Understanding how selection works

If you are thinking about applying for undergraduate entry it’s important that you understand how undergraduate selection works. This fact sheet explains how SATAC’s participating institutions select applicants for their courses.

Important things you need to know

1 Your chances of selection
Your chances of being selected for a place in an undergraduate course depends on how many places the course has available (the quota), how many other applicants are also applying for the course (so whether entry is competitive), and whether your qualifications make you both eligible to apply for a place and competitive against the other eligible applicants who are also applying.

2 How are places allocated?
Each course will have a total number of places it can allocate. This is called the quota. Most undergraduate courses divide the quota into smaller groups of places, known as subquotas. Each subquota relates to a specific academic qualification, allowing different types of qualifications to be fairly compared and ranked. This is especially important in competitive courses where more eligible applicants have applied than there are places in the course. Each subquota and its eligibility and ranking rules are explained in this fact sheet.

Click on a link below to find out more about that subquota.

3 Eligibility and rank
Whether you are eligible to apply for a place in a course depends on meeting the institutions’ rules for selection. Most undergraduate courses determine eligibility by a minimum academic qualification. Each course may consider different types of qualifications in its selection, depending on which subquotas it uses. You might be able to compete in more than one subquota, depending on the course rules and your qualifications.

Some courses also use other selection criteria such as an audition, interview or portfolio either instead of, or in addition to, the minimum academic qualifications, so you should check the course entry carefully when applying.

Many courses are competitive and have more applicants than places available, so eligible applicants must be ranked for selection. Applicants are ranked in order of academic merit. Ranking methods vary for each type of qualification, and can also vary between the institutions and the different courses, so it’s important that you read this fact sheet to understand how ranking and competitiveness might affect your chances of selection in a course.

There are five types of subquota relating to different qualifications. Click below to go directly to information on that subquota. Click the SATAC logo to return to this page.

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Fact Sheet Undergraduate satac.edu.au
Does the course you’re interested in have a year 12 subquota?

Most courses have a year 12 subquota. The exceptions are:

**Charles Darwin University**
- Diploma of Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice
- Diploma of Indigenous Medication Management

**Flinders University**
- Community Services (VET Pathway)
- Creative Arts (Fashion) (VET Pathway)
- Government and Public Management (VET pathway)

**The University of Adelaide**
- Diploma in Arts
- Diploma in Languages

**University of South Australia**
- Policing
- UniSA Foundation Studies

Who is eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota?

All institutions

If you hold year 12 qualifications and you have never studied at higher education level*, you are eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota for all undergraduate courses.

If you hold year 12 qualifications and you have also studied at higher education level, whether you are eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota normally depends on how long you were enrolled in higher education level study. This varies between the institutions and from course to course, as we’ll explain.

‘One year’ in relation to length of study means the equivalent of one full-time year, which is 80 credit points at Charles Darwin University; 36 units at Flinders University or at the University of South Australia; 24 points at the University of Adelaide; 48 points at Tabor Adelaide; or the interstate/overseas equivalent.

* The term ‘higher education level’ in this context means study at diploma level or above at a university or equivalent e.g. a college of advanced education, institute of technology, or institute of higher education. It also includes bachelor degree courses undertaken at TAFE or other registered training organisations provided that the degree course is listed on the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) higher education register of qualifications for the relevant period of accreditation.

The AQF is a national system of classification of tertiary awards offered by tertiary institutions such as universities, TAFEs and other registered training organisations.

**Charles Darwin University**

For all undergraduate courses
If you have studied at higher education level for a total of one year or less, you are still eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota. If however, you have studied at higher education level for a total of more than one year, you are not eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota.

**Flinders University**

For Medicine
If you have studied at higher education level for any period of time, you are not eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota.

For all other undergraduate courses
If you have studied at higher education level for a total of two years or less, you are still eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota. If however, you have studied at higher education level for a total of more than two years, you are not eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota.

**The University of Adelaide**

For Medicine/Surgery
If you have studied at higher education level for any period of time, you are not eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota.

For all other undergraduate programs
If you have studied at higher education level for a total of two years or less, you are still eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota. If however, you have studied at higher education level for a total of more than two years, you are not eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota.

