haven't met the requirements for University Entrance.

Instead of being admitted based on your education, you'll need to supply details of your work and life experience. This can include things like a CV, personal statement, or letter of recommendation.

Note that if you're qualified for University Entry in any other way (such as NCEA UE or by completing a different higher education program) you won't be eligible to apply through Special Admission.

TRANSITION AND PREPARATION PROGRAMMES

Most universities offer transition and preparation programmes for students who don't meet University Entrance requirements but would still like to study.

These are usually short courses that vary from 6 months to a year in length, and equip you with the basic skills you'll need to succeed at university. In some cases, you can even study a Diploma in the same area as your dream bachelor's qualification and gain credit towards your degree. Many universities also offer preparation programmes specifically aimed at Māori and Pasifika students.

Contact your chosen university directly to discuss your options.



United Kingdom

The University of Cambridge, England

In the UK, a majority of university applications for school-leavers are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

They process applications for participating institutions in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

UCAS

Offers

Extra choices

Clearing

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Exact requirements can differ depending on your circumstances, but as a general rule, here are some of the things you'll need to have on hand before you can submit an application:

- An account with UCAS
- A **buzzword** to link your application to your school or college
- A **personal statement**
- A **reference** from a teacher, adviser, or other professional who knows you personally
- A way to pay any application fees

WHAT IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

International students follow the same application process through UCAS as domestic students. Individual universities may ask you to send extra documentation or information as part of your application.

You'll also need to obtain a **student visa** to study in the UK, unless you hold a full UK or Irish passport. You can apply for one up to six months before your course start date, but must have accepted an offer to study to begin the process.



UCAS processes most applications for participating institutions in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

KEY DATES

13 May	Undergraduate applications open for courses starting in 2026
10 July	Conservatoire applications open for courses starting in 2026
2 September	First day completed applications can be submitted
2 October	Application deadline for music courses
15 October	Application deadline for courses at Oxford and Cambridge, and most medicine, dentistry, and veterinary courses
14 January	Application deadline for equal consideration and most dance, drama, and music theatre courses
26 February	Extra opens
4 July	Extra choices deadline
5 July	Clearing opens
24 September	Final application deadline for all courses starting in 2026
19 October	Clearing deadline

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **five** (5) course choices in your application. You'll need to contact the university directly if you change your mind about your course. You can still withdraw a choice at any time.

FEES

£28.95	Regular applications
Varies	Conservatoire applications

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

Each university makes offers on a rolling basis at their discretion. This means there's no set date you will receive an offer - but all institutions have a deadline that they must make offers before:

13 May

Offer deadline for applications submitted before 14 January

15 July

Offer deadline for applications submitted before 30 June

OFFER TYPES

If you receive an **unconditional offer**, congratulations! Your place in your chosen course is secured, and you (usually) don't need to do anything else to accept. In certain cases, you may still need to submit other documents or meet other financial or medical requirements.

If you receive a **conditional offer**, this is still great news - your place in your chosen course is reserved provided you meet any conditions that come with the offer.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive a conditional or unconditional offer, you can reply with **firm acceptance**. This means the place is yours if the offer is unconditional, or will be yours if you receive a conditional offer and go on to meet any conditions.

If your first choice is a conditional offer, you can also make an **insurance choice**. This will act as a backup if you fail to meet the conditions of your firm choice. You can only accept **one** firm choice and **one** insurance choice - you must **decline** any other offers. If you firmly accept an unconditional offer, you **can't make an insurance choice**.

There will also be a **deadline** you must reply to each of your offers by, so don't forget or they will lapse.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)

Extra choices

If you filled out all five choices on your original application but didn't receive an offer for any, don't stress - there's still a chance for you to secure a place.

If there are courses that still have places open after the final offer deadline, you can contact the university and ask if you can be considered for a place. If they agree, you can go back and add the course to your application - then wait for the university to respond with an offer.

There's no limit to the number of times you can add an Extra choice to your application, but you can only ever have **one choice** being considered at a time.

If you declined an offer from your original five choices, you **can't use Extras to re-apply**.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT EXTRAS](#)

Clearing

Still don't have any offers after Extras? There's still a chance for you to gain entry through Clearing. It's a common pathway for students who don't achieve the results needed for their first choice course or want to try again for a course they were rejected from in their initial application.

