



# SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

## ADMISSION INFORMATION SET - UNIVERSITY

### About Southern Cross University

[Southern Cross University](#) is a multi-campus university based on Australia's east coast. We are proud of our reputation as a progressive institution, engaging with the communities we serve to create change that has an impact around the world.

Our campuses are located in southeast Queensland adjacent to the Gold Coast Airport, in New South Wales at Lismore and in Coffs Harbour, where the University's National Marine Science Centre is also located. Branch campuses in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth including campuses of [The Hotel School](#) operate in partnership with [Southern Cross University Ventures](#). We also deliver degrees offshore in China, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

Southern Cross delivers degrees on campus and online, with a rich academic portfolio covering a wide range of disciplines. The regions we call home all have unique characteristics as study locations – from cosmopolitan cities, thriving industries and coastal lifestyles to living laboratories of great natural beauty and ecological diversity, right next to the campus. Our locations have a profound influence on our teaching, research and academic programs, from business providing opportunities to examine circular economies and business innovation, science degree offering specialisation including marine science that is helping to regenerate the reef, engineering to make our urban environments smarter and more sustainable, and Indigenous Knowledges that generate greater understanding of indigenous world views. We celebrate our cultural diversity because it is the diversity that makes us bold, pushes us to challenge the status quo, and allows us to transform tomorrow.

At Southern Cross University, we have transformed the way study is delivered. The [Southern Cross Model](#) delivers a deeper, immersive learning experience for students centred on greater interactivity and connection with real-world applications. The shorter, more focused six-week unit structure gives students a greater sense of momentum and motivation.

The University is home to a number of world leading [research centres](#), all with deep connections to the communities they serve and a commitment to research output that has global relevance, be it marine ecology, organic agriculture, plant and geoscience, adolescent development or flood mitigation.

Our [rankings](#) are impressive for a university classified as a young higher education institution. In the latest [Excellence in Research for Australia](#) report, Southern Cross achieved outstanding ratings of 'at world standard' or above in 23 research fields. In 14 research fields, the University was evaluated at the highest possible classification of 'well above world standard'. This was achieved in the fields of Earth Sciences, Geochemistry, Oceanography, Environmental Science and Management, Ecology, Zoology, Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, Crop and Pasture Production, Fisheries Sciences, Forestry Sciences, Civil Engineering, Resources Engineering and Extractive Metallurgy, Nursing, and Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Southern Cross has been ranked in the world's top 100 universities under the age of 50 by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. It's an accolade we don't take lightly - we are constantly reviewing our degrees and pathway programs to make sure you are equipped with the skills and knowledge you need to forge your twenty-first-century career.

## CAMPUS LOCATIONS

[Our campuses](#) reach nationally and globally. Our main campuses are located at the Gold Coast, Coffs Harbour and Lismore in the Northern Rivers, with [metro branch campuses](#) including [The Hotel School](#) in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane and partnerships in China, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. Our online postgraduate campus is located at your fingertips and spans the world. Each campus – physical or online – has state of the art facilities, and support services to make the best of your university life. All locations are shown on the [University website](#).

<b>Gold Coast</b> Southern Cross Drive Bilinga QLD 4225	<b>Northern Rivers</b> Military Road East Lismore NSW 2480
<b>Coffs Harbour</b> Hogbin Drive Coffs Harbour NSW 2450	<b>Sydney</b> 60 Phillip Street Sydney NSW 2000
<b>Melbourne</b> L3, 399 Lonsdale St Melbourne VIC 3000	<b>Perth</b> 297 Hay Street East Perth WA 6004
<b>Brisbane</b> L13, 127 Creek St Brisbane QLD 4000	<b>SCU Online</b> Ph: 1300 863 819 <a href="#">SCU Online</a>

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Open Days

Open Days are scheduled throughout the year. Visit the SCU [Open day](#) webpage to see dates or access previous panel session recordings.

### Applications

SCU applications are open across each of the six study periods though some courses have intakes only in certain study periods. See the [Key dates](#) page for information about application opening and closing dates for each period.

### Domestic undergraduate students

Applications to study on campus and some distance education degrees can be made directly via the [SCU How to Apply website](#) or made online through the [University Admissions Centre \(UAC\)](#), or the [Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre \(QTAC\)](#). You can apply for a number of courses - we recommend you include a pathway course in your list of preferences in case we are unable to make you an offer for your first choice of degree. Check the [UAC](#) and [QTAC](#), websites to confirm the dates for timely application and late application cut-off dates.