**University of South Australia**

For all undergraduate programs
If you have studied at higher education level for a total of two years or less, you are still eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota. If however, you have studied at higher education level for a total of more than two years, you are not eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota.

**Tabor Adelaide**

For all undergraduate courses
You are eligible to compete in the year 12 subquota regardless of any amount of higher education level study.
Year 12 Subquota

Australian year 12 qualifications

SA and NT year 12 2015
If you are completing the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) in 2015, to be eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota for undergraduate courses at all four universities, you must:
• qualify for the SACE/NTCET
• obtain a university aggregate and an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)
• fulfil any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.
You can find detailed information about tertiary entrance requirements under the SACE/NTCET in the booklet "Tertiary Entrance 2016, 2017, 2018" which is published by SATAC and distributed to all South Australian and Northern Territory schools for students in years 10, 11 and 12, and can be downloaded from the SATAC website.

SA and NT year 12 2011 to 2014
If you completed the SACE or NTCET in 2011 to 2014, in order to be eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota, the requirements are the same as above (for 2015).

SA and NT year 12 1993 to 2010
If you completed the SACE or NTCE in the period 1993 to 2010, in order to be eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota, you must have:
• qualified for the SACE/NTCE
• obtained a university aggregate and an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) (formerly Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER))
• fulfilled the Higher Education Selection Subject (HESS) requirements for the course
• fulfilled any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.
Note that, for the years 1993 to 1996, the meeting of HESS requirements is determined by the possession of an appropriate ‘all courses’ or ‘some courses’ aggregate.

SA and NT year 12 in 1992 or earlier
If you sat year 12 in any year(s) from 1954 to 1992, to be eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota you must have completed a minimum of five year 12 subjects in any two attempts (or any three if you were an adult at the time). To be eligible for most undergraduate courses you must have a minimum of five Publicly Examined Subjects (PES). You must also fulfil any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.

International Baccalaureate (IB)
If you are studying (or have studied) in the IB Diploma Programme, to be eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota you must complete the IB Diploma. You must also fulfil any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.
You can find detailed information about tertiary entrance requirements under the IB in the booklet ‘IB and Tertiary Entrance in SA and NT 2016, 2017, 2018’ which is published by SATAC and distributed to all South Australian and Northern Territory schools offering the IB Diploma Programme, and can be downloaded from the SATAC website.

Interstate year 12
If you are completing (or have completed) an Australian year 12 program interstate (except Queensland), you must receive an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). If you are completing (or have completed) year 12 in Queensland, you must receive an Overall Position (OP). You must also fulfil any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.

Australian non-standard year 12 program
If you are completing (or have completed) a non-standard year 12 program anywhere in Australia (e.g. Waldorf, School of Tomorrow), SATAC will use guidelines agreed to by its member institutions to assess the qualification and determine your eligibility to compete in a year 12 subquota, and also whether you have fulfilled any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.

Ranking Australian year 12 qualifications

SA and NT year 12 2015
If you are completing the SACE or the NTCET in 2015, your rank in a year 12 subquota will be based on your ATAR.

SA and NT year 12 1997 to 2014
If you completed the SACE, NTCE or NTCET in the period 1997 to 2014, your rank in the year 12 subquota will be based on your ATAR (2010 to 2014) or TER (1997 to 2009) as ATARs and TERs obtained in these years are directly comparable with an ATAR obtained in 2015.

SA and NT year 12 1993 to 1996
If you completed the SACE in the period 1993 to 1996, your rank in the year 12 subquota will be based on your ‘some courses’ aggregate which SATAC will convert to an ATAR using a statistical table based on percentile rankings.

SA and NT year 12 in 1992 or earlier
If you sat year 12 in any year(s) from 1954 to 1992, your rank in the year 12 subquota will be based on your ‘some courses’ aggregate which SATAC will convert to an ATAR according to the conversion table on the next page.

International Baccalaureate (IB)
If you completed the IB Diploma Program, your rank will be based on your IB points total (in the range 24-45) which SATAC will convert to an ATAR according to the conversion table on the next page. The table was developed by SATAC and has been approved by its member institutions.