During Clearing, UCAS will release a list of courses that still have places available. If you see one you'd like to apply for, contact the university, give them your Clearing number and Personal ID, and ask if you can be considered for a place. Once you receive an informal offer from the university, add the Clearing choice to your application and wait for the institution to confirm.

Note that conservatoires **do not use Clearing** to fill vacancies.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CLEARING](#)



Republic of Ireland

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

In Ireland, most undergraduate course applications are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO).

CAO

Offers

Available places

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Exact requirements can differ depending on your circumstances, but as a general rule, here are some of the things you'll need to have on hand before you can submit an application:

- A personal email address
- An official transcript of your results (supplied to CAO by the State Examinations Commission)
- A CAO application number (obtained by registering with the CAO system)
- A way to pay any application fees

WHAT IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

International students generally follow the same application process as domestic students. You may need to supply additional documentation or information as part of your application. Some universities may also require international students to apply directly for certain courses.

If you are a non-EEA/non Swiss national, you will need to have a letter of enrolment and have paid your fees before you can start studying. Depending on your nationality, you may also require a [visa](#). If you are planning to stay longer than 90 days, you will also have to [register](#).

If English is not your first language, you will need to submit proof of English language proficiency as part of your application (such as [IELTS](#) or [TOEFL](#)).



CAO processes applications for most undergraduate courses offered at participating institutions in the Republic of Ireland.

KEY DATES

5 November	Applications open for courses starting in 2026
TBC January	Discounted application fee deadline
TBC February	Normal application deadline
TBC February	Online facility to amend course choices opens
TBC March	Amending course choices deadline
TBC March	Late applications open
TBC May	Late application deadline
TBC May	Change of Mind opens
TBC August	Change of Mind deadline
TBC August	Leaving Certificate results issued
TBC August	Round 1 offers available
TBC August	Round 1 offer acceptance deadline

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **ten** (10) Level 8 and **ten** (10) Level 7/6 course preferences in your application. You can amend your choices for no cost until March, then again when Change of Mind opens from May to July.

FEES

€30	Early applications
€45	Regular applications
€60	Late applications

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

Offers are made in specific rounds to different applicants throughout the year.

Round A	Deferred, mature aged, some graduate and international applicants
Round o	Graduate medicine, mature aged, QQI FET/FETAC quota applicants
Round 1	School-leavers, QQI FET non-quota, mature aged applicants
Further Rounds	Offers issued until season ends or all places are filled

You can receive **one** offer per round from each of the Level 8 and Level 7/6 lists for the highest preference course(s) you're eligible for, so ensure you put the one you want most at the top.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer, you will need to respond by the offer round acceptance deadline. Note that you can **only accept one offer** in any one round from either the Level 8 or the Level 7/6 list.

If you accept a lower preference course in an earlier round, you can still receive offers for higher preference courses in later rounds. You might like to accept a lower preference offer as an insurance option while waiting until all rounds are complete to see if you receive an offer for a higher preference course. Accepting a new offer automatically cancels the previous acceptance.

DEFERRING YOUR OFFER

If you receive an offer but want to **defer**, you need to email the university directly as soon as possible. It's then up to the discretion of the university whether your request is granted.

In order to take up a deferred place, you must reapply through CAO in the next year following detailed instructions provided to you by the university.

If the university doesn't allow you to defer, you must either accept the original offer and start in the next semester, or decline and re-apply next year.

Available places

If you don't receive any offers after Round 1 is complete, or haven't received an offer for your highest preference course, you still have a chance.

Universities that have courses with places still open will advertise these on the CAO website. You can then make an Available Place application (for no cost if you have already submitted an application earlier in the year, or for €45 if this is your first application).

Note that you **can't re-order** your original course choices. If you've already received an offer for one of your course choices, you must preference the Available Place course above it in your application. If you still want to be considered for any of your original courses, you must preference any Available Place courses below them.

You can still only have a total of 10 course preferences in any course list at a time - so if you already have 10 and want to add an Available Place course, you must change one out.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AVAILABLE PLACES](#)

A photograph of a large, historic red brick building with many windows, identified as Harvard University in Boston. Bare trees are in the foreground.

United States

Harvard University, Boston

In the US, most colleges and universities take direct applications for entry. You will usually need to submit a separate application for each place you'd like to be considered.

