

# 2010/11 YOU AND YOUR FUTURE: CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH TO UNIVERSITY

## THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS OF QUALIFYING

You can get straight into school by completing your ATAR and getting an Admission, Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) (formerly known as the TSEE) score above a minimum ATAR to qualify, which changes a bit from year to year. ATAR cut-off scores range from the low 50s up to 90s for a degree that is 11 or 12 year school courses.

You can enter university after studying at TAFE or private vocational 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 start at university, you can have 14 years of age before a July 1st applying for work visas.

If you just finished school or are completing your final year, you can apply for a variety of additional pathways that may be available to you.

PLEASE CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMISSIONS OFFICERS FOR ADVICE

## 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 are a South Australian resident, or have attended a school where students are eligible for an award of merit or an award of distinction. 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 them out carefully through your school or the uni website.

## ALL UNIVERSITIES HAVE A VARIETY OF ADDITIONAL PATHWAYS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU

PLEASE CONTACT THE UNIVERSITY'S ADMISSIONS OFFICERS FOR ADVICE



**JESSICA PARKER**

"I never knew my immediate family had encouraged me to further study in secondary school. 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 last few years of high school, I would think my 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 that I could really achieve. I made sure that I always got my work done and that I didn't understand anything at all. I just kept asking my teachers until I did.

The majority of my friends left about year 11 and then I became more aware of the future. Support from my Aboriginal Education Worker was great and kept me focused on my studies. I worked at my school 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 has given me the insight to knowing that I can make the right decision on my future. Now I feel confident that whatever career path I choose, I 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 tuition and you are repaying about \$4,000 a year. You will then have to pay back some of the cost of maintenance through your tax. This is called HECS HELP.

More details about HECS HELP are available at the [link to the website](http://www.gps.gov.au).

Parents 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 with a 'work-study' grant for studying at university. [www.universities.gov.au/highereducation/Programs/Study.htm](http://www.universities.gov.au/highereducation/Programs/Study.htm)

Each university has a large number of scholarships and grants to help students with the cost of going to university. UCA's [www.uca.edu.au/scholarship](http://www.uca.edu.au/scholarship) Adelaide [www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarship](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarship) Flinders [www.flinders.edu.au/scholarship](http://www.flinders.edu.au/scholarship)

What else offers scholarship for full-time students? Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students and those from remote areas [www.unisa.edu.au](http://www.unisa.edu.au)

The Open House 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.ohm.gov.au](http://www.ohm.gov.au)

## IF YOU ARE AT SCHOOL...

talk to your counsellor. They'll coordinate 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 suit you and your career or scholarship that you can apply for. If you are in Year 12, make sure that your Year 12 results are the right ones to get you into the course you want. If you are 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 register this. Applications open in August and close by 15 September each year, but you can go online and change your application at any time as you like until the end of the Change of Programme period. Check the SATAC website for the latest info.

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

talk to your school teacher about your options. If you no longer have a school teacher, make an appointment to speak to someone at Post Care Services (PACS). They can help you with your options.

They may talk to you about returning to school, going to TAFE and then transferring across to uni, or taking the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT). This single choice is used to complete a preparatory Foundation course at UCA, Flinders, or at an Adult Secondary College such as Hamilton, Thebarton or Para West.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?



## WHERE WILL I STUDY?

UNI STUDY IS NOW MORE FLEXIBLE THAN EVER

Most now encourage students study for a Bachelor degree which takes three or four years of full-time study. The new study pathways which will take longer to complete the degree but will allow you to reduce things like tuition fees or to meet family obligations. You can also study online or receive a graduate diploma or certificate as a combination of your education 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.**

## WHAT NEXT?

"I can remember doing poetry well in school since back in primary. I always thought that even if I wasn't a writer, maybe I could be an actor or a dancer. I was always into that kind of thing."

I was lucky to be high-achieving because I had two friends who also planned to go to university even though we had four other models, capable of school. We did a lot of other activities in school like dancing and sports. They gave us a boost 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 received one letter on that a lot of success in high school was just due to being organised. I had been with my cousin since I was small in my home life was very settled and they were into computers. They helped me really concentrate on what I needed to do to get the grades I needed to get into uni. I was excited when I got my offer.

University was not at all like I expected. There was no the same atmosphere and there was no one looking over your shoulder and looking out for you. If you needed help it was there but you had to go looking. But there wasn't that class system that I had really heard. Class was more in a different way. It was more from an attitude rather than a school of grade and Christmas break.

I'd encourage any young person to come 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 directions when you are in. The first six weeks will be really hard 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 time more you ever had."



**DAVID WILKINS**

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

You can check out what each of the universities has to offer by clicking on the links below and on the website and on the phone to get information by email or phone or visit website.

- Adelaide University**  
www.adelaide.edu.au  
1300 762 200
- Flinders University**  
www.flinders.edu.au  
1300 937 977
- University of South Australia**  
www.unisa.edu.au  
1300 732 739

For general information check out the Going to Uni website at [www.goingtouni.gov.au](http://www.goingtouni.gov.au)

Prepared in consultation with the Office of the Inspector of Universities and Training People [www.gps.gov.au](http://www.gps.gov.au)

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?