

2026

Information for parents





For a young person, the transition from school to university life is a big moment. It's both exciting and a time that brings about a lot of change.

Whether they've just started thinking about university or are getting ready to apply, there are many ways you can provide support to your young person as they navigate this next chapter.

This guide has been designed to help you feel prepared in these conversations. It contains useful information on a range of topics – from choosing the right course to adjusting to university life. You'll also find links to helpful resources and key support services.



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Benefits of a university education are lifelong

Every additional year of education increases the resources a young person has available to them, helping them establish a healthy and secure foundation for their future¹.

Research shows that university graduates have more employment opportunities and earn higher salaries on average throughout their entire working life² – but the benefits of a university education go far beyond the financial.

A university education helps young people develop the confidence to face challenges, think creatively and

respond wisely, expands their view of the world, encourages excellence and enables them to build networks with people who are shaping our future. It's an experience that can hone their strengths, clarify their passion and, ultimately, connect these with opportunities to utilise them.

¹ Balaj, Mirza et al., 2024, *Effects of education on adult mortality: a global systematic review and meta-analysis*, *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 9, Issue 3, e155 – e16. Source: [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(23\)00306-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(23)00306-7/fulltext)

² *Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT)*, *Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023*.



Why Adelaide University?

A new university with a rich history, Adelaide University is purpose-built and future focused – a place for outstanding educators, researchers, thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Built on the proven legacies of the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide, we aim to deliver nation leading curriculum, exceptional student experiences, greater access to education, world-class research excellence and strong industry partnerships.

Whoever you are, wherever you are from, Adelaide University has the world-class disciplines, people and connections to launch you into your future.

Our ambitions



Member of the Group of Eight

Australia's leading research-intensive universities



Top 1% of universities worldwide

To be sustainably ranked in the top 1% of universities globally



Top in Australia for student employment

To be ranked as the best university nationally for student employment outcomes



Top 5 nationally for student experience

To be ranked in Australia's top 5 universities for student experience



Second largest low-SES educator

Second largest educator of low-SES students nationally



In top 5 of regional and rural educators

One of Australia's top 5 educators of regional and rural students

Pathways to Adelaide University

There are many ways your child can gain entry into one of our degrees.



SELECTION RANK

Selection Rank (ATAR plus adjustment factors)

If your child has qualified for the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or holds an equivalent recent year 12 qualification, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB), and has achieved a competitive Selection Rank, they can use this as a pathway into university.

For the majority of our undergraduate degrees, your child must not have completed more than 2 years full-time equivalent university study (48 units) to use their year 12 results.



GUARANTEED ENTRY

Your child's Selection Rank (ATAR plus any applicable adjustment factors) will be used to compete for a place in a university degree.

Some degrees take additional factors into account as well as, or instead of, your child's ATAR - such as auditions, the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT), oral interviews, etc.



STAT

Guaranteed Entry

Allows your child to choose their preferences with confidence.

We offer Guaranteed Entry for most undergraduate degrees. There's no need for your child to complete a separate application. They'll be automatically considered when they list their preferred Adelaide University degree as their highest preference.



HIGHER EDUCATION GPA

ATAR based

Your child will be eligible for an ATAR-based Guaranteed Entry place when they:

- Achieve an ATAR (including adjustment factors) that is equal to or higher than the Guaranteed Entry score
- Meet any admissions criteria for their degree, for example a subject prerequisite.

Subject based

Did your child achieve solid grades in year 12, but didn't get the ATAR they were expecting? They'll be eligible for a Subject based Guaranteed Entry place when they:

- Complete SACE (or equivalent) and have an ATAR of 50 or higher (not including adjustment factors)
- Utilise their best three grades from 20-credit subjects
- Meet any additional admissions criteria such as subject prerequisites.



VET STUDIES

If your child didn't achieve grades for guaranteed entry, they will still be considered on a competitive basis for available places in their preferred degree.



STAT (Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test)

If your child hasn't completed year 12 or any other higher education, they may wish to use the Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) to gain entry to university. The STAT is a two-hour, multiple-choice test designed to assess a range of skills and knowledge needed to study at university.

