

2026



Southern Cross
University

A guide to uni for parents and caregivers



scu.edu.au

Helping you support the next generation of changemakers

Choosing a university can be a fun but challenging time. Exams, ATARs, entry ranks and course choices – there’s a lot of information to digest. As the parent or caregiver of a future university student, you might be wondering how it all works. We’ve compiled some information about applying to university to make it a bit easier for you – and the future uni student in your life – to navigate your way through.



5-Star Skills Development
in 4 study areas



Top 100 Young Universities

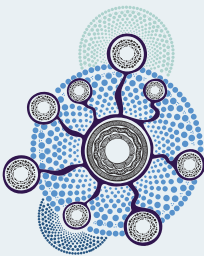


Top 600 universities globally



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Acknowledgement of Country
Southern Cross University acknowledges and pays respect to the ancestors, Elders and descendants of the Lands upon which we meet and study. We are mindful that within and without the buildings, these Lands always were and always will be Aboriginal Land.

Acknowledgement of origins
We acknowledge Widjabal Country as the Country where Southern Cross University originated and grew,

and from where it continues to grow. It seeded the growth of our Gumbaynggirr Campus in Coffs Harbour, our Yugambeh Campus in Coolangatta and it planted the seeds to transform the Countries we are on. Understanding our origins will make each step into the future a more purposeful one, leading all to transform tomorrow.

Artwork by Sheldon Harrington

Applying for university

There are three main ways to apply for university.

1. Southern Cross University's Early Offer program.
2. Through a Tertiary Admission Centre (TAC).
3. Directly to the University.



How Tertiary Admission Centres work

Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) receive and process applications for university courses. The system is state-based with a different TAC for each state.

As we have campuses in two states, your child can either apply through UAC in New South Wales or QTAC in Queensland.

Applicants have the option to indicate preferences for different courses and universities through a TAC.

TACs release offers in rounds during the year. School leavers who are applying to start university the following year will generally find out just before Christmas (after ATARs are released) if they have been successful in their first choice. If they don't receive an offer for their first choice, they may receive an offer for their second or third choices.

The TACs don't make decisions about who gets into a course, rather they collate and advise applicants about their application.

There is a fee involved when applying through a TAC.

The process is simple and can be completed online. If the University requires additional information the TAC will contact the applicant directly. Your child can opt for you to act on their behalf through a TAC.

For NSW school leavers

uac.edu.au

For QLD school leavers

qtac.edu.au

Early Offer

The Early Offer program is a streamlined application process to Southern Cross University for students in their final year of high school.

Designed to make applying for university easy and cost-free, as an Early Offer applicant you will benefit from priority scholarship consideration and personalised support. For more details and to apply

Visit

scu.edu.au/early-offer



How to apply directly to Southern Cross University

Applying directly is simple and can be completed online. Once you have chosen your preferred course, simply click on the Apply button on the course page. This will show a series of choices about where the course is offered and when it starts. Some courses offer two or three start dates a year, these are called 'intakes'.

Documents can be uploaded directly through the application portal, you'll be prompted at each relevant stage for these.

Application is free.

Apply now

Preparing to apply

- 1 Check requirements
- 2 Get supporting documents ready
- 3 Choose where and when from the available options

Click the Apply button to start your application in our Application Portal.

Early offer

If you're a current year 12 student you can register for our Early Offer program. You may be eligible to receive an early offer based on your School Principal's recommendation.

1 Apply now for your early offer

Choose where you want to study

Study Online

Term 1 March 2025 **Apply**

Term 3 July 2025 **Apply**

Applying to Southern Cross University

Before you begin, read the checklist below.

Check the entry requirements on the course page.

If the following documents apply to you, have it ready before you begin:

- Proof of a name change
- Visa information
- Proof of English language proficiency (if English isn't your first language) or Southern Cross University's English Language Requirements

During the application process we may also ask you for the following:

- A certified academic transcript (from any previous or current university studies). **More about verification**
- Your degree or CV

All documents you upload to the portal should be less than 10MB in size.

If your documents are not in English, they must be submitted with an authorised English translation.

