



Pathways to university

Information for parents and carers

Senior school students can choose from a wide range of pathways to university, training and employment. Pathways can be selected to meet students' interests, skills, needs and aspirations.

What are the pathways to university?

ATAR

A student's Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) is calculated using their course and examination results. A minimum of 4 ATAR courses is required. For most students, the academic nature and challenge of ATAR courses provides the best preparation for success at university.

Year 12 students are provided with information about applying to universities and admission to undergraduate courses by their schools.

To be considered for university as a school leaver using ATAR, students must:

- meet the requirements for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)
- meet the English Language Competency standard as outlined by each university, through one of the following:
 - ATAR English
 - ATAR Literature
 - ATAR EAL/D or equivalent (scaled score of 50 or above)
 - the minimum requirements in the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) written test for English.
- obtain a sufficiently high ATAR for entry to a particular course
- satisfy any prerequisites or special requirements for entry to a particular course.

ATAR with Selection Rank Adjustment

Some students are eligible for an ATAR adjustment. Adjustments increase a student's rank due to factors such as:

- performance in Year 12 subjects
- living or attending school in a certain area
- being first in a family to attend university.

A student can have different selection ranks for different universities. The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) has a university admissions brochure available each year with admission requirements and pathway options: <https://tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/guide/slar-2025.pdf>

Educational Access Scheme

The Educational Access Scheme (EAS) is aimed at applicants who are seeking undergraduate admission to WA universities and have experienced exceptional circumstances during senior secondary schooling, which adversely affected their Year 11/12 level study. They can apply for special consideration, which if approved may help them gain entry to university study.

<https://tisc.edu.au/static/guide/eas.tisc>

University enabling courses

University enabling courses are designed to prepare students to qualify for a range of undergraduate courses. These enabling courses develop the skills needed to succeed in university-level study, such as academic research and writing, numeracy, and critical thinking skills. The courses are free for Australian citizens, but costs and eligibility can vary for non-citizens.

University	Website
Curtin	UniReady https://www.curtin.edu.au/study/applying/pathways/uniready-enabling-program/
Edith Cowan	UniPrep https://www.ecu.edu.au/degrees/uniprep
Murdoch	OnTrack https://www.murdoch.edu.au/study/pathways-to-uni/enabling-pathways
University of Notre Dame	Tertiary Pathway Program (TPP) https://www.notredame.edu.au/study/pathways/tertiary-pathway-program

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications can serve as excellent pathways to higher education. Students can use VET qualifications to meet the minimum entry requirements for a range of undergraduate courses. Relevant VET qualifications may also offer advanced standing or credit transfer arrangements, acknowledging the skills and knowledge gained through vocational training and allowing individuals to transition smoothly into higher education.

University	Website
Curtin	https://www.curtin.edu.au/study/applying/pathways/tafe-vet/
Edith Cowan	https://www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/course-entry
Murdoch	https://www.murdoch.edu.au/study/pathways-to-uni/vocational-education-and-training
University of Notre Dame	https://www.notredame.edu.au/study/applications-and-admissions/pathways/other-entry-pathways
University of Western Australia	https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/entry-standards

Portfolio Entry

Students may be considered for entry into specific undergraduate courses based on a portfolio that showcases academic achievements, qualifications, capabilities, and suitability for tertiary study.

Portfolio entry is available for a range of courses. Some courses have additional course-specific admission criteria.

University	Website
Curtin	https://study.curtin.edu.au/applying/pathways/portfolio-entry
Edith Cowan	https://www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/course-entry/creative-arts-portfolio-entry
Murdoch	https://www.murdoch.edu.au/study/courses/undergraduate-courses/portfolio-entry-pathway

Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Universities offer specialised enabling pathways designed specifically for prospective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, aiming to support individuals and their communities in achieving their educational ambitions. These pathways provide assistance in selecting the right university entry route and offer support to help students adapt to university life.

University	Website
Curtin	Curtin University offer a range of Indigenous enabling courses for general and course-specific entry. https://karda.curtin.edu.au/study/enabling-courses
Edith Cowan	The Aboriginal University Readiness Assessment (AURA) allows students who have completed a Certificate II or lower to be considered for university entry. https://www.ecu.edu.au/degrees/aboriginal-and-or-torres-strait-islanders
Murdoch	K-Track is a free course enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders starting out with tertiary education or looking for a change in direction. https://www.murdoch.edu.au/life-at-murdoch/perth-campus/facilities-services/kulbardi-aboriginal-centre/k-track-enabling-program
University of Notre Dame	Notre Dame have a number of opportunities and alternative entry pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study. https://www.notredame.edu.au/students/support/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-support
University of Western Australia	Indigenous study opportunities at The University of Western Australia include the Aboriginal Orientation Course and Provisional Entry Scheme. https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/indigenous-study

International Big Picture Learning Credential (IBPLC)

Offered to Big Picture students, IBPLC is currently recognised by 17 universities throughout Australia as a non-ATAR entry pathway to university. The IBPLC is a personalised form of final-year assessment that measures and captures a broad range of students' capacities, experiences and qualities. Within WA, Murdoch University accepts the IBPLC to assess eligibility for entry into a wide range of courses.

<https://www.bigpicture.org.au/what-international-big-picture-learning-credential>.

Experience based entry

Students may be considered for entry into an undergraduate course through a university assessment of their ability to succeed in higher education based on evidence provided.

University	Website
Edith Cowan	This entry scheme is based on a portfolio of evidence provided by a student. https://www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/course-entry/experience-based-entry-scheme
University of Notre Dame	https://www.notredame.edu.au/study/applications-and-admissions/pathways/other-entry-pathways
University of Western Australia	Allows students to apply for a select number of undergraduate bachelor's degrees using a combination of academic achievements and life experiences. https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/How-to-apply/Admission-entry-pathways/Experience-based-entry

The Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC)

<https://www.tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc>

TISC provides the following services:

- Processing of [applications](#) for admission to undergraduate courses at the above universities
- Conducting the Special Tertiary Admissions Test ([STAT](#)).
- Administering the Western Australian Universities' Foundation Program ([WAUFP](#)).
- Publishing periodic [School Circulars](#).
- [Scaling](#) WACE results and calculating [ATARs](#) for students in WA.

TISC has a university admissions brochure available each year with admission requirements and pathway options.

<https://tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/guide/slar-2025.pdf>

TISC provides a variety of resources that you may find helpful.

<https://www.tisc.edu.au/static/resources.tisc>