

A photograph of several students walking away from the camera on a paved path in a park-like setting during autumn. The trees have green and yellow leaves, and fallen leaves are scattered on the path. The students are wearing casual clothing like denim jackets and backpacks. The overall mood is calm and focused.

# Applying to University

A guide to university applications for  
students commencing study in 2026.

**studyworkgrow**



# Apply to Uni Guide

A guide to university applications for students commencing study in 2025. Created by Study Work Grow Pty Ltd in 2024.

## EDITION 6 | VERSION 1

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





APPLY TO UNI GUIDE

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# Facts about uni 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.

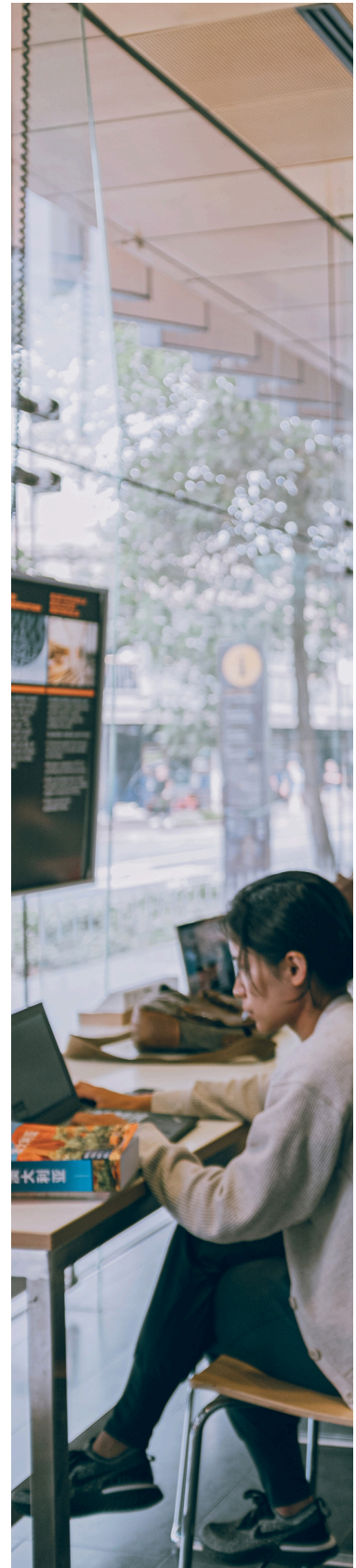
First, let's go through some of the basics you need to know about university applications.

## **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. These are known as your preferences or options. Listing the maximum number of 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 prefer over the others, make sure you 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.

## THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO APPLY

The first is through a centralised application platform (such as [TISC](#), [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.

## THERE ARE COSTS INVOLVED

In many 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 and they are usually non-refundable, so it's worth starting the process early and ensuring you're confident with your choices.

# Choosing what to study

## FINDING THE RIGHT COURSE

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

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 cool you hadn't considered before.

## 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 if your chosen course 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 SURE WHAT TO PICK?

Consider a general degree in your preferred field. This will give you the option to start now and specialise later on, or even transfer into another course down the track.

## MAKING SURE YOU'RE ELIGIBLE

Once you've found some courses you're interested in, check that you meet any prerequisites or entry requirements.

If you're concerned you won't meet the eligibility criteria, do a bit of reading to see if there are any alternative entry methods.

## COMPETITIVE COURSES

Certain popular courses can attract a large amount of applications for just a few places. Others have a thorough application procedure to attract the top students.

If you're interested in one of these courses, you'll probably need to start the application process much earlier in the year. Be prepared to submit extra documentation or undertake admissions tests and interviews.



# Deciding where to study

## YOUR INSTITUTION OPTIONS

Once you've decided what you want to study, you need to find somewhere to study it. In general, multiple institutions will offer the same or similar courses, which means you have some flexibility in your choice.

## HELPING YOU DECIDE

If you can't decide on where to study, here are some things you might like to consider when picking an institution:

- How close is it to home?
- What support services do they offer?
- Do they offer flexible learning?
- Are there extracurricular activities and clubs I can take part in?
- What is the graduate success rate?

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Start by browsing their site, downloading the course handbook, and if you can, check out their [open day](#) or any other course events. If you still have questions, you can always reach out to their future students team too.

### First...

Choose the type of course you want to study



### Next...

Check if it's offered at your preferred university



### Then...

If it's not, look for similar courses or at another uni

# Steps to applying

1

Make a note of any key application dates and fees. Have all your courses, including their codes and the university you want to study at, listed together. Put the one you want most at the top of your list.

2

Gather any important documents you might need to submit as part of your application, such as essays, letters of recommendation, or a copy of your subject results, as well as any other relevant personal details.