You will receive a confirmation and password after you complete the first step. You can then use these details to login and return to your application at any time.

Start a new application

Applying is free and takes between 10-20 minutes.

Start your application

Resume an application

Continue your application if you have already registered and a current student or staff member.

Look your way to details! **Read More**

Resume your Application

Applying from overseas?

Have the list of countries that require the help of an Education Agent to apply. Or contact with our team for help.

Contact our Team

International Student Support

Need help with your application or not sure if you have what you need to apply? Our friendly team is here to help.

We will review your application and provide advice on the first step. You can then use these details to login and return to your application at any time.

Contact

Domestic: 0800 456 456
International: +61 7 5522 0200

Higher Degrees by Research

Consult the Graduate School for information about research supervision and application requirements.

Visit the Graduate School

Search for a Supervisor

Pre-requisites and inherent requirements

Many courses at Southern Cross have a practical component, especially health, education and veterinary science degrees that require you to complete practical experience in clinical or educational environments. These degrees may require you to be vaccinated or complete a police check before working with children.

Some courses have what are called 'inherent requirements'. These are characteristics that enable you to successfully complete a course, for example gross motor skills in a nursing degree.



Scan for details



How do ATARs and ranking work?

A student's ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admission Rank – is based on a combination of assessments during Year 12 and exam results at the end of Year 12. This varies from state to state. For example, in New South Wales the ATAR uses a scaled aggregate of a student's best two units of English and the best eight units from the remaining units. In Queensland, the ATAR is calculated based on an aggregate of the best five ATAR-eligible inputs.

Calculating an ATAR uses a complicated scaling algorithm to measure students against one another in any given cohort. Universities use the ATAR as a measure of academic performance in school leavers to make offers and determine cut-offs for a course. These change from year-to-year.

What if my child's ATAR is not enough?

Going straight from school to a degree is one way to start uni, but it's not the only way. If your child doesn't achieve the required ATAR to get into their course, the University may recommend they complete a pathway program first.

Southern Cross University has two excellent pathway programs suitable for school leavers. Both are fee-free and develop the academic skills and literacy that students will need at university to be successful. Undertaking a Diploma through SCU College is also an excellent way to commence university.

Transition to Uni

Six-week intensive program for school leavers starting in January. Successful completion of this program enables entry to a Southern Cross Bachelor degree*.

Preparing for Success Program

Three-month course offered on all campuses or online. Can be completed full-time in three months or part-time over one year. Successful completion of this program enables entry to a Southern Cross Bachelor degree*.

Please note some degrees have additional admission requirements, such as an interview.

Diplomas

Diplomas do not require a high ATAR (45) and take one year to complete full-time. Successful completion of a Diploma enables entry with credit towards a linked Bachelor degree.

Students of SCU College pathway programs get extra support to develop their academic skills.

*Please note some courses have additional entry requirements. See the web page for details.

Pathways to University

Secondary School

Scholars Program

Study a university unit while you're still at school.

Unistart for Schools

University preparation course delivered at school.

Early Offer

Streamlined application process to university for Year 12 students

ATAR

Direct entry to course based on ATAR.