Interstate year 12 2010 to 2015
If you completed or are completing an Australian year 12 program interstate (except Queensland) in the period 2010 to 2015, your rank will be based on your ATAR.
If your year 12 is from Queensland, your rank will be based on your OP which SATAC will convert to an ATAR using a common index agreed to by all states and territories.
Year 12 Subquota

Interstate year 12 1996 to 2009
If you completed an Australian year 12 program interstate in the period 1996 to 2009 your rank will be based on your home state rank (TER, ENTER, UAI, OP etc) which SATAC will convert to an ATAR using a common index agreed to by all states and territories.

Interstate year 12 in 1995 or earlier
If you completed a year 12 program interstate in 1995 or earlier, SATAC will convert your home state score to an ATAR using a statistical table based on percentile rankings.

Australian 2014 year 12 results comparison table
The table opposite provides 2015 year 12 applicants with information about how their results compare across Australia. The table relates to 2014 results and is a guide only. As the table shows, an ATAR of 81.00 in any state or territory (except Queensland) is the same as an ATAR of 81.00 from any other state or territory (except Queensland). So if you are completing your year 12 studies in 2015 or later in one of these states or territories and are planning to apply to institutions in other states or territories, your ATAR remains the same.

For applicants with an OP from Queensland, the Queensland Studies Authority will provide SATAC with an equivalent ATAR.

IB to ATAR conversion table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IB Points*</th>
<th>Equivalent ATAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>69.90</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* IB points total (in the range 24-45), derived from the results gained in both Higher Level and Standard Level subjects and possibly augmented by bonus points based on the standard achieved in the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge.

2014 year 12 results comparison table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT, NSW, NT, SA, TAS, VIC, WA ATAR</th>
<th>QLD Overall Position (OP)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>99.95</td>
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<td>35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overseas year 12 qualifications

NZ National Certificate of Educational Achievement (Level 3)
If you are completing (or have completed) the NZ NCEA (Level 3), to compete in a year 12 subquota you must fulfill all the requirements for entrance to a university in New Zealand as stipulated by the board of the NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority). For details, go to www.nzqa.govt.nz. You must also fulfill any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.

New Zealand Bursaries Examination
If you sat the NZ Bursaries Examination, to compete in a year 12 subquota you must have either:
• qualified for an ‘A’ or ‘B’ Bursary, or
• achieved at least a Grade C in a minimum of three Bursary subjects and gained the Higher School Certificate.
You must also fulfill any prerequisite subject requirements for the course.

Other overseas year 12 level qualifications
SATAC will use the guidelines agreed to by its member institutions to assess your qualification and determine your eligibility to compete in a year 12 subquota, and whether you have fulfilled any prerequisite requirements for the course.
SATAC can give you advice over the telephone and/or in person (for more complex cases) if you are unsure of the equivalence of your overseas year 12 level qualification. You should contact SATAC as early as possible to allow the maximum time for dealing with your enquiry.
You may be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota if your year 12 qualifications do not make you eligible to compete in a year 12 subquota.

Ranking overseas year 12 qualifications

NZ National Certificate of Educational Achievement (Level 3)
If you are completing (or have complete) the NZ NCEA (Level 3) in 2004 or later and you apply for admission to a university in Australia, the NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority) will calculate an NCEA (Level 3) aggregated mark and will convert this aggregated mark to an ATAR using a common index agreed to by the NZQA and all tertiary admissions centres in Australia.

New Zealand Bursaries Examination
If you undertook the NZ Bursaries Examination in the period 1996 to 2003, your rank will be based on your NZ Bursaries aggregated mark from a minimum of three and a maximum of five Bursary subjects. SATAC will convert your aggregated mark to an ATAR using a common index agreed to by the NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority) and all tertiary admissions centres in Australia.
If you undertook the NZ Bursaries Examination prior to 1996, SATAC will convert your aggregated mark to an ATAR using a statistical table based on percentile rankings.

Other overseas year 12 level qualifications
SATAC will use the guidelines agreed to by the universities to assess your qualification and, if applicable, convert your results to an ATAR.
Higher Education Subquota

Does the course you’re interested in have a higher education subquota?