3

Check that you're eligible to receive your high school finishing certificate and have met any other relevant requirements (e.g. ATAR, A Levels, SAT). Your school will be able to help if you're not sure what to do.

4

Do you have a personal email address? If not set one up now. Use this email address (not your school one) for all your applications, as you might lose access to your school email once you graduate.

5

Read through any how to apply pages, FAQs, or speak to a member of the admissions or future students team before you get started if you have any questions or are feeling unsure.

6

Fill out your application, pay any fees if needed, and submit! Regularly check your email or other preferred method of contact for updates on the outcome of your application.





# 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, like waiting for the next offer round, adding a different course to your application, or researching alternative pathways.

We'll cover more information about change of preference, offers, and pathways 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.



APPLY TO UNI GUIDE

# Application information

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES

CANADA

Ready to start an application? We have all the info you need on the following pages.

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

*Image: The University of Sydney, NSW, Australia*

In Australia, a majority of 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're living in Brisbane but want to go to uni in Melbourne, you will be applying through VTAC.

## 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'll need to 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 an International Baccalaureate Diploma 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](#)).

# UAC

The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) processes applications for courses offered at participating institutions in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

## KEY DATES

April	UAC applications open, including EAS, SRS & Equity Scholarships
September	SRS applications close
September	Early bird application fee deadline
November	December Round 2 application deadline
December	HSC results and ATARs released
December	December Round 2 offers released - first offers made to Yr 12s
February	Final closing date for Semester 1 2025 applications

## CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **five** (5) preferences through UAC. You can change your course preferences as many times as you like for no cost up until the relevant offer date.

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



# Offers

UAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. The first round Year 12 students (excluding interstate students) are eligible to receive an offer in is the first round after results are released.

Offers are released at 7.30 am on each offer round date. You can receive only **one** offer in each offer round, which will be 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 get in touch 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, otherwise your offer will lapse.

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 (leaving it can prevent you from receiving offers for lower preference courses in future rounds).

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 highly recommend accepting your second or third choice offer even if you'd like to wait and see if you receive an offer for your first preference. This way you have a safety net just in case, as receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll get one in the next round.

If you'd like to **defer** your offer and start at a later date, you'll need to follow any instructions provided to you in your offer. Note that deferral is generally not allowed for competitive courses (such as medicine).



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

### KEY DATES

July	VTAC applications open, including SEAS and scholarships
September	Timely course applications close
October	SEAS and scholarship applications close
November	Late course applications close
December	Very late course applications close
December	VCE results and ATARs released
December	Change of preference closes for December offer round
December	December round offers released - first offers made to Yr 12s
January	Final closing date for Semester 1 2025 applications

### CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **eight** (8) preferences through VTAC. You can change your course preferences as many times as you like for no cost up until the relevant offer date.

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



# Offers

VTAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. The first round Year 12 students (excluding interstate students) are eligible to receive an offer in is the first round after results are released.

Offers are released at 2.00 pm on each offer round date. You can receive only **one** offer in each offer round, which will be to the highest preference course you're eligible and competitive for.

Most courses participate in the December offer round, and all courses must participate in the first round of offers in January. After this, institutions will generally 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 send instructions from the institution on enrolling in your new course. Note that you must enrol in your course to formally accept the offer. Pay attention to any dates mentioned and enrol on time, or your offer might lapse.

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 the offered course to below courses you would **genuinely consider** (not 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 highly recommend accepting your second or third choice offer even if you'd like to wait and see if you receive an offer for your first preference. This way you have a safety net just in case, as receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll get one in the next round.

If you haven't received any offers in the December and January rounds, you may still be eligible for a supplementary offer in the February rounds. To be eligible to receive supplementary offers, you must give VTAC permission to release your application to courses with vacancies **by January**.

# QTAC

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

## KEY DATES

August	QTAC applications open
December	December round applications close
December	January round applications close
December	QCE results and ATARs released
December	Change of preference deadline for December round offers
December	December round offers released - first offers made to Yr 12s
January	Change of preference deadline for January round offers
January	January round offers released
February	Final closing date for Semester 1 2025 applications

## CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **six** (6) preferences through QTAC. You can change your course preferences as many times as you like up until the cut-off date, but must pay a fee for the fourth and any further changes.

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



# Offers

QTAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. The first round Year 12 students (excluding interstate students) are eligible to receive an offer in is the first round after results are released.

You can receive only **one** offer in each offer round, which will be 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 for only certain courses in certain rounds, 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). Upon accepting, 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.

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 indicates to the institution that you're interested, but does not count as a formal acceptance. Note that if you do proceed to receive a different offer in a subsequent round, your **original offer will lapse**.

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 highly recommend accepting your second or third choice offer even if you'd like to wait and see if you receive an offer for your first preference. This way you have a safety net just in case, as receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll get one in the next round.