### Change of preference

If you apply via UAC or QTAC, you can update your preferences in accordance with their timelines. [Chat with us online](#) or call us on 1800 626 481 for advice on your preferences and to find out more about our change of preference option is.

### Early Offers

The [Early Offer](#) program allows approved Year 12 students to secure a place in a Southern Cross University degree before their Year 12 results are even released. It's designed to remove some of the pressure from Year 12 and give school leavers a pathway directly into university study that is not based solely on your Year 12 results. The school principal of the school attended by the applicant is contacted for a recommendation, and if approved, the University provides the student with a letter of offer to study to their chosen degree or an alternative entry pathway. Check our webpage for application details.

### Postgraduate applications

Postgraduate applications are made directly via the [SCU website](#). Closing dates for postgraduate coursework and research programs vary, so check our [courses database](#) to find out when you can apply.

### Online study applications

Most applications for online postgraduate study are submitted online directly via [SCUOnline](#).

### International student applications

Discover a path where your personal success and the ability to contribute positively to the world, are aligned ambitions. Whatever your passion, there is a course to suit you and a study mode to suit your lifestyle. For details on courses and how [to apply page](#).

### Accepting and deferring

You should accept or defer as soon as possible after receiving your offer to guarantee your place. Find out more about [accepting your offer](#) or [deferring your offer](#).

### Key Teaching Dates

Southern Cross generally teaches in 6 terms of 6 weeks. Some units are offered in dual-terms or tri-terms.

Key teaching dates can be found on the [Key teaching dates](#) webpage.



## 1. Admission criteria

Southern Cross University has a variety of admissions pathways for future students to accommodate diverse backgrounds and experience. A broad description on each admissions pathway is described below. To find out more about the course admissions requirements have a look at each course pages. You can look up specific courses on the [course database](#).

You can apply to Southern Cross University in a variety of ways, including online application via the [SCU How to Apply website](#), or if you're currently completing your HSC or the International Baccalaureate, you can also apply for selected courses through the Universities Admissions Centre ([UAC](#)) or the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre ([QTAC](#)).

For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact the [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#). Admission Principles are provided in [Rules Relating to Awards - Rule 2 - Coursework Awards - General Provisions](#).

### A. Recent school leavers (applicants with recent secondary education (within the past two years))

#### ATAR or equivalent entry

If you have completed Australian Year 12 Secondary studies within the past two years you may be selected for entry to undergraduate degree courses on the basis of your Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) or equivalent (e.g. Overall Position – OP). [Indicative requirements](#) for 2025 offers to SCU courses are [available](#) or in the [course database](#). These scores may not apply for students who receive an offer through the Early Offer program or enter through a [pathway](#) program.

#### Other admission options

##### *Early Offer*

The [Early Offer](#) program allows Year 12 students to secure a place in a Southern Cross University degree before their Year 12 results are released. It's designed to remove some of the pressure from the final year of high school and provide a pathway directly into university study that is not based solely on Year 12 results.

##### *Interstate Year 12*

High school scores achieved through Year 12 studies undertaken in other states, or the International Baccalaureate, are assessed based on equivalent academic performance to the ATAR (NSW)/OP (QLD) admission scores.

##### *Overseas Year 12*

You may be able to be admitted based on secondary studies completed overseas as long as it is comparable to an Australian Year 12 qualification, and your academic results meet the minimum requirements for the course you applied for.

##### *Enabling programs and entry pathways*

SCU has a number of support and direct entry [pathways](#) into undergraduate study for students who do not meet the formal course admission requirements. These include [Transition to Uni](#), [Unistart](#), [Preparing for Success Program](#), and Diplomas that can lead to an offer into your preferred undergraduate course with advanced standing for some of the units you have already completed.

### Pre-requisites and additional admission requirements

For some courses, you need to have completed certain subjects or qualifications in your secondary studies for admission to a course, and some courses require interviews, portfolios and/or other tests for admission. You can review the pre-requisite, assumed knowledge and any additional admission requirements for your preferred course, including the level of English language proficiency required, by searching the [course database](#).

### B. Applicants with higher education study

SCU also recognises equivalent study at other higher education providers for entry into an undergraduate course, and may also grant credit for some of your previous study.

If you have undertaken any previous tertiary studies you may be considered for admission on the basis of successful study to undergraduate degree courses. You will need to provide a record of your achievement with your application for assessment.

You also might be eligible to apply for credit for your previous studies. See the [Recognition of Prior Learning](#) webpage for more details.

