



THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS OF QUALIFYING
 You can get in straight from school by completing your SACSE and getting an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) - formerly known as the TERI. Courses have a minimum ATAR to qualify which changes a bit from year to year. ATAR cut-off scores range from the low 50s up so there's a degree that will suit almost everyone.
 You can come to university after studying at TAFE or private education providers and gain credit for study at Certificate 4 or above. You can be admitted through the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).
 • If you are over 18 years old by 1 February of the year you wish to enrol at university (or at least 18 years of age before 1 July if applying for mid-year entry)
 • If you pay a nominal fee to sit the multiple choice aptitude test. Visit SATAC's STAT website for full details: www.satac.edu.au/STAT
 You can complete a preparatory Foundation Studies course at UnISA or Flinders: www.unisa.edu.au/future/foundation or www.flinders.edu.au/foundation or at one of the Adult Colleges, such as Hamilton, Thebarton, or Para West. www.unisa.edu.au/future/foundation/pool.asp

YOU MAY ALSO QUALIFY FOR BONUS POINTS
 The three major universities in South Australia have a system of bonus points to encourage students to come to university. You will be eligible for bonus points if you're on Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY, or on a Health care card, or have attended a school whose students are under-represented at university or which is in a rural and remote location.
 You can also get bonus points for studying some Year 12 subjects that the universities want to encourage. This varies from university to university so check this out carefully through your school or the uni websites.
ALL UNIVERSITIES HAVE A VARIETY OF ADDITIONAL PATHWAYS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU.
PLEASE CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMISSIONS OFFICERS FOR ADVICE

This year thousands of South Australians from many different locations and backgrounds are laying the foundations for secure, fulfilling and well paying careers by studying at university.

79% OF UNI GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF COMPLETING THEIR DEGREES

UNI GRADUATES EARN ON AVERAGE 31% MORE THAN NON-GRADUATES

UNI GRADUATES HAVE HIGH RATES OF WORK SATISFACTION

AND NOW STUDY AT UNI IS MORE POSSIBLE THAN EVER...
 with hundreds of different courses of study, flexible options to help you qualify, entry at the beginning or middle of the year, and a range of financial and other forms of assistance to help make it happen for young people in, or recently in, care.

CHECK IT OUT...

WHAT ABOUT UNI?



JESSICA PARKER

"Nobody from my immediate family had continued onto further study or considered getting a degree at university. I didn't think about going to university until I became older and more mature, when I realised it could be an opportunity for me to achieve and to make a difference in my life.
 In the first few years of high school I would often wag school to escape from the boredom. At the same time I was managing a part-time job and still getting good grades. Getting good grades proved to me and the people around me what I could really achieve. I made sure that I always got my work in on time and if I didn't understand anything at all I'd just keep asking my teachers until I did.
 The majority of my friends left about year 10 and then I became serious about my future. Support from my Aboriginal Education Worker was great and kept me focused on success. I enjoyed art and history and I developed a good work ethic with support from my teachers who strongly encouraged me to go on to further study to start a career.
 I thought I could be of great value in helping my community by going on to further study. My experience in university had given me insight in knowing that I can make the right decisions and choices. Now I feel satisfied that whatever career pathway I embark on will be the right one. There are many ways people can achieve and become the best they can if they believe in themselves."

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

CAN I AFFORD IT?
 University courses cost money BUT the Government has a loan scheme where they cover the cost of your studies until you are earning about \$63,000 a year. You will then have to pay back some of the cost in instalments through your tax. This is called HECS-HELP.
 More details about HECS-HELP are available at the Going to Uni website www.goingtouni.gov.au
 You may also need to pay for books, equipment, field trips (for some courses), internet costs and the cost of transport and living expenses.
 To help with these costs the Federal Government will provide full-time university students on Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY with a 'start-up' grant for studying at university. www.dew.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/YouthAllowance

Each university has a large number of scholarships and grants to help students with the cost of going to university.
 UnISA: www.unisa.edu.au/scholarship
 Adelaide: www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships
 Flinders: www.flinders.edu.au/scholarships
 WYATT also offers scholarships for full-time eligible Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander uni students and those from country areas. www.wyatt.org.au
 The Dame Roma Mitchell Trust Fund provides grants for young people who are or who have been under the guardianship of the Minister to assist with educational expenses. www.dtr.sa.gov.au