Direct applications

Application platforms

Finances and aid

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Exact requirements can differ depending on your circumstances and the college you apply to, but as a general rule, here are some of the things you'll need to have on hand before you can submit an application:

- An official transcript of your results
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statements or essay responses
- Details of extracurricular activities
- Standardised test scores (SAT/ACT)
- Financial information
- A way to pay any application fees

WHAT IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

International students generally follow the same application process as domestic students. Individual universities may ask you to send extra documentation or information as part of your application.

You'll also need to obtain a [student visa](#) to study in the US, unless you are a [Canadian citizen](#). You must have been accepted to study at a college to be eligible for a student visa. You should start this process as soon as possible so you don't miss the start of the academic year.

If English is not your first language, you will need to submit proof of English language proficiency as part of your application (such as [IELTS](#) or [TOEFL](#)).

Direct applications

Most college admissions open on **1 August** for students looking to commence the following Fall. You can apply through four different processes, depending on how soon you'd like an offer: Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision, or Rolling Admission.

Each college has its own deadlines for applications, but here is a rough window that most follow:

EARLY DECISION

Early - Mid-November

Early Decision applications close

Mid-December

Early Decision application outcomes released

Early Decision is a good choice if you have great results and want to apply for a popular college or a course with limited places, as you can secure your place as soon as possible.

You can only apply for **one** college through Early Decision, and if your application is successful, you **must accept** and enrol. If you also apply to other schools through Early Action or Regular Decision and receive an Early Decision offer, you must withdraw your other applications. So only apply through Early Decision if you're certain about starting a particular course.

EARLY ACTION

November - December

Early Action applications close

December - January

Early Action application outcomes released

Early Action is also a great option for high achievers looking to apply for popular or limited courses, without the restriction of being limited to a single choice.

Unlike Early Decision, you can apply for as many colleges as you like through Early Action, and any offers you receive are not binding, so you don't need to take them up if you don't want to.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT EARLY DECISION AND ACTION](#)

REGULAR DECISION

January - February

Regular Decision applications close

Late March - Early April

Regular Decision application outcomes released

Regular Decision is the most common way students apply to college. It gives you plenty of time to research your college and course options and prepare a quality application.

You can apply for as many colleges as you like through Regular Decision, and any offers you receive aren't binding, so you don't need to take them up if you don't want to.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

Varies

Rolling Admission applications close

4-6 weeks from applying

Rolling Admission application outcomes released

Rolling Admission is a good choice for students who don't want to wait months to receive an outcome for their application.

Rolling Admission deadlines vary between colleges, with some closing as early as December while others are open as late as April. We still recommend applying as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out on a place as courses fill up.

APPLICATION FEES

Each college sets their own fees - they can range from anywhere between \$50 to \$90. In some cases, you can have the fee waived by providing a letter of financial hardship from your school.

OFFERS

If you receive an offer, you must respond by the deadline of **1 May** to either accept or decline.

In some cases, you may be **waitlisted**. This means you meet the entry criteria, but there are more suitable applicants than places in the course. You can either accept the decision and wait to find out if you receive a firm place, or decline and accept a firm offer from another institution.

Application platforms

While the US doesn't have a single centralised admissions institute like Australia or the UK, there are still platforms that can make your college applications easier.

Note that the overall application process remains the same as those applying directly - you still need to submit all the required documentation, meet the application deadlines, and pay any fees.

THE COMMON APPLICATION

Common App streamlines the application process by allowing you to gather all your important information in one place and send applications to different colleges using a single system. There are currently over 1,000 participating colleges to apply for through Common App.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMON APPLICATION](#)

UNIVERSAL COLLEGE APPLICATION

The Universal College Application is another system that allows you to create a profile and submit applications to multiple colleges. It's currently used by over 75 institutions.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSAL COLLEGE APPLICATION](#)

COALITION FOR COLLEGE

Coalition allows you to manage your admissions journey in one place, from search to application to enrolment. Over 170 colleges are currently members of the Coalition, and members must be committed to access, affordability, and success.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT COALITION FOR COLLEGE](#)

Finances and aid

FEDERAL STUDENT AID

As part of your college application, you'll also be asked to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (or FAFSA). This allows the college to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. It also determines your eligibility for state and federal student aid.

Each college and state can set their own deadlines for applications for financial aid, so it's a good idea to submit your FAFSA as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out. The final closing date for all FAFSA submissions for the current year is **June 30**.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FEDERAL STUDENT AID](#)

STUDENT LOANS

If you're eligible, you may also be able to apply for a federal student loan to cover the cost of your studies. Each college individually determines how much you are able to borrow.