Applicants who are currently under exclusion from SCU or another institution that are not usually eligible for admission.

For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact the [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#)

### C. Applicants with vocational education and training (VET) study

If you have successfully completed vocational education and training (VET) studies you may be considered for admission on the basis of these studies for entry to undergraduate degree courses. However, this will depend on the level and type of qualification completed.

You also might be eligible to apply for credit for your previous studies. See the [Recognition of Prior Learning](#) webpage for more details.

For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact the [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#)

### D. Applicants with work and life experience

If you have left secondary education more than 2 years ago, and have not undertaken any tertiary or VET studies you may be considered for admission for entry to undergraduate degree courses on the basis of work and life experiences. You might also be eligible to apply for credit for your previous work and life experience. See the [Recognition of Prior Learning](#) webpage for more details.

The range of options include:

- i. Alternative Entry through Successful completion of a tertiary preparation course:
- ii. Successful Completion of the multiple-choice Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT).
- iii. Work or field experience of at least one year full-time, or equivalent in an appropriate field.
- iv. Submission of a Personal Competencies Statement addressing specific selection criteria.

For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact the [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#)

## E. Postgraduate applicants

### Coursework

SCU delivers a broad range of industry relevant postgraduate courses in the 6x6 model to fit into the busy lives of postgraduate students. These include both on-campus courses and a suite of online courses, delivered via [SCU Online](#).

You apply for postgraduate courses directly to [SCU](#) or to [SCU Online](#).

You will need to provide evidence in your application that you meet the entry requirements for the course you wish to study. If you do not meet the admission criteria for your course, contact the [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#) who can discuss pathways into courses through a number of graduate certificate courses or an undergraduate qualification.

Your application will be assessed and you will be contacted to advise if your offer was successful.

### Higher degree research

Higher degree research applicants can choose to undertake a Masters by Thesis, a Doctor of Philosophy or a professional doctorate. For information on finding a supervisor and applying to undertake a research degree, visit [Higher Degree Research](#).

## F. Additional information

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Southern Cross University is committed to Indigenous education and offers support for all of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through Gnibi College of Indigenous Australian Peoples and Indigenous Australian Student Services ([IASS](#)). Applicants may be considered for admission to undergraduate degree courses on the basis of individual assessment programs approved by the University. For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact the [Future Students Team](#).

### Domestic applicants with overseas qualifications

An applicant with overseas qualifications may be considered for admission provided the University accepts the applicant's qualifications as being comparable to an Australian qualification which meets the entry requirements for the particular award course or program. Qualifications are assessed using resources including the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR), UK NARIC, University Admissions Centre Assessment of Qualifications Manual and the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre Schedule to establish the Australian comparability of an applicant's overseas qualifications. For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact [the Future Students Team](#).

### English language proficiency

Unless otherwise stipulated in Specific Award Rules, any applicant must satisfy the University's minimum requirement for [English Language Proficiency Policy](#). Southern Cross University recognises a number of [English language tests](#) as proof of English language proficiency. English language requirements for each course can be found in the [course database](#). For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#)

### International applicants

SCU welcomes international students who enrich the cultural diversity and fabric of our campuses into our enabling, undergraduate and postgraduate courses. International students must meet the entry requirements, including providing evidence of the required English proficiency for entry, but may also access pathways including the diploma programs for entry into a course. Visit the [How to apply International future students](#) for more information.

## G. How to apply

### Application via an Admissions Centre

If you are an Australian citizen, permanent resident or New Zealand citizen currently studying your HSC or the International Baccalaureate (IB), you can apply for selected courses through the [Universities Admissions Centre \(UAC\)](#) or the [Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre \(QTAC\)](#). Your application will then be processed by UAC or QTAC. If you apply through these Admissions Centres visit the [UAC](#) or [QTAC](#) website for application guidelines and key dates and nominate the courses you would like to study.

### Application direct to SCU

You can apply directly to [SCU](#) for undergraduate, postgraduate and pathway programs whether you are a domestic or international applicant. There is no application fee to apply directly to Southern Cross University. Provided you have submitted all relevant information, the assessment generally takes up to two (2) weeks to process.

Following submission of your application, you will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of application via email and further email correspondence which will include the unique student number allocated to you and next steps. Once your application has been assessed, you will be notified of the outcome by email.

## H. Offer to a Course and Enrolment

### Accepting or deferring your offer

The University will assess applications and decide about entry to a course. A full offer will be made where course admission requirements are met. If you do not meet all requirements, you may receive a Conditional offer or an offer into an alternative course; or No offer.