The higher education subquota allows applicants who have already studied at higher education level to apply to enter another course. Most undergraduate courses have a higher education subquota. The exceptions are:

**Charles Darwin University**
- Medicine
- Diploma of Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice
- Diploma of Indigenous Medication Management

**Flinders University**
- Community Services (VET pathway)
- Creative Arts (Digital Media) TAFE SA/Flinders
- Creative Arts (Fashion) (VET pathway)
- Digital Media/Screen and Media (Specialising in Game Art) TAFE SA/Flinders
- Government and Public Management (VET pathway)
- Information Technology/Screen and Media (Specialising in Game Art) TAFE SA/Flinders
- International Tourism TAFE SA/Flinders
- Laws and Legal Practice (Hons) (including combined degrees)
- Medicine
- Nursing TAFE SA/Flinders
- Nutrition and Dietetics

**University of South Australia**
- Policing
- UniSA Foundation Studies
- All Diploma programs
- All combined Diploma/degree programs

Who is eligible to compete in a higher education subquota?

If you have studied at higher education level*, whether you are eligible to compete in the higher education subquota for a given course depends upon the length of time you have studied.

In all cases below, ‘one year’ in relation to length of study means the equivalent of one full-time year, which is 80 credit points at Charles Darwin University; 36 units at Flinders University or at the University of South Australia; 24 points at the University of Adelaide; 48 points at Tabor Adelaide; or the interstate/overseas equivalent. ‘One semester’ means the equivalent of one half of one full-time year.

* The term ‘higher education level’ in this context means study at diploma level or above at a university or equivalent e.g. a college of advanced education, institute of technology, institute of higher education. It also includes bachelor degree courses undertaken at TAFE or other registered training organisations provided that the degree course is listed on the AQF higher education register of qualifications for the relevant period of accreditation.

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a national system of classification of tertiary awards offered by tertiary institutions such as universities, TAFEs and other registered training organisations.

**Charles Darwin University, Flinders University and University of South Australia**

For all undergraduate courses/programs
If you have studied at higher education level for exactly one semester or more, you are eligible to compete in the higher education subquota.

If however, you have studied at higher education level for less than one semester, you are not eligible to compete in the higher education subquota.

**The University of Adelaide**

For Medicine/Surgery
There are specific eligibility requirements for competing in the higher education subquota for Medicine/Surgery at the University of Adelaide. Refer to the Faculty of Health Sciences website at http://health.adelaide.edu.au/admissions/medicine for more information.

For all other undergraduate programs
If you have studied at higher education level for exactly one semester or more, you are eligible to compete in the higher education subquota.

If however, you have studied at higher education level for less than one semester, you are not eligible to compete in the higher education subquota.
Tabor Adelaide

For all undergraduate courses
If you have studied at higher education level for any amount of time, you are eligible to compete in the higher education subquota.

Minimum level of study accepted

All institutions
To be eligible to compete in a higher education subquota for undergraduate courses, you must either:
• have undertaken higher education level study at an Australian institution or
• have undertaken study overseas at a level which is deemed to be the equivalent of Australian higher education level study (see below).

Ranking higher education qualifications

Higher education study undertaken overseas
If you have studied at higher education level overseas, SATAC will use the guidelines agreed to by its member institutions to assess your study and determine your eligibility to compete in a higher education subquota.

SATAC can give you advice over the telephone and/or in person (for more complex cases) if you are unsure of the equivalence of your overseas higher education study. You should contact SATAC as early as possible to allow the maximum time for dealing with your enquiry.

To rank applicants in a higher education subquota, SATAC must first calculate a Grade Point Average (GPA). This is done for each higher education level course you have studied at an Australian institution or overseas equivalent for the equivalent of one semester full-time or longer.

You can find information on the method for calculating a GPA in the fact sheet ‘Calculating a Grade Point Average’.

Applicants awaiting current year results

For entry in semester 1 2016, results from study up to and including semester 2 2015 will be included in the GPA calculation. Results from later study periods will not normally be included. This may impact on applicants undertaking study in summer school or at Open Universities Australia.
Does the course you’re interested in have a TAFE/VET subquota?