Transition to Uni

Fee-free intensive pathway course for recent school leavers

Non-school leaver or TAFE/VET

Preparing for Success Program

Fee-free academic preparation course offered on campus and online

Previous Study or experience

Testing and Assessment Program

Alternative entry scheme for Indigenous Australians

Southern Cross University Diplomas and Degrees

Visit

scu.edu.au/pathways



More ways to a Bachelor degree



Diploma
1 year full-time study or equivalent



Bachelor
with up to 8 units of credit



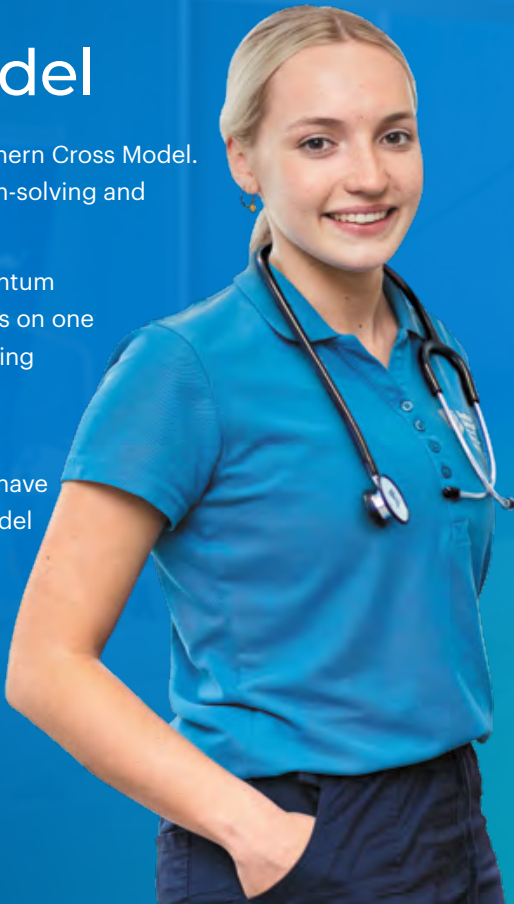
Diploma of Business	> Bachelor of Business
Diploma of Conveyancing (Law and Practice)	> Associate Degree of Law (Paralegal Studies), Bachelor of Legal and Justice Studies
Diploma of Education	> Bachelor of Early Childhood Education; Bachelor of Education; Bachelor of Education (Secondary), Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Education (Primary), Bachelor of Arts
Diploma of Engineering	> Associate Degree of Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Diploma of Health (multiple specialisations)	> Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology, Bachelor of Clinical Sciences (Osteopathic Studies), Bachelor of Community Welfare, Bachelor of Health Science (Health and Lifestyle), Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Psychological Science, Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science, Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, Bachelor of Exercise Science and Psychological Science, Bachelor of Counselling.
Diploma of Information Technology	> Bachelor of Information Technology
Diploma of Legal Studies	> Associate Degree of Law (Paralegal Studies), Bachelor of Legal and Justice Studies
Diploma of Science	> Bachelor of Science
Diploma of Hotel Management	> Bachelor of Business in Hotel Management

The Southern Cross Model

All courses at Southern Cross University are delivered in the Southern Cross Model. This is a unique academic model focused on interactivity, problem-solving and real-world applications.

A six-week unit structure gives students a greater sense of momentum and motivation as they achieve milestones quickly. Students focus on one or two units per term for an immersive study experience, developing understanding and skills through curated content, workshops and tutorials.

Since the Southern Cross Model was implemented, our students have achieved higher grades than ever before. The Southern Cross Model is a better, and more enjoyable way to learn.