You should accept or defer as soon as possible after receiving your offer to guarantee your place. Find out more about [accepting your offer](#) or [deferring your offer](#) on the University's website. If you are not able to accept your offer for the year it is given, you may be eligible to defer the offer. Initial deferment of one year (including Early Offer program) is available. You can defer your offer until the next academic year.

Visit the [Accept your Offer](#) webpage to learn more about how to accept your offer and enrol.

### Fees and charges

Fees and charges depend on the course.

- Commonwealth supported students are eligible to receive financial subsidy for their study from the Australian Government. For current fee information visit: [Fees](#)
- International students must pay tuition fees. For more information visit: [International Fee Information](#)
- All students must pay a Student Services and Amenities Fee. Eligible students are able to apply for a SA- HELP loan scheme to defer these fees. For more information visit: [Student Services and Amenities Fee \(SSAF\)](#)

### Credit for Prior Learning

If you have undertaken study elsewhere university or VET studies or had work experience at a professional level during the past 10 years, you may be eligible for Credit for Prior learning) which could shorten the length of your study at Southern Cross University. See the [Credit for Recognition of Prior Learning](#) webpage for more details.

For specific advice or questions regarding an application or a course, please contact the [Future Students Team](#) or the [International Students Team](#)

### Prepare for enrolment and orientation

- The [Getting Started at SCU](#) webpage provides all the required information regarding how to accept your offer and enrol into units. will be emailed to you by the University with your offer of admission.
- The [Current Students](#) webpage provides all the necessary information on how to prepare for University and become an SCU student.

### Attend your orientation session

- Orientation program for all commencing SCU students: [Orientation](#)
- There are separate orientation programs for international students enrolled at the main SCU campuses: [International orientation](#)
- Orientation program for Metro campuses (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth): [Metro orientation](#)

## I. Student and campus services

There are a wide variety of student support services available to all SCU students. Visit the following links for information about the following:

- Student services and support: [Services and Support](#)
- Student accommodation: [Accommodation](#)
- Sport, Health and Wellbeing: [UniLife](#)
- Security and safety: [Campus Security](#)
- Indigenous Australian Support Services: [Indigenous Australian Student Services \(IASS\)](#)
- Student Advocacy Services: [Student Advocacy Services](#)
- SCU Student Legal Service: [Student Legal Service](#)
- University prayer rooms and faith support: [Multifaith and Pastoral Care](#)
- Health services: [Health Services](#)
- Student Equity and Inclusion support: [Student Equity and Inclusion](#)
- Counselling: [Counselling Services](#)
- Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment: [Sexual assault and sexual harassment](#)
- Gender Based Violence: [Gender Based Violence](#)

## J. Financial assistance

Students may be eligible for financial assistance to support them study at SCU.

- If you would like information on youth and student allowances, please refer to the Centrelink website: [Centrelink](#)
- If you would like information on student loans, including information on HELP, please refer to the StudyAssist website: [Study Assist](#)
- Information on student scholarships is available on the scholarship and prizes section of the Southern Cross website: [Scholarships and prizes](#)

## K. Student profile

Domestic and international onshore undergraduate students commencing in FHY 2026 and admitted past T1 census date. This table provides data on students that commenced undergraduate study and passed the census date in the most relevant recent intake period for which data are available, including those admitted through all offer rounds, across all Australian campuses, and international students studying in Australia.

Applicant background	Term 1, 2026	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
<b>(A) Higher education study</b> (includes a bridging or enabling course)	699	22.00%
<b>(B) Vocational education and training (VET) study</b>	569	17.91%
<b>(C) Work and life experience</b> (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement not in the other three categories)	379	11.93%
<b>(D) Recent secondary education:</b>		
· Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (regardless of whether this includes the consideration of adjustment factors)	314	9.88%
· Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered (e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR)	13	0.41%
· Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was <b>not</b> a factor (e.g. special consideration, audition alone, school's recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement)	704	22.16%
<b>International students</b>	499	15.71%
<b>All students</b>	<b>3177</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: *BIQ Course Metrics Dashboard*, accessed 13 April 2026. Domestic and International Undergraduate students who commenced in Term 1, 2026

## L. Where to get further information

Further information about higher education is available:

- To confirm the University's registration as a Australian University visit the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency website, visit: [Southern Cross University, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#)
- If you are not satisfied with the outcomes or process of your admissions or enrolment, please see your options and support for grievances and complaints visit: [National Student Ombudsman - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)