

Admissions Policy

Institution	Universal Higher Education (UHE)
Policy name	Admissions Policy
Policy Governance	Academic Board

1. Introduction

Student admission is the first step in assuring quality. Rigor in UHE’s Admissions policy ensures students have fair access to higher education. Admission of students from various pathways and backgrounds helps UHE to meet its student diversity and equity targets. This policy helps UHE ensure its graduate attributes on exit are supported by best practice entry standards in the sector.

2. Policy principles

UHE is committed to admission practices that are based on the principles of transparency and equity. Admission to UHE award courses is determined based on merit and assessed probability of academic success.

3. Obligations

UHE administers the admission process in accordance with the *Commonwealth Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA), the *Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS) and the *Migration Act 1958*. Changes may be made to any provisions of these Acts at any time.

4. Application

This policy relates to the admission of domestic and international students to UHE higher education award courses.

5. Roles and responsibilities

The UHE Academic Board specifies the minimum entry requirements for each level of award course.

The Academic Registrar has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that admission of all students meets statutory and regulatory compliance requirements, and that admissions meet all UHE enrolment requirements. The Academic Registrar recommends any Program coordinator of any student's eligibility for admission.

6. Admission application procedure

The admission application procedure differs for international students and domestic students and varies according to the course for which the application is made.

7. Admission criteria

Candidates are considered against the minimum entry requirements for individual courses based on one or more of the following:

- academic merit
- English language proficiency
- ability to satisfy any additional course entry requirements (e.g. portfolio, interview, pre-requisite studies)
- special consideration of educational disadvantage
- recognition of prior learning.

In determining academic merit, UHE may convert the applicant's grades from other studies to a 7-point scale and calculate a grade point average so that a ranked order of merit can be determined.

8. Domestic Admission (Australian Citizens, New Zealand Citizens and Permanent Residents)

Applications are directly made to UHE. Direct applications from domestic students for courses which are listed in the course guide will be considered by the Academic Registrar. Applications must be made by the published due date.

Applicants may be regarded as eligible for admission if they:

- a. have completed the High School Certificate and attained a minimum score of 60 in UAI (Universities Admission Index), or ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank), or equivalent set by the College for a particular course; or

- b. have completed equivalent secondary qualifications either interstate or overseas and attained the required entrance standard; or
- c. have completed other equivalent qualifications and/or vocational experience and attained the required entrance standard set by the College. This may include bridging/preparatory courses, para-professional and other post-secondary qualifications.

9. Alternative Entry Pathways

When determining an applicant's eligibility for admission where alternative entry pathways are appropriate to meeting UHE's Equity and Diversity Policy (summarised in this policy at point 18), UHE recognises factors other than formally recognised educational attainment. Applicants therefore may be admitted based on:

- a. Tertiary preparation courses including foundation and diploma courses undertaken at UIT or other recognised institutions.
- b. Vocational courses undertaken at other recognised institutions.

10. Overseas Student Admission

In addition to prescribed academic requirements, applicants who are not Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents of Australia must:

- a. pay the full cost of their tuition and support, and meet all other expenses associated with their education.
- b. enrol on a full-time basis (unless studying on other than a student visa); and
- c. demonstrate that they have a satisfactory command of the English language. Where English is not the first language or where an applicant has completed studies in a language other than English, it is necessary to demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a prescribed level in an approved English examination meeting the standards listed in 11.1. The approved English Language tests include the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (academic), English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS), the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Pearson Test of English, and the Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English.

All other overseas students apply for admission directly to UHE.

International students who are citizens of the following countries are not required to provide evidence of English language proficiency provided they have at least one assessable

qualification at year 12 level or above from one of the countries listed AND the language in which they undertook the qualification was English:

- Canada (excluding Quebec)
- Cook Islands
- Ireland
- Kenya
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Fiji
- Singapore
- South Africa
- United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland)
- United States of America

Similarly, applicants who have successfully completed two full-time years of study or equivalent at a secondary (years 10-12) or post-secondary educational institution, where the sole language of instruction and assessment was English, do not have to provide a current IELTS (academic) certificate and may not be required to undertake a language test, if they can provide an original or certified statement or certificate of confirmation, issued by that institution. This study must have been completed no more than two years prior to the date of application to the UHE program.