If you'd like to **defer** your offer and start at a later date, you'll need to get in touch with the institution and ask about their procedures. Note that deferral is generally not allowed for competitive courses (such as medicine).

# SATAC

The South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) processes applications for courses at institutions in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

## KEY DATES

August	SATAC applications open
September	Early bird application fee deadline
December	Equal consideration deadline for Semester 1 courses
December	SACE/NTCET results and ATARs released
January	Change of preference deadline for Semester 1 offers
January	Mid January offers released - first offers made to Yr 12s
January	Second January offers released
January	Further offer rounds emailed Tuesdays and Thursdays
March	Last offer round for Semester 1 2025

## CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

You can list up to **six** (6) preferences through SATAC. You can change your preferences at any time for no cost up until **January**.

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

# Offers

SATAC makes offers in several rounds throughout the application period. The first round Year 12 students (excluding interstate students) are eligible to receive an offer in is the first round after results are released.

You can receive only **one** offer in each offer round, which will be 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 for only certain courses in certain rounds, 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.** If you want to change your offer response, you will need to login to your SATAC application and do this manually. Once you've accepted your offer, you can enrol in your course. Information about enrolment will either be in your offer letter, or the institution offering the course will contact you with instructions. 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 will need to respond (either accept, reject, or defer) and indicate that you still **wish to be considered for higher preferences.** You then need to change your preferences and 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 are not proceeding with **before census date** to avoid paying any fees or receiving a penalty.

We highly recommend accepting your second or third choice offer even if you'd like to wait and see if you receive an offer for your first preference. This way you have a safety net just in case, as receiving an offer in one round doesn't guarantee you'll get one in the next round.

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



# TISC

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) processes applications for courses offered at participating universities and higher education providers in Western Australia.

## KEY DATES

May	TISC applications open, including EAS applications
November	EAS main round application deadline
December	WACE results and ATARs released
December	Change of preference deadline for main round offers
December	Main round offers released
January	EAS second round application deadline
January	Final closing date for Semester 1 2025 applications Change of preference deadline for second round offers
January	Second round offers released

## CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

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

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

# Offers

TISC makes offers in two rounds - one in late December, then again in late January. The first round Year 12 students (excluding interstate students) are generally eligible to receive an offer in is the first round after results are released.

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

You can receive only **one** offer in each offer round, which will be 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). Upon accepting, 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 will need to use the TISC **automatic safety net** to save your offer - **do not** accept, reject, or defer it. You then need to change your preferences and move any courses you still want to be considered for above the course you already 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 saved offer, so don't stress about losing your place.

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. Note that deferral **countsY as an acceptance** of the offer, so you won't be made any further offers.

# UTAS

As the only university in Tasmania, the University of Tasmania takes direct applications from all applicants, both school-leavers and mature-aged students.

## KEY DATES

June	UTAS applications open
August	Applications for Bachelor of Medical Science, Doctor of Medicine open
December	TCE results and ATARs released
Mid December	First offers made to Year 12 students based on ATAR
January	Offers made progressively until 26 February 2025
February	Final closing date for Semester 1 2025 applications

## 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.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

UTAS recommend that students living overseas should apply at least 3 months prior to semester start date, and on-shore students apply no less than one month prior to semester start date. Applications are accepted at any time for most courses.



# Offers

UTAS makes offers to students on a rolling basis throughout the application period. The first round Year 12 students (excluding interstate students) are generally eligible to receive an offer in is around **mid-December**, just after results are released.

UTAS continues to make offers right up until **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 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.

# Direct applications

Some universities and institutions accept direct applications, either for all courses, for certain courses not available through a TAC, for certain students, or for courses at specific campuses. Each institution has its own application processes, dates, and fees, so take a look at their website and do some reading to make sure you're prepared. Here is a general timeline that most follow:

June - August	Course applications open
October - November	Early course applications close
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 course applications close

You can apply for **as many institutions and courses** as you like during the admissions window, including applying for other courses through a TAC - 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.

## OFFERS

If you receive an offer and you're happy with it, you should respond and **accept** as soon as possible, as places can fill quickly. Your offer usually will come 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've received more than one offer, you can usually accept more than one if you still haven't quite made up your mind. Just remember to **withdraw all but one** before any specific deadlines, or you might end up paying extra tuition 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 and see if you get any other offers.

If you would like to **defer** your offer and start your course at a later date, you'll need to get in touch with the university's admissions office and ask what your next steps are. Not all institutions and courses offer deferral, so you might need to withdraw your application and apply again next year.

# New Zealand

*Image: University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand*

In New Zealand, there is no centralised application process - each institution takes applications directly. Each institution has its 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).



# United Kingdom

*Image: The University of Cambridge, England, UK*

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.