Many undergraduate courses have a TAFE/VET subquota. The exceptions are:

**Charles Darwin University**
- Medicine

**Flinders University**
- Arts Enhanced Program for High Achievers
- Creative Arts (Digital Media) TAFE SA/Flinders
- Digital Media/Screen and Media (Specialising in Game Art) TAFE SA/Flinders
- Information Technology/Screen and Media (Specialising in Game Art) TAFE SA/Flinders
- International Tourism TAFE SA/Flinders
- Laws and Legal Practice (including combined degrees)
- Laws and Legal Practice (Hons) (including combined degrees)
- Medicine
- Nursing TAFE SA/Flinders
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Optometry
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology (Hons)

**The University of Adelaide**
- Arts (Advanced)
- Biomedical Science
- Biotechnology
- Computer Science (Advanced)
- Dental Surgery
- Economics (Advanced)
- Health Sciences (Advanced)
- High Performance Computational Physics (Hons)
- Laser Physics and Technology
- Laws (including double degrees)
- Mathematical Sciences (Advanced)
- Medicine/Surgery
- Molecular and Drug Design
- Nanoscience and Materials
- Science (Advanced)
- Secondary Teaching
- Space Science and Astrophysics
- Veterinary Bioscience
- Diploma in Arts
- Diploma in Languages

**University of South Australia**
- Laws (including double degrees)
- UniSA Foundation Studies

**Tabor Adelaide**
- Education (Primary)
- Education (Secondary)

Who is eligible to compete in a TAFE/VET subquota?

You will find references in this section to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) in relation to levels of awards. The AQF is a national system of classification of tertiary awards offered by tertiary institutions such as universities, TAFE and other registered training organisations.

If you have a completed TAFE/VET award, whether you are eligible to compete in a TAFE/VET subquota depends upon the level of the award you have completed. The rules vary between institutions and from course to course.

Note that if you have undertaken a bachelor degree course at TAFE and it is listed on the AQF higher education register of qualifications, you will compete in the higher education subquota.

* The term ‘higher education level’ in this context means study at diploma level or above at a university or equivalent e.g. a college of advanced education, institute of technology, institute of higher education. It also includes bachelor degree courses undertaken at TAFE or other registered training organisations provided that the degree course is listed on the AQF higher education register of qualifications for the relevant period of accreditation.

**University of South Australia**
- Laws (including double degrees)
- UniSA Foundation Studies

**Tabor Adelaide**
- Education (Primary)
- Education (Secondary)

**University of South Australia**
- Arts (Advanced)
- Biomedical Science
- Biotechnology
- Computer Science (Advanced)
- Dental Surgery
- Economics (Advanced)
- Health Sciences (Advanced)
- High Performance Computational Physics (Hons)
- Laser Physics and Technology
- Laws (including double degrees)
- Mathematical Sciences (Advanced)
- Medicine/Surgery
- Molecular and Drug Design
- Nanoscience and Materials
- Science (Advanced)
- Secondary Teaching
- Space Science and Astrophysics
- Veterinary Bioscience
- Diploma in Arts
- Diploma in Languages

**Tabor Adelaide**
- Education (Primary)
- Education (Secondary)
TAFE/VET Subquota

University of South Australia
For all programs except Diploma and combined Diploma/degree options
If you hold a completed TAFE/VET award at AQF Certificate IV level or above and you have not subsequently studied at higher education level for a total of more than two years, you are eligible to compete in a TAFE/VET subquota.
Note that for most Health Sciences programs, you would need to hold a TAFE/VET Diploma in order to be competitive for selection.

For all Diploma and combined Diploma/degree programs
If you hold a completed TAFE/VET award at AQF Certificate III or Certificate IV level but you have not completed a Diploma level course or higher, and you have not studied at higher education level for more than two years, you are eligible to compete in a TAFE/VET subquota.

Tabor Adelaide
For all undergraduate courses
If you hold a completed TAFE/VET award at AQF Certificate IV level or above, you are eligible to compete in the TAFE/VET subquota.

Vocational qualifications completed overseas
SATAC will use the guidelines agreed to by its member institutions to assess your qualification regarding its equivalence to TAFE/VET awards offered in Australia and hence determine your eligibility to compete in a TAFE/VET subquota.
SATAC can give you advice over the telephone and/or in person (for more complex cases) if you are unsure of the equivalence of your overseas vocational qualification. You should contact SATAC as early as possible to allow the maximum time for dealing with your enquiry.

