

Other pathways

It is quite common for plans to change for young people, for many different reasons: they may not perform as well as expected in final exams, or they may change their mind about their career direction, or they may not have originally planned to go to university at all.

If you have concerns about your son or daughter securing a place in a particular course, there are a number of alternative options which may assist:

- Bridging courses – intensive short programs to satisfy subject prerequisites
- Year 13 – may be used to enhance a low TER
- Enrolment in another, related course as a stepping-stone to the desired course
- University Preparation Program (UPP) – pre-university program for future students, providing essential learning skills for university.

If university isn't a choice for your teenager at the end of their secondary schooling, he or she can apply to UTAS at a later stage, under one of our alternative entry categories:

- **TAFE applicants.** There are good articulation and credit arrangements between TAFE Tasmania and UTAS. For more information go to www.utas.edu.au/tafetouni.
- **Special entry.** UTAS considers applications under special entry provisions. To qualify, applicants need to demonstrate educational disadvantage due to illness, misadventure or lack of TCE subject opportunities.

Phone 1300 363 864 for detailed advice on these options.

Making the transition to university

As a parent, you will notice some substantial differences between school and university;

- **Teaching and learning** at university has a different approach. For each unit students have scheduled lectures and tutorials. Some courses include practical sessions or workshops.
- The **academic year** at university is structured as two main semesters, each comprising 13 weeks of teaching. Within each semester the required attendance at lectures and tutorials can be as little as 12 hours across the week. You will therefore find that your son or daughter has substantially less structured class time during the year than at school.
- **Communication** about matters such as academic progress is between the student and the university, and is strictly confidential. While your child is at school you receive newsletters and reports, and attend parent-teacher interviews. As a university student, your son or daughter is treated as an adult.

Cost of study

There are expenses involved in a university education, but if your teenager makes wise and informed course choices the cost is an investment in the future. The main cost is the *student contribution to a Commonwealth supported place* (previously called HECS) This is charged at different rates depending on the choice of units, with various options to assist in paying the contribution. For more information, phone the Department of Education, Science & Training on 1800 020 108, or visit the Department's website at www.goingtouni.gov.au

There will also be expenses for textbooks and possibly specialist equipment, depending on the type of course undertaken.

Scholarships & financial assistance

Through the Tasmania Scholarships Program, the University of Tasmania provides significant financial and academic support for study. Scholarships are available within the broad categories of academic merit or financial need, through the assistance of business and industry, government, and generous benefactors. For more information contact the Uni Info Centre on 1300 363 864 or go to www.scholarships.utas.edu.au

About the University of Tasmania

UTAS has three campuses—Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast—and a total student population of approximately 20,000. Compared to some of the heavily-populated mainland institutions, UTAS is a very personal size, which gives it a number of distinct advantages:

- **Smaller classes.** Teaching staff recognise students by name and focus on individual needs.
- **Less competition for resources.** For example, UTAS has a generous scholarship program, offering 600 individual scholarships, worth a total of more than \$2 million.
- **Access to many opportunities.** For example, UTAS coordinates an overseas student exchange program, and makes generous contributions towards the travel costs.

The University has over 80 undergraduate degrees, within the areas of Arts, Business, Education, Health Science, Law, and Science, Engineering & Technology.

The Australian Maritime College in Launceston is an institute of the University of Tasmania.

Need more information?

For more information about UTAS courses, our application process, accommodation options and scholarships:

Phone: 1300 363 864

Email: Course.Info@utas.edu.au

Website: www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents

A guide to study for parents



PLANNING FOR UNIVERSITY



So many choices...

These days there are many options for young people as they make the transition from secondary school into the wider world, and the choices can be just as confusing for their parents. This guide focuses on one possible option—going on to study at university. We hope that the information helps both you and your teenager make the right choice.

Why go to university?

Universities are different places than they were 30 years ago, when they were an option for a small, elite group of school leavers. A much higher proportion of school leavers now go on to university—around 40% of the University of Tasmania's commencing students come directly from Year 12.