## 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
- An official transcript of your results
- 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

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) processes most applications for participating institutions in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

## KEY DATES

May	Undergraduate applications open
July	Conservatoire applications open
September	Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted
October	Deadline for conservatoire music applications for 2025
October	Deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge for 2025 Applications close for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science for 2025
January	Equal consideration deadline for most 2025 undergraduate courses Deadline for most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama, or musical theatre courses for 2025
February	Extra opens
July	Last day to add an Extra choice in your application
July	Clearing opens
October	Last date to add a Clearing choice

## CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

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

# Offers

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

May	Offer deadline for applications submitted before 29 January
July	Offer deadline for applications submitted before 30 June

## UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS

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. In certain cases, you may still need to get a DBS or PVG check, provide proof of your results, or meet some financial/medical requirements.

## CONDITIONAL OFFERS

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. The most common condition is waiting for your final results to be released and seeing if they meet the course requirements.

## 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 received a conditional offer and go on to meet any conditions.

If you receive multiple conditional offers, you can also choose an **insurance choice**. Your insurance choice will act as a backup if you fail to meet the conditions of your firm choice.

You may receive an offer for more than one of your choices, but you can only accept **one** firm choice and **one** insurance choice - you must **decline** any other offers. There will also be a deadline you must reply to each of your offers by, so don't forget or your offers will lapse.

## 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 reapply**.

## Clearing

If you didn't receive any offers or if you declined the offers in your original application, and either didn't apply for or didn't receive any offers through Extras, there's still a chance for you to gain entry through Clearing. It's a common pathway for students who didn't get the results for entry to their first choice course, or who may 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, get in touch with 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 uni, add the Clearing choice to your application and wait for the institution to confirm.

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

# United States

*Image: Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA*

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.

## 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 specific deadlines for applications, but here is a rough window that most colleges 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've also applied 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 are 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.

## 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 are not 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 application fees - they can range from anywhere between \$50 to \$90. In some cases, you can have your application fees 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 your chosen course. You can either accept the decision and wait until 1 May 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 still 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.

## Universal College Application

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

## Coalition for College

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

# 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**.

## 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.

## 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.

[SEARCH FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS](#)



# Canada

*Image: University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

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.

## 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 or information 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 Quebec, you must also apply for a [Quebec 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 Quebec or New Brunswick).

# OUAC

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
October	OMSAS (Medical School) applications close
November	OLSAS (Common Law) first-year English applications close
December	TEAS (Education) applications close
Mid-January	OUAC on-time applications close for school leavers
March	OLSAS first-year French applications close
Late May	The latest date students can expect to hear back about their application
Early June	The earliest date a student may be required to respond to an offer Applications for the Admission Information Service (AIS) open
Late July	Admission Information Service (AIS) applications close
Varies	University-specific application deadlines (e.g arranging interviews and auditions, submitting documentation)

## 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.

[VISIT THE WEBSITE TO 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**.

### UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS

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.

### CONDITIONAL OFFERS

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 received, 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 will expire.

If you've received 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 get any other offers.

If you **declined** an offer or the acceptance deadline has passed, you'll need to get in touch with the university's admissions office and ask what your next steps are.

## 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 ask to be considered for late admission.

## Exceptions

OUAC is a common way to apply for most undergraduate courses in Ontario. However, there are some exceptions to keep in mind:

- If you want to apply to a Common Law program, you must use the **OLSAS Application**.
- If you want to apply to a 4-semester consecutive Bachelor of Education program, you must use the **TEAS Application**.
- If you want to apply to an Ontario Medical School, you must use the **OMSAS Application**.

These application processes have separate admission processes and dates, so make sure you are aware of them and get your application in on time.



# ApplyAlberta

ApplyAlberta is 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 sets their own application dates - the above dates are a rough guide. Make sure you check with the institution directly to ensure 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 application fee

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.

# 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 sets their own application dates - the above dates are a rough guide. Make sure you check with the institution directly to ensure 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 application fee

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. During busy times, admission processing can take several weeks.

# 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

<b>September</b>	University applications open for the Fall semester
<b>Early November</b>	Recommended early application deadline
<b>Early December</b>	Recommended document submission deadline
<b>Early January</b>	First admission decisions are released
<b>Mid-January</b>	Deadline for some undergraduate applications
<b>January - May</b>	Offers are sent on a rolling basis
<b>March - July</b>	Final deadline for applications for the Fall semester

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 have 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, accept an offer to a related program, 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 will come 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've received more than one offer, you can accept more than one if you still haven't quite made up your mind. Just remember to **withdraw all but one** before any specific deadlines, or you might end up paying extra tuition 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 and see if you get any other offers.

If you would like to **defer** your offer and start your course at a later date, you'll need to get in touch with the university's admissions office and ask what your next steps are. Not all institutions and courses offer deferral, so you might need to withdraw your application and apply again next year.

# 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 you 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.







## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

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