Ranking TAFE/VET qualifications

Charles Darwin University
Your rank in a TAFE/VET subquota will be based on the level of the award. If you hold a completed VET award from Charles Darwin University, this rank will be augmented by one bonus point.

Flinders University
Your rank in a TAFE/VET subquota will be based on the level of the award.

For Nursing courses
If you are an enrolled nurse with a current practising certificate, your rank will be augmented by bonus points.

The University of Adelaide
Your rank in a TAFE/VET subquota will be based on the level of the award.

University of South Australia
Your rank in a TAFE/VET subquota will be based on the level of the award.

For Nursing programs
If you are an enrolled nurse with a current practising certificate, your rank will be augmented by bonus points.

Tabor Adelaide
Your rank in a TAFE/VET subquota will be based on the level of the award.
Does the course you’re interested in consider special entry applicants?

Most undergraduate courses have a special entry subquota. The exceptions are:

Charles Darwin University
- Medicine
- Diploma of Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice
- Diploma of Indigenous Medication Management

Flinders University
- Community Services (VET pathway)
- Creative Arts (Digital Media) TAFE SA/Flinders
- Creative Arts (Fashion) (VET pathway)
- Digital Media/Screen and Media (Specialising in Game Art) TAFE SA/Flinders
- Government and Public Management (VET pathway)
- Information Technology/Screen and Media (Specialising in Game Art) TAFE SA/Flinders
- International Tourism TAFE SA/Flinders
- Laws and Legal Practice (Hons) (including combined degrees)
- Medicine
- Nursing TAFE SA/Flinders
- Optometry
- Physiotherapy

The University of Adelaide
- Diploma in Arts
- Diploma in Languages

University of South Australia
- Policing
- UniSA Foundation Studies

What is special entry?

Special entry enables people who don’t have the necessary qualifications (such as year 12, higher education or TAFE/VET) or whose qualifications aren’t competitive enough, the chance to apply successfully for undergraduate courses.

The institutions recognise that the skills required to be successful in their courses can be acquired through a person’s life experiences, so most undergraduate courses welcome special entry applicants and SATAC assesses more than 5,000 such applicants each year.

There are three main criteria which may be used for selecting special entry applicants - the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), a personal competencies statement about their life’s experiences and/or information about their employment experience. What is involved for each of these is fully described below.

If you are thinking of applying as a special entry applicant it’s important that you find out:

- if you are eligible to be a special entry applicant
- if the course(s) you are interested in considers special entry applicants, and
- what criteria the course(s) uses to select its special entry applicants (STAT and/or personal competencies statement and/or employment experience).

Who is eligible for special entry to university?

Each institution has different rules regarding who is eligible to compete in a special entry subquota. These rules are about your age, how much post school study you have done and when you last studied.

* The term ‘higher education level’ in this context means study at diploma level or above at a university or equivalent e.g. a college of advanced education, institute of technology, institute of higher education. It also includes bachelor degree courses undertaken at TAFE or other registered training organisations provided that the degree course is listed on the AQF higher education register of qualifications for the relevant period of accreditation.

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a national system of classification of tertiary awards offered by tertiary institutions such as universities, TAFEs and other registered training organisations.

Charles Darwin University

To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota:

- you must be 19 years or over before 1 January 2016, or before 1 July 2016 for mid year and summer semester courses, and
- you must not hold a completed higher education* level award, and
- if you were last enrolled in a course leading to a higher education level award in 2013, 2014 or 2015, you must not have completed more than the equivalent of one full-time year of study in that course.
**Special Entry Subquota**

**Flinders University**
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota using the STAT:
- you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2016, or before 1 July 2016 for mid year courses, and
- if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2016 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2014 or 2015) you must not have accumulated more than the equivalent of a total of two full-time years of higher education study (i.e. including any study prior to 2014).

To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota based on the completion of a recognised foundation studies course:
- you must not hold a completed higher education level award, and
- if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2016 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2014 or 2015) you must not have accumulated more than the equivalent of a total of two full-time years of higher education study (i.e. including any study prior to 2014).

