



National Disability Coordination Officer Program
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

University - Alternative Entry Pathways and Schemes

An **entry pathway** means a process you use to gain a place in a university course.

Some processes are based on winning entry on criteria other than your HSC. Others are designed to help you 'boost' your ATAR score to improve your chances of getting into university. Other

Alternative entry schemes are for applicants not wholly using an HSC or ATAR as the basis for their application for entry into university. The schemes are usually targeted at specific groups to help give applicants a better chance of getting into university. Entry criteria is set by individual universities and there is lots of variation between institutions.

The table below shows you the name used for the various admission processes and gives a brief explanation of each one. See the [UAC](#) website for more information about each scheme and pathway.

Summary of University Entry Pathways

Admission process	Explanation
Australian Tertiary Admission Rank score (ATAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATAR is the main process for HSC students to enter university. ATAR gives a numerical measure to the overall academic performance of an HSC student compared to other HSC students across Australia. University course places are awarded to applicants with the highest ATAR.
Pathway courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most institutions offer pathway options for applicants who don't meet the entry requirements for their degree courses or need further support and preparation before studying at degree level. These are usually non-degree courses such as foundation studies, preparatory courses and Certificate, Diploma or Associate Degree courses.• If you successfully complete a pathway course, an institution may guarantee you entry into a particular degree course. Otherwise, you can use your pathway course studies to apply and compete for admission to other degree courses. You may also be awarded credit for some studies undertaken in your pathway course.• Some institutions offer pathway courses through UAC, which means that you can include them in your list of preferences.• Fees vary - check individual institutions

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Admission process	Explanation
Slipback offers to pathway courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A slipback offer is an offer to a lower-level course instead of the courses you've listed in your preferences. If you're not eligible and competitive enough to receive an offer to the course to which you've applied, you might receive a slipback offer to a pathway course, even if you didn't apply for it. Not all institutions will make slipback offers.
Non-award courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These courses are similar in content and assessment to those offered by the university in its award courses (such as degrees, graduate diplomas, etc.). Satisfactory performance in a set of these non-award universities can be used to apply for entry into university. See individual university websites for more details.
TAFE/Tertiary Preparation Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This TAFE course is specifically designed to teach students skills and content needed to complete a university course. Satisfactory performance in this course can be used to apply for university entry into many courses at most universities. See TAFE NSW website (www.tafensw.edu.au) for more details.
Other courses – Vocational Education and Training (VET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are specific VET courses that can lead you into a related university course. A university may take into account your results from VET courses that are relevant to the university course you are applying for. Some institutions have related colleges that deliver VET courses as a pathway to a university degree. See TAFE NSW website (www.tafensw.edu.au) and individual university websites for more details.
Employment experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some institutions take employment experience into account when considering your application. However, if you are a current Year 12 student, your employment experience will generally not be considered.
Mid-year entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-year entry is worth considering if you need time off after finishing school, you missed out on a place in the main round, you chose the wrong course or need flexible study options. Mid-year intake is not available for all courses, so you should check with each institution to see which programs are eligible. Refer to your local Tertiary Admissions Centre's website or the institution's website for a full list of participating courses.

Summary of University Entry Schemes

Admission process	Explanation
Bonus Points	<p><i>Important note: Each institution sets its own criteria for allocating bonus points. Some require you to achieve a minimum ATAR before you are eligible to receive bonus points. Other institutions will only allocate bonus points if you apply for particular courses or live in a particular area. Check minimum ATAR requirement or course exceptions. More information can be found on the UAC website.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several types of bonus points for Year 12 students seeking entry to tertiary study. Most institutions offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <u>Educational Access Schemes (EAS)</u> – <u>Year 12 subject bonus points</u> – <u>Regional bonus points</u>
Educational Access Schemes (EAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAS programs provide assistance to students who have faced educational disadvantage through year 11 and/or 12. Essentially EAS programs allow entry to students with a lower ATAR than the minimum ATAR score accepted for entry into the course. This aim is to balance the effect of the student's educational disadvantage on their ability to reach the marks needed to get into university. 'Educational disadvantage' means something that has affected your ability to perform to your maximum potential at school. Educational disadvantage can be, for example, having a disability, living in a remote area, money problems within the family or a death or illness in your family. • Institutions use EAS to make offers of admission in one of two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – they allocate <u>bonus points</u> or – set aside a certain number of places for EAS applicants. • If you are allocated bonus points your selection rank for a particular course will change. Your ATAR won't change.
Subject Bonus Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some UAC institutions may allocate bonus points in recognition of your performance in Year 12 subjects that are relevant to the course/s for which you have applied. These are subject bonus points. • Bonus points do not change your ATAR; they change your selection rank for a particular course or institution. As the bonus points schemes for each institution, and often for each course, are different, your selection rank can be different for each course you list in your course preferences.

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Admission process	Explanation
Regional Bonus Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some UAC institutions apply bonus points if you live in a designated region, others apply bonus points if you attend school in a designated region, and some institutions do both. These are regional bonus points and they are awarded automatically – you do not need to apply separately.
Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry using STAT results involves sitting for a written test that assesses your university-related academic skills. The university uses your STAT score to decide whether you meet the entry requirement for the course you have applied for.