11. English language proficiency

All candidates must meet the minimum English language proficiency requirement specified for each course. Unless otherwise specified, English proficiency may be demonstrated by an applicant through one or more of the following:

- an IELTS (academic) test conducted no more than two years prior to the date of application (**Note:** UHE may determine equivalent scores on other approved English tests which includes the name of the test, the day the student undertook the test and the score of the student received for the test);
- satisfactory completion of secondary schooling in Australia.
- one year of successful full-time (or equivalent) accredited foundation/diploma level studies or higher in Australia.
- successful completion of a recognised English bridging program.
- successful completion of studies equivalent to secondary school or higher outside Australia where the medium of instruction is English and recognised by UHE.

11.1 English language proficiency requirement

IT and Film Courses					
Course level	IELTS (academic)	ELICOS	TOEFL IBT (internet based)	Pearson Test of English (PTE Academic)	Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English
Bachelor	Overall score of 6 (with no sub-score less than 5.5)	Entry Level Pass (EP) in EAP exam	Overall score of 60 (Writing/Speaking of 18+ and Reading/Listening of 12+)	Overall score of 50 (with 42 or more in all communicative scores)	169+

If any IELTS (academic) band is below 6 or comparative band scores in equivalent tests or the IELTS (academic) test was not undertaken by the applicant within the last 12 months, the applicant will need to attend an interview with the relevant Program Coordinator (or delegate, being a senior academic) to confirm that the applicant has sufficient English proficiency to undertake the course and to inform the applicant that they will be required to take an English Language Assessment during orientation and take the English Support program for reading and writing if enrolled.

11.2 Student Placement and English Proficiency Test

Applicants from countries that do not require to provide proof of English Language test scores may be eligible to sit for a Student Placement and English Proficiency Test. The test is designed to check students English Level.

Applicants from countries that does not require to provide proof of English Language test scores may be eligible to sit for a Student Placement and English Proficiency Test. The test is designed to check students English Level. Applicants who achieve Upper- Intermediate scores in grammar (score of 17-19), reading (score of 9-10), writing, speaking, and listening components in the Student Placement and English Proficiency Test may be eligible for direct entry to UHE programs.

Applicants who do not achieve Upper-Intermediate scores in any one of the (grammar, reading, writing, speaking, and listening) in the Student Placement Test will be then directed to complete 10 weeks of EAP/IELTS course or Cambridge FCE – B2 First course at Universal English. Successful completion of EAP/IELTS or Cambridge FCE – B2 First course would be considered as an eligibility for direct entry to UHE programs by providing satisfactory evidence that they have obtained the required level of literacy to complete the UHE programs.

11.3 Pathways to study

Applicants who do not require English Language tests to enter UHE Bachelors programs or do not satisfy minimum English language requirements could be provided with an option to study Upper- Intermediate English for Academic Purposes (EAP)/IELTS or Cambridge FCE – B2 First course at Universal English. Universal English offers EAP/IELTS at three different skill levels (Intermediate to Advanced). Class levels are determined based on UHE English Language Placement Test before the commencement date.

Students who do not meet the English Language Requirements for their program of choice may be eligible to study English and Academic Preparation (EAP) programs at Universal English (UE) to improve their English skills to the required level.

12. Minimum age

UHE has a minimum age requirement for domestic and international students. Prospective students at or above the age of 18 must have completed their secondary studies to year 12 level (or equivalent). UHE will not accept domestic students and international students who would be under the age of 18 at the time that they commence their studies.

13. Equity and Diversity and Educational Disadvantage

UHE's *Equity and Diversity Policy* and Plan includes commitment to increasing participation from domestic students from the following backgrounds:

- Financial disadvantage (such as Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance etc; if the student's parents are in receipt of Family Tax Benefit A, or demonstration how your disadvantaged financial background has affected you)
- Students from rural or remote areas
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)
- Difficult circumstances
- Disability or medical condition
- Non-English-speaking background (NESB)
- First in Family to undertake higher education study

UHE encourages students from these backgrounds to contact the UHE Academic Registrar for further information. Applicants must provide a statement and documentation verifying the nature of disadvantage at the time of application.

Applicants who feel that their educational achievements have been adversely affected by ill-health or other circumstances can specify these circumstances on their application, where such disadvantage was not previously considered by an accredited education provider or certifying institution. Requests for special consideration and any supporting documentation may be considered in the admission decision.

14. Academic Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

UHE is committed to the provision of access through a range of qualification and articulation pathways that reflect the diverse learning experiences of applicants.

Students may be granted academic credit on the following basis:

- Prior post-secondary qualification
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in recognition of skills and knowledge gained through work experience, life experience and/or formal training.