Visit

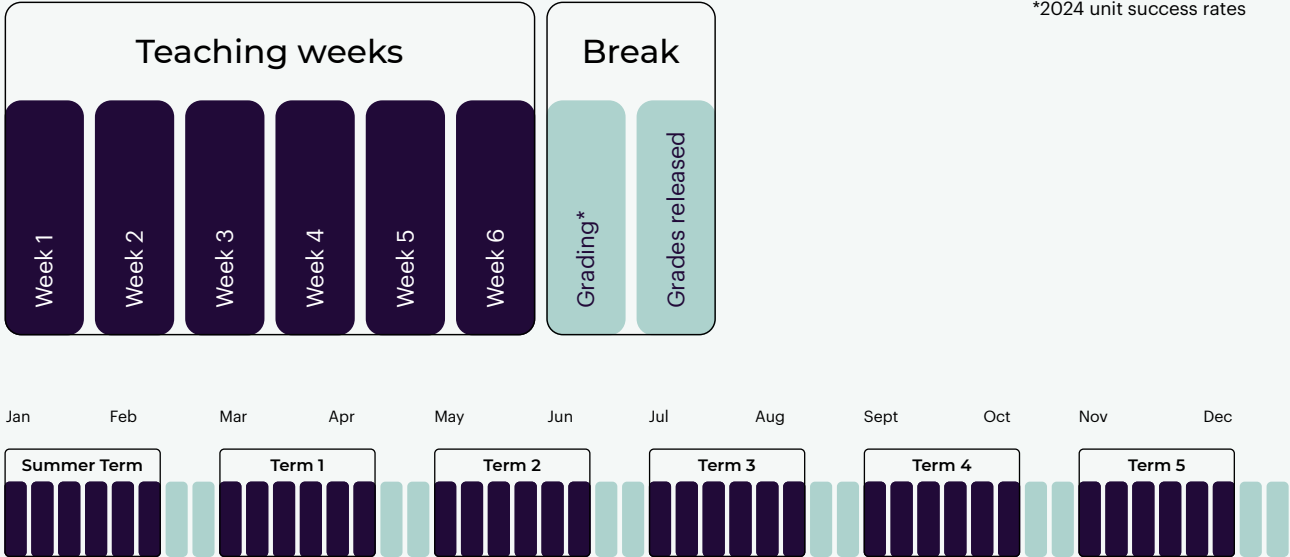
scu.edu.au/southern-cross-model

Six-week terms – a better way to learn

Students can enrol in a maximum of 2 units per term
The standard full-time study load is 8 units over 4 terms per year
Students submit a maximum of 3 assessments per unit



*2024 unit success rates



Student support services



Careers and employability service



Student equity and inclusion



Mentor programs



Counselling services



Student advocacy



Indigenous student support



Academic skills support



Wifi and tech services

Meet your academic personal trainer

Starting university is super exciting but it can be a little daunting too. That’s why, as a new undergraduate student, you’ll be assigned a First Year Adviser. Your adviser is your go-to person for the first eight units of your course, which is your first year if you are studying full-time.

Think of your First Year Adviser as a kind of academic personal trainer. They can connect you with support services at the University, help you navigate University systems and provide you with guidance and extra support should you need it in your studies, or in other aspects of student life.

They are specialists in your discipline and are there to help you succeed.



Employability

Our students are set up to succeed. With careers and employability services, alumni mentor programs and internships facilitated through our expansive industry networks, you can hit the ground running upon graduation.

In fact, more than 90 percent of our graduates find employment within four months of graduating, and they earn more than the national median graduate salary (Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023).

Scholarships

At Southern Cross University, we believe in fostering the next generation of brilliant minds and bold leaders to reach their full potential.

Scholarships can change your university experience. They offer additional financial support to make studying more accessible but, even more than that, scholarships are an endorsement. A scholarship has been funded either by the University or a private donor because they believe in your potential to succeed.

Applying is easy – one simple form is all it takes.

Scholarships cover many different student cohorts



Academic merit and high achievers



Sporting or athletic excellence



Community service or leadership



Indigenous students



Regional or remote students



Gender and diversity



Discipline-specific

Scholarships range from \$600 to \$50,000

380 scholarships on offer

“My family was incredibly proud and supportive, reminding me to appreciate this milestone and celebrate the effort it represents.”

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Business student Jack Reynolds relocated from Sydney to study at the Gold Coast campus. Jack received a prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s High Achiever Scholarship in 2025 thanks to his impressive ATAR results.



More details and how to apply

scu.edu.au/scholarships



For equity scholarships visit

scu.edu.au/equity



Featured scholarships

There are hundreds of scholarships on offer at the University. For the full range of scholarships and eligibility information, please see scu.edu.au/scholarships.

\$50,000

Vice-Chancellor Scholarships

Commencing enrolled students with an ATAR of 95 and above are eligible to apply for a \$50,000 scholarship. This award recognises ongoing high academic achievement.

Vice-Chancellor Regional Leadership Scholarships

For students from one of the local schools near our Gold Coast, Northern Rivers or Coffs Harbour campuses with an ATAR of 90 and above, there are \$50,000 scholarships available.

\$36,000

Southern Cross University Merit Scholarships

For students from one of the local schools near our Gold Coast, Northern Rivers or Coffs Harbour campuses with an ATAR of 80 and above, there are \$36,000 scholarships available.