**The University of Adelaide**
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota for all programs except Medicine/Surgery and Dental Surgery:
- you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2016, or before 1 July 2016 for mid year programs, and
- if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2016 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2014 or 2015) you must not have accumulated more than the equivalent of a total of two full-time years of higher education study (i.e. including any study prior to 2014).

For Medicine/Surgery and Dental Surgery:
- you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2016, and
- you must never have been enrolled in a course leading to a higher education award.

**University of South Australia**
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota for all programs:
- you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2016, or before 1 July 2016 for mid year programs, and
- if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2016 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2014 or 2015) you must not have accumulated more than the equivalent of a total of two full-time years of higher education study (i.e. including any study prior to 2014).

**Tabor Adelaide**
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota for all courses:
- you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2016, or before 1 July 2016 for mid year courses.

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**Do I need to meet prerequisites?**

**Charles Darwin University**
None of the courses at Charles Darwin University has any prerequisite subject requirements.

**Flinders University**
You must meet any prerequisite subject requirements. Check the course entry carefully when applying for any information on prerequisites.

If you wish to apply for a specialist science or engineering course but you cannot meet the prerequisites, you are advised to apply for the Bachelor of Science (BSc) course. You can then undertake introductory level topics within the BSc which will meet the prerequisites for specialist science and engineering courses. Completion of these topics does not guarantee entry in a subsequent year to a specialist science or engineering course.

**The University of Adelaide**
You must meet any prerequisite subject requirements. Check the program entry carefully when applying for any information on prerequisites.

Details of prerequisite requirements for special entry applicants can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/study/pathways.

**University of South Australia**
You must meet any prerequisite subject requirements. Check the program entry carefully when applying for any information on prerequisites.

**Tabor Adelaide**
None of the courses at Tabor Adelaide has any prerequisite subject requirements.

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**What selection criteria is used for special entry to courses?**

There are three main criteria which may be used for selecting special entry applicants:
- the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT)
- a personal competencies statement about your life experiences
- information about your employment experience.

Many courses offered by the three universities in South Australia use only the results of your STAT to make selections. Others will also consider a personal competencies statement and/or your employment experience if you wish to submit them. If you do submit a personal competencies statement or your employment experience, they will only be used to enhance your STAT rank - a poor statement or a low employment experience rank will not reduce your STAT rank.

For courses offered by Charles Darwin University except Midwifery, any or all of the three selection criteria are considered which means you may choose not to sit the STAT but only to submit a personal competencies statement and/or information about your employment experience. The University however, recommends that you sit the STAT in order to maximise your chances of selection. For Midwifery you must sit the STAT.
Charles Darwin University
The selection criteria used in the special entry subquota for all courses except Midwifery, are as follows:

- STAT is recommended
- personal competencies statements and employment experience are also considered.

Flinders University
The selection criteria used in the special entry subquota are as follows.
Note that for entry to most courses, Flinders University considers foundation studies qualifications within the special entry quota but that other universities have a separate foundation studies subquota.
If you have not completed a recognised foundation studies course (including the Flinders Foundation Course):
- STAT is compulsory
- personal competencies statements and/or employment experience may be considered.
If you have completed a recognised foundation studies course, you are not required to sit the STAT although you may choose to do so.
In addition:
- for Creative Arts courses, a portfolio or audition is required.

The University of Adelaide
The selection criteria used in the special entry subquota are as follows:
- STAT is compulsory
- personal competencies statements and/or employment experience are not considered.
In addition:
- for music programs, an audition is required
- for Medicine and Dental surgery, UMAT and an interview is required
- for Oral Health, an interview is required
- for Veterinary Bioscience a questionnaire and interview is required.

University of South Australia
The selection criteria used in the special entry subquota are as follows:
- STAT is compulsory
- personal competencies statements and/or employment experience may be considered.

Tabor Adelaide
The selection criteria used in the special entry subquota for all courses are as follows:
- STAT is recommended
- personal competencies statements and employment experience are also considered.