IF YOU ARE AT SCHOOL... IF YOU ARE NO LONGER IN SCHOOL...

talk to your counsellor, Year 12 coordinator or Aboriginal Support Worker if you have one. They will help you collect information and make a decision about the kind of course that would most suit you and any grants or scholarships that you can apply for. If you are in Year 11, make sure that your Year 12 subjects are the right ones to get you into the course you want. If you're in Year 10, start planning now with your Personal Learning Plan (PLP) as well as your Individual Education Plan (IEP).
 Applications to all SA universities are made online through the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) and your school should organise this. Applications open in August and are due by 30 September each year but you can go online and change your application as many times as you like until the end of the Change of Preference period. Check the SATAC website for the correct date.

talk to your social worker about your options. If you no longer have a social worker, make an appointment to speak to someone at Post Care Services (freecall 1800 188 118) about your options.
 They may talk to you about returning to school, going to TAFE and then transferring across to uni later or taking the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT). You might choose instead to complete a preparatory Foundation Studies course at UnISA, Flinders, or at an Adult Re-entry College such as Hamilton, Thebarton or Para West.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

WHAT NEXT?



WHERE WILL I STUDY?



DAVID WILKINS

"I can remember doing pretty well in school even back in primary. I always thought that some sort of tertiary study might be in my future even though not many kids from Christies Beach went on after high school then.
 I was lucky in high school because I had two friends who also planned to go to university even though we had few role models outside of school. We did a lot of other activities in school like debating and sport. They gave me a break from the pressure of studying and the chance to meet other people and develop some extra knowledge and social skills that came in handy at university.
 I worked out early on that a lot of success in high school was just due to being organised. I had been with my carers since I was small so my home life was very settled and they were very supportive. That helped me really concentrate on what I needed to do to get the score I needed to get into law. I was ecstatic when I got my offer.
 University was not at all like I expected. There was not the same structure and there was no-one looking over your shoulder and looking out for you. If you wanted help it was there but you had to go looking. But there wasn't the class system that I had really feared. Once you were in it didn't matter much if you were from an eastern-suburban private school or plain old Christies Beach.
 I'd encourage any young person in care to think about university seriously. You don't have to know exactly what you want to do because there is a lot of flexibility to change direction when you are in. The first six weeks will be crazy and maybe the toughest of your life but there is help if you need it and you will meet great new people. Once you settle in you will realise it is the best life more you ever made."

UNI STUDY IS NOW MORE FLEXIBLE THAN EVER
 Most new university students study for a Bachelor degree which is three or four years of full-time study. You can study part-time which will take longer to complete the degree but will allow you to do other things like hold down a job or meet family obligations. You can also study online if distance or access is a problem or you can do a combination as your situation changes.
 And the range of courses has never been wider. There are hundreds of different degrees, offering studies in everything from
ARCHITECTURE TO ZOOLOGY, INCLUDING STUDIES IN ASTRONOMY, BUSINESS, COMPUTING, DESIGN, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, HEALTH SCIENCES, LAW, MARINE BIOLOGY, MEDICINE, MUSIC, PHYSIOTHERAPY, PSYCHOLOGY, SCIENCE, SOCIAL WORK, SPORTS, TEACHING, TOURISM AND VISUAL ART.

ADELAIDE.EDU.AU
FLINDERS.EDU.AU
UNISA.EDU.AU
GOINGTOUNI.GOV.AU

You can check out what each of the universities has to offer in their brochures and on their websites and get answers to your questions by email or phone at these addresses

Adelaide University
 email studentcentre@adelaide.edu.au
 freecall 1800 061 459

Flinders University
 email admissions@flinders.edu.au
 or call 1300 857 871

University of South Australia
 email study@unisa.edu.au
 or call 1300 UNI NOW

For general information check out the Going to Uni website at www.goingtouni.gov.au

Prepared in collaboration with the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People www.gcyp.sa.gov.au

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?