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) coordinates the STAT. To sit the test, your child will need to be over 18 years old before 1 February in the year that they wish to commence study. If your child has been enrolled at university in the last two years, they must not have completed more than two years (full-time) tertiary study in total. For more information, visit:

stat.acer.org/au

Higher Education GPA (Grade Point Average)

If your child has already completed at least six months (full-time) of a recognised higher education degree at a recognised higher education institution, they can use their Grade Point Average (GPA) to gain entry to Adelaide University.

Internal transfer

Perhaps your child gained entry into a degree that was not their first preference or, after completing a few courses, have changed their mind about what they'd like to study. Your child can use their GPA (or any eligible previous qualifications) to apply for what is called an internal transfer. This is an option available to students who may have already started studying in one degree and, for a range of different reasons, would like to transfer into another degree at the same university. Please note that not all degrees are available via internal transfer. If unsure, you can contact our friendly student advisors for assistance.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Studies (Certificate IV or higher)

Has your child completed a VET qualification at a Certificate IV or higher level? Their completed qualification can gain them entry to many of our degrees.

For students that have studied at either TAFE SA or other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), most Certificate IV courses (including former Advanced Certificates or equivalent) meet the minimum entry requirements for a wide range of our undergraduate degrees. In some instances, a successfully completed Diploma or Advanced Diploma will be required to meet the minimum entry requirements.

Differences between school and university

It's likely that your child has spent the last few years of their education in familiar surroundings, with their tasks assigned and explained by teachers they know well.

They will have received regular feedback on their progress and a sense of belonging to a clearly defined, supportive and structured learning community.

At university, students are treated as adults who are responsible for their own work and time management. Class sizes are larger, and the learning environment is less structured than school.

This increase in responsibility may feel like a big change compared to school. It's normal and expected for your child to take some time to adjust to these aspects of university life.



SCHOOL	VS	UNIVERSITY
Students must leave the school grounds after hours.	/	Students can study on campus 24/7.
Teachers manage assessments and provide prompts and reminders.	/	Assessment information is available from week one. Students are responsible for managing their deadlines and submissions.
Attendance is closely monitored by both home group and subject teachers.	/	Students are responsible for managing their attendance.
Teachers may allow extra time for assignments.	/	Formal extensions are available however they are only given with a significant reason.
Most learning is face-to-face.	/	Learning is flexible, with options to study on campus, online or a combination of both.
Students are known by staff and other students.	/	Students are guided by their Program Director and generally have different lecturers and tutors in each study period, so proactively forming connections is important.
Some students have casual jobs.	/	It is very common for a university student to have a job whether it be casual, part-time or full-time.
Classroom learning is essential to success.	/	Independent learning is a huge part of university study. Students engage in lectures, workshops, practicals, tutorials and placements.
Students attend one location.	/	University students may have classes at different campuses, online and within industry.
School reports are sent to parents/guardians.	/	Results are confidential and are only available through an online student portal. This information is not shared with others without written permission from the student.
Classroom teachers manage most student issues.	/	Students can access a wide range of support services on campus and online.
School hours are routine and regular.	/	Classes are scheduled from early morning to mid-evening. Every student's timetable will look different and vary with each study period.



Workload

At university, each academic year is typically broken into two main study periods (also known as semesters). One semester is usually around 12 or 13 weeks long. Below is a breakdown of the workload expected of students in an average semester.

WEEKS	WORKLOAD
1 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workload starts at an introductory pace and assessments commence. • Usually one assessment per subject.
6 to 7 <i>(includes 2-week teaching break)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workload increases around this time • One assessment per subject. • Assessments increase in both size and value.
8 - 13 <i>(includes swot vac and exams)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workload increases again. • Final assessment or exam, which is generally the largest in size and value.

Study load

Study load refers to the amount of time your child will be expected to dedicate to their studies. If your child is studying full-time, this means they will study four courses per semester. Some students choose to study part-time, allowing them to balance study with other commitments. Please note, there are some degrees which can only be completed full-time.

A full-time study commitment is made up of contact and non-contact time, and the specific time commitment required will vary between courses.

Contact time is the time your child spends in organised teaching sessions, mainly lectures and tutorials, although some courses will also include laboratory practicals, fields trips and clinical/work placements.

Non-contact time is spent studying at home or in the library, completing assignments, preparing for tutorials and revising for tests and exams.