What is the STAT?
The Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) has been developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to assess a range of competencies commonly considered important for success in tertiary study.
STAT Multiple Choice is the version accepted by SATAC’s participating institutions. It is a two hour test under exam conditions containing 70 multiple-choice questions, half of which are ‘verbal reasoning’ and half ‘quantitative’. The questions are designed to assess the ability to think critically and to make sense of a variety of material. For instance, applicants may be required to read and think about a prose passage, interpret a graph, use basic mathematical relationships or make inferences from a table of data.
The STAT is marked by ACER in Melbourne, the scores are reported to SATAC and then used according to the institutions’ selection policies.
You can find more information about the STAT on the SATAC website at www.satac.edu.au.

How to apply for special entry
If you wish to be considered in a special entry subquota, you must complete the normal online application.
The instructions in the application will tell you what the STAT involves, how to apply and prepare for the test, the costs involved and how to have a previous STAT result considered.
There is also information on how to write a personal competencies statement and how to submit it to SATAC.
If you wish you can include details of your employment experience in the application.
Ensure that you lodge your application by the closing date, and pay the relevant application fees (including the STAT fee, if applicable).
If you have already applied for university courses online but did not apply to sit the STAT, you can still arrange to sit the test. Please contact SATAC for advice.

Further information
Details of the criteria used for selecting special entry applicants for individual courses/programs are available from the SATAC website at www.satac.edu.au.
Does the course you’re interested in have a foundation studies subquota?

Some courses have a separate subquota for applicants who have completed a recognised foundation studies, preparation, bridging or enabling course of a minimum six months duration.

Since there is such a large number and variety of foundation studies courses available, it is not possible to list them all but you can contact either SATAC or the university you wish to enter to find out whether the course you have completed (or will complete in 2015) is recognised.

Who is eligible to compete in a foundation studies subquota?

Charles Darwin University
Almost all undergraduate courses have a foundation studies subquota. The exceptions are:

• Medicine
• Diploma of Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice
• Diploma of Indigenous Medication Management

If you have completed a recognised foundation studies, preparation, bridging or enabling course of a minimum six months duration, or an Indigenous Preparation Program previously offered by Charles Darwin University, you are eligible to compete in a foundation studies subquota.

Flinders University
None of the courses at Flinders University has a separate foundation studies subquota; however, foundation studies qualifications are considered within the special entry subquota.

The University of Adelaide
None of the programs at the University of Adelaide has a specific foundation studies subquota.

Wiltu Yarlu offers preparation programs for Indigenous students who wish to gain entry to the University’s undergraduate programs. Contact the University of Adelaide for more information.

University of South Australia
Almost all undergraduate programs have a foundation studies subquota. The exceptions are:

• Policing
• UniSA Foundation Studies

To be eligible to compete in a foundation studies subquota:

• you must have completed a ‘recognised’ foundation studies, preparation, bridging or enabling course of a minimum six months duration, and
• you must be 18 years or over on 1 February 2016, and
• you must not have completed an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate IV level course or higher, and
• you must never have studied at higher education* level.

* The term ‘higher education level’ in this context means study at diploma level or above at a university or equivalent e.g. a college of advanced education, institute of technology, institute of higher education. It also includes bachelor degree courses undertaken at TAFE or other registered training organisations provided that the degree course is listed on the AQF higher education register of qualifications for the relevant period of accreditation.

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a national system of classification of tertiary awards offered by tertiary institutions such as universities, TAFEs and other registered training organisations.

Tabor Adelaide
For all courses, if you have completed a ‘recognised’ foundation studies, preparation, bridging or enabling course of a minimum six months duration, you are eligible to compete in a foundation studies subquota.

Ranking applicants in a foundation studies subquota

Charles Darwin University
Your rank in a foundation studies subquota will be either 65 or 70, depending on the length of the course you completed.

If you have completed the Preparation for Tertiary Study Program (TEP2) or the ACIKE Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS2), your rank will be augmented by one bonus point.

University of South Australia
Your rank in a foundation studies subquota will normally be either 65 or 70, depending on the length of the course you completed.

If you have completed the UniSA Pathway for Adult Learners (UniSA-PAL) program, your rank will be based on your level of achievement within the program as determined by the University of South Australia.

If you have completed the UniSA Foundation Studies program, your rank may be based on your level of achievement within the program.

Tabor Adelaide
Your rank in a foundation studies subquota will normally be either 65 or 70, depending on the length of the completed course.