Applications for academic credit are be considered from:

- Prospective or potential students who are seeking entry into a UHE Bachelors course UHE may grant academic credit on the basis of:
 - a. Completed studies at a recognised University, higher education institution, TAFE or registered training organisation in Australia and recognised international institutions; or
 - b. Courses or subjects undertaken within the workplace, professional organisations or other training contexts, where appropriate certification is available; or
 - c. Demonstrable skills and learning gained from work or life experience that is relevant to the course being studied (informal learning).

15. Supporting Documentation for Academic Credit Applications

Where academic credit is being sought on the grounds of successfully completed study at a recognised higher education institution, TAFE or registered training organisation in Australia or a recognised international institution (formal learning), the applicant must provide:

- a. a certified copy of the academic transcript;
- b. subject or course outline from the institution for respective subjects
- c. credit form with the subject code(s) of the subjects(s) credits are applied for
- d. extracts from institutional handbooks or other official documentation giving sufficient details of the studies to allow an assessment of the application. All supporting documentation must be in English, including certified translations where appropriate.

Where academic credit is being sought on the grounds of credentialed or informal learning, UHE requires appropriate evidence that the relevant learning outcomes for the subjects and/or key learning areas have been achieved. The applicant may be required to supply certified copies of statements from employers, present a portfolio, attend an interview or demonstrate their competence through an appropriate form of assessment. The applicant will be asked to map the learning outcomes of the subject with evidence of skills and experience they have gained at workplace. UHE will assess the application based on the evidence presented and may request further information. The method of assessment will be established by the Registrar, in consultation with the relevant Program Coordinator.

You must apply for Academic Credit or RPL at the time of applying for admission. For more information, please refer to the Academic Credit Policy.

16. Offers of admission

Where demand exceeds the number of available places in a course, not all eligible applicants who satisfy the course entry requirements may be offered a place at UHE. Offers of admission to commencing students specify the particular course and, where applicable, attendance mode, attendance type, campus and major for which the offer is made. Students are required to enrol in accordance with the offer of admission. If a commencing student fails to enrol for the teaching period by the date specified in the College's letter of offer, the enrolment lapses and the offer of admission is withdrawn, unless an application to defer commencement of study has been submitted and approved by UHE. For detailed admission process refer to **Annexure 3**

17. Deferment

All applicants admitted to undergraduate award courses may apply to defer commencement of their study. Domestic applicants may defer commencement of their undergraduate study in the offered course for one year and after the first-year request, for up to a further 12 months. International students need to refer to Deferment, Suspension & Cancellation Policy.

18. Transfer of course

All undergraduate students who have gained admission or readmission to an award course at UHE may apply for an internal transfer to another course or a different major subject to the following provisions:

Applicants must satisfy all course entry requirements, including any additional course requirements that apply to the proposed course in operation at the time of their transfer. Internal transfers are subject to availability of a place in the proposed course or major.

19. International students

International applicants must satisfy UHE that they have a genuine intention to stay in Australia temporarily for the purpose of study. International applicants will be assessed against the criteria for genuine temporary entry meeting Australian government student visa regulations and the *Migration Act 1958*.

UHE may offer several courses as a package of studies and include conditions to be satisfied before a student can progress from one course to the next. Students who need to delay the commencement of their second or a later course because they do not satisfy progression conditions should make application to defer their entry.

20. Readmission

Students who wish to re-enter a course after a period of absence and who are not returning from leave of absence or deferment must apply for readmission. Generally, readmission will be considered for the current version of the course and as part of readmission consideration; students may be required to satisfy all course entry requirements, including any additional entry requirements, in operation at the time of their readmission.

The student will not necessarily retain credit for all subjects completed prior to the absence. Credits will be determined taking into account the length of the absence as well as changes to course content, external accreditations and structure during the intervening period. The relevant Program Coordinator may require the student to repeat subjects that have been passed previously or to undertake additional subjects in order to satisfy the current course requirements.

The Academic Registrar shall have final responsibility for authorising readmission.

21. Appeals

Applicants who are dissatisfied with the outcome of their admission application may seek a review. The review must be sought within 20 working days of the date of the notification of the admission outcome.

Appeals will be judged by an *ad hoc* committee chaired by the Chief Academic Officer and composed of at least one academic staff member from the relevant discipline and at least one academic staff member not from the relevant discipline, who shall advise the Academic Registrar of the outcome.

22. Course Information

A course information detail on Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Multinational Film production is given in **Annexure 1 and Annexure 2**.

23. Supporting policies

- For more information on Admission policy, refer Academic Credit Policy
- For Course Information for the Bachelor of Information Technology and Bachelor of Multinational Film Production refer to Course Admission Requirements.
- For more information on students with education disadvantage, refer to student support policy.