Resilience Merit Scholarships

For high achieving students overcoming financial or educational barriers, there are \$36,000 scholarships available.

\$24,000

Vice-Chancellor’s Indigenous Excellence Scholarships

For high-achieving Indigenous Australian students there are \$24,000 scholarships available.

Diploma Pathway Scholarships

For students commencing a diploma at Southern Cross University with intention to continue into a degree, a \$2,500 scholarship is available.

\$2,500

“I’m proud of my achievements and extremely grateful to receive this scholarship. It’s really encouraging to see the University support me and other women along our educational journey.”

Georgie Collis, 2024 International Women’s Day scholarship recipient who ran the New York Marathon to raise money for diabetes research while studying and working part-time.



More details and how to apply

scu.edu.au/scholarships

Tuition Fees

Commonwealth-Supported Places

Tuition fees for most undergraduate degrees are subsidised by the Government. This is called a Commonwealth-Supported Place (CSP). A student pays part of the tuition and the Government pays the rest. Tuition fees are calculated per unit, not per course, and the fee structure for units is determined by the federal government. Eligible students can defer the payment of their part of the fees through the HECS-HELP scheme. This is a loan that a student repays only when their income reaches the repayment threshold. It’s paid back a little at a time through the tax system.

For details visit

scu.edu.au/fees/sca

Student Services and Amenities Fee

Also known as SSAF, the Student Services and Amenities Fee is a compulsory fee used to provide important services and amenities to students both on and off campus. It’s charged per unit, based on the unit’s credit point value. The maximum SSAF amount in 2025 is \$365. Eligible students have the option of deferring this fee through the SA-HELP loan scheme.

For details visit

scu.edu.au/fees/ssaf

Full Fee-Paying Place

A fee-paying student includes any domestic student who is paying the full (unsubsidised) tuition fee for a unit of study. Eligible students can defer the payment of their tuition fees through the FEE-HELP scheme.

For details visit

studyassist.gov.au

Other study costs

Your costs could also include computer equipment and software, books, stationery, field trips, uniforms or other course-specific expenses such as travel for practicums, vaccinations, internships or industry experience.

Important:

All students will require a Unique Student Identifier (USI) number and those accessing a HELP Loan will also require a Tax File Number (TFN). Visit usi.gov.au/students for information on locating or applying for a USI and ato.gov.au to apply for a TFN. Note this can take up to 28 days – don’t leave it until the last minute!

2026 Undergraduate course list

Course	ATAR	Location	Duration	Starts
Business				
Bachelor of Business	70	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July, Oct
Bachelor of Business (Accounting)	70	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July, Oct
Diploma of Business	45	GC, O	1FT/2PT	March, July, Oct
Double degrees in Business				
Bachelor of Information Technology, Bachelor of Business	70	GC, O	4FT/8PT	March
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Business	70	GC, O	5FT/10PT	March
Bachelor of Psychological Science, Bachelor of Business	70	GC, O	4FT/8PT	March
Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Business	80	GC, O	4FT/8PT	March, July, Oct
Education				
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education	60	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Primary)	70	GC, NR, CH, O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Primary/Early Childhood)	70	GC, NR, CH, O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Primary/Secondary)	70	GC, NR, CH, O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Secondary)	70	GC, NR, CH, O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Technology Secondary)	70	O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Diploma of Education	45	GC, NR, O	1FT/2PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Primary), Bachelor of Arts	70	O	4.5FT/9PT	March, July
Bachelor of Education (Secondary), Bachelor of Arts	70	O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Engineering				
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Civil Engineering)	70	GC, NR, O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Mechanical Engineering)	70	GC, NR, O	4FT/8PT	March, July
Associate Degree of Engineering	55	O	2FT/4PT	March, July
Diploma of Engineering	45	GC, NR, O	1FT/2PT	March, July
Health				
Bachelor of Biomedical Science	70	GC	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology	70	GC, NR, CH	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Clinical Sciences (Osteopathic Studies)	65	GC	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Counselling	65	GC, NR, CH, O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Exercise Science and Psychological Science	70	GC, NR, CH	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Health Science (Health and Lifestyle)	65	GC, NR	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science	65	GC	4FT/8PT	March, July
Bachelor of Midwifery	80	GC, CH	3FT/6PT	March
Bachelor of Nursing	70	GC, NR, CH	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Nursing (for Enrolled Nurses)	n/a	GC, NR, CH	2FT/4PT	March, July
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy	70	GC, CH	4FT/8PT	March, Oct
Bachelor of Physiotherapy	85	GC, CH	4FT/8PT	March
Bachelor of Psychological Science	70	GC, CH, O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Speech Pathology	70	GC, CH	4FT/8PT	March, Oct
Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science	65	GC, NR, CH	3FT/6PT	March, July
Diploma of Health	45	GC, NR, CH, O	1FT/2PT	March, July

