



20 things to know about the Southern Cross Model

International students

Updated February 2022

1. What is the Southern Cross Model?

The Southern Cross Model is a new academic model and a better way to learn. Units have a shorter and more focused structure and employ contemporary teaching methods that centre around interactive learning and real-world applications.

2. How does it work?

The academic year is broken up into six-week terms. There is a two-to-three week break between terms.

3. Does the Model apply to both undergraduate and postgraduate coursework degrees?

Yes.

4. How many units will I study in a year as a full-time student?

An international student must study eight units a year. Most students will study two units per term for four terms.

5. Will it take me longer to finish my degree?

No. A full-time load will still be eight units per year so you should finish your degree in the same time.

6. Are the fees different in the Southern Cross Model?

No, there is no change to the fee structure. However if you wish to do four units over term 1 and 2, you pay for four units up front.

7. Will all courses be taught in the Southern Cross Model?

With the exception of law, health and undergraduate programs at The Hotel School, all courses will be delivered in the Southern Cross Model in 2022. Planning is underway to transition all courses into the Southern Cross Model by Term 1, 2023.

8. When are the study breaks?

You will get a two or three week break between each term. It is possible to take up to two terms off each year, depending on your course progression and timetable.



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9. What's an example of a typical yearly enrolment for an international student?

Most full-time international students will study two units in term 1, 2, 3 and 4. But if unit availability allows it, you can study one unit in two terms and two units in three terms and so on.

10. How many terms can I have off but still keep my scholarship?

Two.

11. How many assessments am I expected to do in each unit?

Most units will have two or three assessment tasks (this could be an applied project, a collaboration, case study or presentation etc). Don't forget you are only studying a maximum of two units at a time, so you will only ever have two assessments due at the one time. The workload is more manageable.

12. Will the more advanced/complex units be manageable in the Southern Cross Model?

Yes. The content in each unit is carefully sequenced. This means you are learning the right things at the right time. This actually makes complex topics easier to learn. Units are designed specifically for this model. They are not compressed or 'intensive' versions of a 12-week unit.

13. How many hours of face-to-face teaching in each unit?

Each unit includes 3 hours of classes (such as workshops, tutorials, lab work) per week and up to 20 hours of guided, self-access learning per week (including assessment preparation).

14. What is guided self-access learning?

Self-access learning is a contemporary approach to the acquisition of knowledge and expertise. Students actively seek information and experience in a supported environment. Activities are on-campus and online and include joint problem-solving, discussions and questioning.

15. Why was the Southern Cross Model introduced?

To increase student success and give our students the best possible university experience. We want more people to finish their degrees and achieve more satisfying academic results while they're at university.

16. Do any other universities use this approach?

No. While some other units use similar models, sometimes called 'block models', the Southern Cross Model is unique.



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17. What's an example of teaching in the Southern Cross Model?

Instead of attending a lecture and reading 200 pages to write an essay, you might be asked to investigate a case study, problem-solve in a group and develop a solution that has a real-world application.

18. How can I plan my casual work if my timetable is changing every six weeks?

Unit timetables will be released well in advance for each term so you can plan your other commitments.

19. How will residential/practicum work?

Practicums, field trips and residentials will still be part of your course. The face-to-face component of practical units may be higher than other units.

20. How will I interact with my peers?

Each unit has at least three hours of class learning per week with your peers. Many of the other activities require you to work together so you have plenty of opportunity to get to know each other and to work together.