Setting up for success

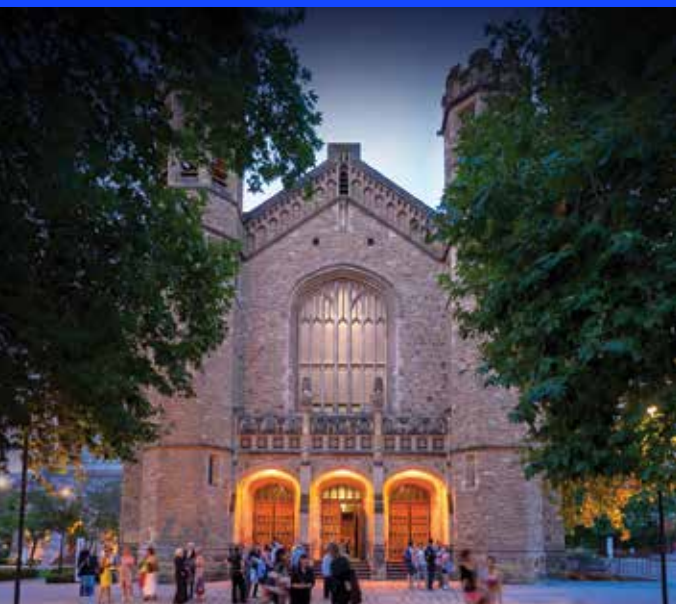
It's important for your child to spend some time exploring the many degrees on offer and to understand what interests them most. Explore our full range of degrees at adelaideuni.edu.au/study

Helpful questions to ask your child

- What about this degree interests you?
- Does this degree lead to your career goals?
- Do you like the subjects in this degree?
- What will your study schedule look like?
- Do you meet the entry requirements?
- What alternate entry pathways are available?
- Is there an upcoming information session or Open Day event we could attend?

If they're still unsure, we encourage high school students to speak with their school's Career Advisor.

Additionally, they could also book a time to chat with one of our friendly future student advisors to ask any specific questions they might have at adelaideuni.edu.au/study/enquire



Helpful tips and resources



How to apply

Applications open in early August for study commencing in the following year. Your child can apply for their chosen degrees through the SATAC website.

Before they apply, it's a good idea for your child to familiarise themselves with the application process. This includes things like key dates and deadlines for applications, as well as SATAC fees and charges and when to pay. For more information, visit the SATAC website: satac.edu.au

For our 100% online degrees applications will open in July. Your child can apply directly to AU online.



Useful links

Find your Adelaide University degree
adelaideuni.edu.au/study

Chat with us
adelaideuni.edu.au/study/enquire

Explore our scholarships
adelaideuni.edu.au/study/scholarships

SATAC
satac.edu.au



University study tips

- Attend classes regularly.
- Develop academic and social networks with other students.
- Proactively research information as needed.
- Dedicate study hours to each subject every week.
- Ask for help if things are confusing.
- Be engaged during tutorials and participate in online forums.
- Complete internships, placements, an overseas exchange or international study tour.
- Read assessment details carefully and submit them on time.
- Learn from feedback provided by markers.
- Be organised and balance extracurricular activities.
- Stay healthy by exercising regularly and getting enough sleep to minimise stress.



Key dates

100% online applications open
July 2025

SATAC applications open
Early August 2025

Early application deadline
30 September 2025

Change of preference deadline
Early January 2026 (check SATAC website)

Main offer round
Early January 2026 (check SATAC website)

Money matters

There is a range of help available to help your child manage the financial costs of studying at university.

Commonwealth supported places

Commonwealth supported places are available in all undergraduate degrees studied at Adelaide University. A Commonwealth supported place is subsidised by the Australian Government. This means a portion of the full cost of your child's studies is paid for by the government. For the remaining portion (the student contribution), your child has the option to either pay this up front or defer payment by requesting a HECS-HELP loan.

HECS-HELP is an Australian Government scheme to help students in a Commonwealth supported place to pay their student contribution.