It's important to remember that you are charged interest on your student loan and are expected to pay it back in full, so make sure you fully understand all your obligations before accepting.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT STUDENT LOANS](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

FAFSA and student loans are only available to US citizens, so international students need to find another way to finance their studies. Many colleges offer specialised scholarships and programs to help international students cover the cost of their studies.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FINANCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS](#)

A large, historic stone building with multiple towers and arched windows, identified as the University of Toronto. The word "Canada" is overlaid in large white text on the left side of the image.

Canada

University of Toronto, Ontario

In Canada, the application process differs depending on where you want to study. Ontario has a centralised application system, Alberta and British Columbia have platforms to help process applications, and other provinces require you to apply directly to individual universities.

OUAC

ApplyAlberta

EducationPlannerBC

Direct applications

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Exact requirements can differ depending on your circumstances and the university you apply to, but as a general rule, here are some of the things you'll need to have on hand before you can submit an application:

- An official transcript of your results
- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statements or essay responses
- Standardised test scores (GRE/GMAT)
- A way to pay any application fees

WHAT IF I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?

International students generally follow the same application process as domestic students. Some universities may ask you to send extra documentation as part of your application.

You'll need to obtain a [study permit](#) to study in Canada, even if you are a US citizen. You must be enrolled at a university before you can start the application process. To study in Québec, you must also apply for a [Québec Acceptance Certificate](#) (CAQ).

If English is not your first language, you will need to submit proof of English language proficiency as part of your application (such as [IELTS](#) or [TOEFL](#)). Note that for certain courses you may also need to be proficient in French (particularly in Québec or New Brunswick).



The Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) processes applications for courses offered at participating institutions in Ontario.

KEY DATES

All year	Undergraduate applications open for mature aged applicants
August	Undergraduate applications open for school leavers
1 October	OMSAS (Medical School) application deadline
1 November	OLSAS (Common Law) first-year English application deadline
Early December	TEAS (Education) application deadline
Early January	ORPAS (Rehabilitation Sciences) application deadline
Mid-January	On-time application deadline for school leavers
1 February	OLSAS first-year French application deadline
Late May	Latest date students can expect to hear back about their application
Early June	Earliest date a student may be required to respond to an offer Applications for the Admission Information Service (AIS) open
Late July	AIS application deadline

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **three** (3) course options in your initial application. If you want to change or add additional courses to your application, you must pay a fee for each.

FEES

\$156	Basic applications
\$50	Additional choices
\$10	International applications

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Offers

After you submit your application, you will receive an acknowledgement from the university that they received your application. They may also provide you with a list of the specific supporting documents they require to make a decision. If you haven't heard anything after 2-3 weeks, contact them directly.

Each university makes offers on a rolling basis at their discretion. This means there is no set date you will receive an offer - but high school leavers can expect to receive their offers by **late May**.

OFFER TYPES

If you receive an **unconditional** offer, congratulations! This means your place in your chosen course is secured, and you (usually) don't need to do anything else to accept.

If you receive a **conditional** offer, this is still great news! This means your place in your chosen course is yours pending any conditions that come with the offer.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you're happy with the offer you receive, you should respond and **accept** as soon as possible, as places can fill quickly. Your offer will come with a deadline you must respond by or it expires.

If you receive more than one offer, keep in mind you can only accept **one** at a time. But if you still haven't quite made up your mind, that's OK - you can cancel your acceptance and **switch** to a different course, as long as you do it by any specific deadlines.

Accepting an offer won't stop you from receiving other offers - so feel free to have an '**insurance**' course accepted, even if you want to wait and see if you receive any other offers.

If you **decline** an offer then change your mind or you want to **defer**, you'll need to contact the university's admissions office and ask what your next steps are.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OFFERS](#)

Admission Information Service

If the final offer date has passed and you haven't received any offers, don't give up. In early June, you can access the Admission Information Service (AIS), allowing you to search for courses that still have places open.