GC - Gold Coast, NR - Northern Rivers, CH - Coffs Harbour, NMSC - National Marine Science Centre Coffs Harbour, O - Online
**Subject to granting of reasonable assurance by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council.

Course	ATAR	Location	Duration	Starts
Hotel Management				
Bachelor of Business in Hotel Management	n/a	The Hotel School Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane	3FT/6PT	March, July, Oct
Associate Degree of International Hotel and Tourism Management	n/a	The Hotel School Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane	2FT/4PT	March, July, Oct
Diploma of Hotel Management	45	The Hotel School Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane	1FT/2PT	March, July, Oct

Indigenous Knowledge				
Bachelor of Indigenous Knowledge	60	O	3FT/6PT	March, July

Information Technology				
Bachelor of Information Technology	70	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Diploma of Information Technology	45	GC, O	1FT/2PT	March

Law				
Bachelor of Laws	80	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July, Oct
Bachelor of Legal and Justice Studies	60	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July, Oct
Associate Degree in Law (Paralegal Studies)	55	GC, O	2FT/4PT	March, July, Oct
Diploma of Conveyancing (Law and Practice)	45	GC, O	1FT/2PT	March, July, Oct
Diploma of Legal Studies	45	GC, O	1FT/2PT	March, July

Double degrees in Law				
Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws	80	GC, O	4FT/8PT	March, July, Oct
Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Business	80	GC, O	4FT/8PT	March, July, Oct
Bachelor of Psychological Science, Bachelor of Laws	80	GC, O	5FT/10PT	March, July, Oct

Science and Environment				
Bachelor of Science (Environment or Marine)	65	NR (Environment), NMSC (Marine), O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Science (Agriculture)	65	NR, O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Diploma of Science	45	NR, O	1FT/2PT	March

Social Work and Community Welfare				
Bachelor of Community Welfare	60	GC, O	3FT/6PT	March, July
Bachelor of Social Work	60	GC, O	4FT/8PT	March, July

Veterinary Medicine and Technology				
Bachelor of Veterinary Technology	65	NR	3FT/6PT	March
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine with Honours**	85	NR	5FT/10PT	March

Pathway programs				
Preparing for Success	n/a	GC, NR, CH, O	3moFT	March, July, Oct
Transition to Uni	n/a	O	6weeksFT	Jan

Please note ATAR ranks are based on 2024 intake and are indicative only. Published by Southern Cross University May 2025. The information in this brochure was accurate at the time it was published and is to be used as a guide only. Southern Cross University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course offerings and other information published in the brochure at any stage. To the extent permitted at law, the University excludes all liability (including all losses, damages, costs and expenses of whatever nature) arising from the use of, or reliance on, any of the information contained in this brochure. Information in this brochure refers to Australian domestic students only. International students should refer to the University website: scu.edu.au/international

Register for Open Day 2025



Coffs Harbour Sunday, 10 August 2025
Northern Rivers Sunday, 17 August 2025
Gold Coast Sunday, 24 August 2025

Got questions? Let us help you find the answers.

Whether you have questions about university courses, future careers, entry requirements, how to apply or how to get started, contact us and the relevant person will help you find the answers you need.



scu.edu.au
1800 626 481 | futurestudent@scu.edu.au
scu.edu.au/futurestudents

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