Australian citizens and holders of Permanent Humanitarian visas are eligible. In utilising a HECS-HELP loan, students require a TFN (Tax File Number). This loan is then managed through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). For more information on HECS-HELP, visit: studyassist.gov.au

Student support payments

Centrelink, on behalf of the Australian Government, provides financial assistance to full-time students (and, to a lesser degree, part-time students) with approved circumstances. Allowances are subject to various criteria. For more information, visit: studyassist.gov.au/support-while-you-study/student-payments

Scholarships

Scholarships and grants are available to both new and continuing students. Scholarships are not only for high achievers – they are also available to provide your child with an equal opportunity to study at university, no matter where you live or what your financial situation might be.

We strongly encourage your child to apply for any scholarships for which they might be eligible, as they can be awarded more than one. More information is available at: adelaideuni.edu.au/study/scholarships

Are you ready to launch your future?

Register for Open Days 2025

Join us on campus to explore the launch pad for your bright future – Adelaide University. With the largest campus footprint in South Australia, we will be hosting open days and experiences at all our metropolitan and regional campuses.

Discover our dynamic spaces and facilities and learn all about our 400+ degrees across 22 diverse study areas. Engage your curiosity and chat with staff, or have some fun around campus with activities and entertainment.

Register here



Study 100% online

We're one of Australia's largest online universities.

Developed in consultation with industry, our 100% online degrees have been specifically designed for online learning. There will be freedom to study where and when it suits them with on-demand access to interactive and media-rich study resources.

From application to graduation, the online study journey will be fully supported. Our student support team is available over extended hours, ready to help with enrolment, discuss study goals, assist in tailoring a personalised study plan or refer to specialised support and career services.

Your child will also have access to a dedicated team of experienced online teaching staff who will support their learning when they need it, even out of hours. Plus, our IT help desk is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so they can get help when they need it.

Studying online doesn't mean studying alone. Your child will have opportunities to virtually connect with their peers and network with and learn from industry leaders and expert academics during their degree.

Unlock your child's potential and change their direction. Study a 100% online degree with Adelaide University.

adelaideuni.edu.au/study/online



Student experience and support

adelaideuni.edu.au/life-at-adelaide/student-life

While a big part of university life involves developing their independence, that doesn't mean your child has to do it all alone. Our student support services are here to help them achieve their goals and get the most out of their study experience.



We're here to support your child on their student journey, from day one. On campus and beyond, they'll have access to dedicated teaching and supporting staff, and a wide range of services.

Aboriginal student services

Culturally safe and dedicated support services including scholarships, study help, peer mentoring and more, are available to Aboriginal students.

Academic support

Whether your child needs general study guidance or more specific assistance, we've got them covered. They'll have access to writing, study skills and maths support, along with peer-led learning and 24/7 support.

Access and inclusion

If your child has a disability, impairment, chronic health condition, or significant caring responsibilities, they can access confidential and personalised advice, adjustments and support to help them reach their study goals.



Accommodation

Helping them find their home away from home. We'll support your child to find and apply for accommodation that's convenient, safe, accessible and right for them.

Career services

Career services help prepare your child for a lifetime of success. Throughout their studies, they can attend networking and industry events, build career planning and management skills, access job opportunities and more.

Counselling

Qualified counsellors are available both on campus and online, to help your child take care of their personal wellbeing. Sessions are free and confidential.

Health clinics

Your child can access health services at reduced student rates at any of our campus health clinics. This includes GP services, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology and more.

Orientation

Orientation programs are the first step towards a fulfilling student experience. Your child can join campus tours, gain an understanding of their degree, meet people they'll be studying with and enjoy fun activities and events. They'll also be able to participate online.

Religious needs

Private prayer rooms are available across all our campuses. Your child can also join a faith-based student group or connect with a range of religious chaplains and pastors on campus.

Sports and fitness

Your child can join a sports team, take a group fitness class, or hit an on campus gym or pool between classes. There's something for everyone to stay fit and feel good.

Student clubs, societies and association

Our student association is the voice and social heart of your child's student experience. With a wide variety of clubs and societies, they'll be sure to find their people and their passion.



Further enquiries

Adelaide University
SA 5005 Australia

Web: adelaideuni.edu.au

Youtube: [youtube.com/
@AdelaideUniAustralia](https://youtube.com/@AdelaideUniAustralia)

    @adelaideuni

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