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 (Clinical Sciences)
- Diploma of Advanced Pharmacy Technician Practice
- Diploma of Indigenous Medication Management

**Flinders University**
- Community Services (VET pathway)
- Creative Arts (Costume Design) (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
- Engineering TAFE SA/Flinders (various courses)
- General Studies
- 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
- Public Administration (VET pathway)

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

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

What is special entry?

All seven participating institutions offer alternative pathways of entry into most undergraduate courses. These pathways provide applicants who do not meet the normal entry requirements, or whose qualifications are not competitive enough, an opportunity to gain entry to their chosen course. Special entry is the most common alternative pathway. Special entry applicants are normally required to sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), although for some courses other selection criteria may apply.

Note that for entry to most courses, Flinders University considers foundation studies qualifications within the special entry subquota but that other universities have a separate foundation studies subquota.

If you are thinking of being a special entry applicant it is very 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
- what the course(s) you are interested in 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 its special entry subquota — these rules are about your age, how much post school study you have done and when you last studied. The rules for each of the institutions are shown below.

‘One year’ in relation to length of higher education level study means the equivalent of one full-time year, e.g. 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 CQUniversity Australia and Tabor College of Higher Education; 32 points at Torrens University Australia; or the interstate 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, 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.
Special entry subquota 2017

Charles Darwin University
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota:
• you must be 19 years or over before 1 January 2017, 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 2014, 2015 or 2016, you must not have completed more than the equivalent of one full-time year of study in that course.

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 2017, and
• if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2017 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2015 or 2016) 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 2015).

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 2017, and
• if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2017 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2015 or 2016) 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 2015).

For Medicine/Surgery and Dental Surgery
• you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2017, 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 2017, and
• if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2017 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2015 or 2016) 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 2015).

CQUUniversity Australia
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota for all courses:
• you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2017.

Tabor College of Higher Education
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota for all courses:
• you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2017.

Torrens University Australia
To be eligible to compete in the special entry subquota for all courses:
• you must be 18 years or over before 1 February 2017, and
• if you have studied at higher education level in the last two years (for 2017 entry this means you were enrolled in either 2015 or 2016) 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 2015).

Do I need to meet prerequisites?
You must meet any prerequisite subject requirements. See individual course entries in course search for details of prerequisites and information about assumed knowledge (if applicable).

Please note that the STAT does not meet prerequisite subject requirements.

What selection criteria is used for special entry to courses?
Many courses offered by Flinders University, the University of Adelaide and University of South Australia use only the results of your STAT to make selections. Some courses will also consider a personal competencies statement and/or your employment experience if you wish to submit them. You can find a list of courses open to special entry on the SATAC website.

For courses offered by CQUUniversity Australia you must sit the STAT. All courses will also consider employment experience.

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) and for courses offered at Tabor College of Higher Education and Torrens University Australia, 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 institutions however, recommend that you sit the STAT in order to maximise your chances of selection.

For special entry to Midwifery at Charles Darwin University you must sit the STAT.

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.
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 undergraduate courses online but did not apply to sit the STAT, you can still arrange to sit the test. Please contact SATAC for advice.