If you see a course you're interested in and want to apply, you can add it to your OUAC application, and wait to see if you are accepted. It's also a good idea to contact universities directly for more information about their available programs and to ask to be considered.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT AIS

Exceptions

Certain courses require you to apply through a separate portal:

- For Common Law programs, you must use the [OLSAS Application](#).
- For 4-semester consecutive Education programs, you must use the [TEAS Application](#).
- For Rehabilitation Sciences programs, you must use the [ORPAS Application](#).
- For Ontario Medical Schools, you must use the [OMSAS Application](#).

They each have their own processes and dates, so ensure you're aware and apply on time.

FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ON OUINFO

ApplyAlberta

A centralised platform for applications to undergraduate courses at post-secondary institutions in Alberta.

KEY DATES

September

Undergraduate applications open

January - April

Undergraduate applications close

Each institution has their own application timelines - the above dates are a rough guide. Ensure you check with the institution directly so you don't miss any important deadlines.

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can apply for to **one** (1) institution at a time, and each has their own course selection options. You can return to ApplyAlberta at any time to submit applications to additional participating institutions.

FEES

Varies

Basic applications

Each institution sets their own application fees, which you will need to pay to complete your application.

OFFERS

After you submit your application, the institution will process it and contact you directly with their decision. They may also provide you with a list of the specific supporting documents they require.

Each university makes offers on a rolling basis at their discretion. This means there is no set date you will receive an offer by.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

EducationPlannerBC

EducationPlannerBC is an online platform that allows you to plan, explore, and apply to any of British Columbia's 25 public post-secondary institutions.

KEY DATES

September

Undergraduate applications open

January - April

Undergraduate applications close

Each institution has their own application timelines - the above dates are a rough guide. Ensure you check with the institution directly so you don't miss any important deadlines.

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

Some institutions will allow you to apply for **two** (2) programs using the same application. Others require you to submit a second application if applying for multiple programs.

FEES

Varies

Basic applications

Each institution sets their own application fees, which you will need to pay to complete your application.

OFFERS

After you submit your application, the institution will process it and contact you directly with their decision. They may also provide you with a list of the specific supporting documents they require.

Each university makes offers on a rolling basis at their discretion. This means there is no set date you will receive an offer by.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

Direct applications

Most university admissions open around **September** for students looking to commence the following Fall. Most universities recommend school leavers should submit their applications by **January** to maximise their chances of receiving an offer.

Each institution and course has its own specific deadlines for applications, but here is a rough window that most follow:

KEY DATES

September	Applications open for courses starting in Fall
Early November	Recommended early application deadline
Early December	Recommended document submission deadline
Early January	First admission decisions are released
Mid-January	Deadline for some undergraduate applications
January - May	Offers are sent on a rolling basis
March - July	Application deadline for courses starting in Fall

You can apply for as many institutions and courses as you like during the admissions window - applying at one place won't exclude you from applying at another.

In most cases, universities will allow you to change the course choices in your application as long as it is done **before** the application deadline.

APPLICATION FEES

Each institution sets their own application fees - they can range from anywhere between \$50 to \$200. In some cases, universities may offer application fee waivers or discounts for certain applicants.

Offers

After you submit your application, the next thing to do is wait until you hear back about their decision. If the university needs you to submit more information or documentation to make a decision, they'll contact you directly and ask. It's a good idea to get this sorted as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss any key deadlines.

Each university makes offers on a rolling basis at their discretion. Some universities start sending offers for some courses in January, while others wait until later in the year to make a decision.

OFFER TYPES

If you receive an **unconditional** offer, congratulations! This means your place in your chosen course is secured, and you (usually) don't need to do anything else to accept.

If you receive a **conditional** offer, this is still great news! This means your place in your chosen course is yours pending any conditions that come with the offer.

If you've been **waitlisted**, this means you meet the requirements for your chosen course, but there weren't enough places for everyone who applied. You can wait and see if someone else declines their offer or withdraw and apply again next year.

RESPONDING TO YOUR OFFER

If you're happy with the offer you received, you should respond and **accept** as soon as possible, as places can fill quickly. Your offer usually comes with a deadline you must respond by - if you don't, it will lapse and the place will be offered to someone else.

If you receive more than one offer, you can accept more than one if you still haven't made up your mind. Just remember to **withdraw** all but one before any deadlines to avoid any fees.

Accepting an offer from one university won't stop you from receiving other offers - so feel free to have an **'insurance'** course accepted while you wait to see if you receive any other offers.

If you want to **defer** your offer and start your course at a later date, you'll need to contact the university's admissions office and ask what your next steps are.

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