There are many different reasons to go to university. Some careers require a university qualification—for example, psychologists, architects, lawyers and teachers. Statistics also show that university graduates have a much higher rate of employment and generally receive better financial reward.

However, universities don't just provide training in specific vocations. One of the most compelling reasons to consider university is that the generic skills which students acquire will equip them for the rapidly-changing world of work. University students learn how to think critically and flexibly, and become self-disciplined. Those who are able to deal with change will be the strongest survivors in the future!

How can parents help?

The type of support that you provided for your child during earlier transitions, such as from primary to high school, is still just as important in making decisions about going to university and selecting courses. Listening and understanding are crucial. Although it's natural to have your own hopes and aspirations about your child's future, in the long run it makes sense for your teenager to make choices that reflect their real interests and abilities.

It is important to give it time—rather than focusing on making a fast, concrete decision, talk to your son or daughter about their interests and skills, and what they think they are good at and enjoy. Empower your teenager to move towards making their own choices.

Getting the right information

One important way in which you can help your teenager is in guiding them to the best sources of information.

TALK TO PEOPLE:

- Make time to chat to your teenager's classroom teachers and career advisors at school and college
- Come to a Uni Info Day in August.

START READING:

The University of Tasmania produces a vast array of resource material:

- Course and subject brochures
- Prospectus and Course Guide
- Pamphlets on bridging programs and other UTAS support services
- Fact sheets on topics such as 'Preparing for UTAS'.

GO TO THE WEB:

www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents

Central UTAS information site for future students

www.career.edu.au

Gives access to an information package called 'Awareness of Career Development' which gives an overview of career development and ways in which parents can assist

www.myfuture.edu.au

Articles and activities to assist with exploring career directions

www.utas.edu.au/services/careers

Fact sheets on a range of career-related topics

Applying as a school leaver

If your teenager is currently in Year 10 (or a lower year level) he or she can plan to apply to UTAS on the basis of Year 12 qualifications. This involves:

- Completing at least two years of post-Year 10 study
- Satisfactory completion of a minimum of four level 5 subjects listed for university entry in Tasmania, three of which must be studied in Year 12
- Meeting any subject prerequisites and minimum TER requirements for the specific course that your teenager wishes to study, as well as any other entry requirements (such as auditions or interviews).

The deadline for applications is 30 September in the year prior to the planned enrolment. Applicants apply online through the University's website. First-round offers for a place in a course are mailed to successful applicants in December, after Year 12 results have been processed.

For more detailed information about the application process, contact the University by phone on 1300 363 864, by email at admissions@utas.edu.au or go to www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents

Understanding the jargon

Below is a list of some commonly-used terms, which you will encounter as you start to research the options.

Associate degree: a course which provides an alternative pathway into the University if minimum entry requirements aren't met. Also provides a formal qualification for two years of full-time study.

Bachelor degree: a qualification awarded at university after completion of an undergraduate course, e.g. Bachelor of Health Science, Bachelor of Economics.

Campus: the physical location of the University. UTAS has three main campuses – Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast (Burnie).

Census date: last date for withdrawal from a course or unit without incurring financial or academic penalty.

Course: a program of study leading to an award, e.g. the Bachelor of Science course. All courses are made up of individual units.

Major: an area of specialisation continued for the duration of the course. Students undertake more units related to their major/s than for other areas of study. Not all courses require majors as part of their structure.

Prerequisite: a subject or unit which must be completed first. Some courses have prerequisite subjects to be completed in Year 11 and/or 12 before coming to university. Once studying at university, courses also have prerequisite units to be completed at lower year levels before moving to higher year levels of the course.

Semester: a formal university teaching period. There are two main semesters, each comprising 13 weeks of teaching: semester 1 runs from late February to the end of May; semester 2 runs from mid-July to mid-October. UTAS also runs summer, winter and spring semesters for many courses.

TER (Tertiary Entrance Rank): a percentile ranking of students using their initial Tertiary Entrance (TE) score. It is calculated by totalling the scores of a student's best three Level 5 subjects taken in Year 12, together with the best scores(s) of up to two other Level 5 subjects from either Year 11 or 12. Each undergraduate course specifies a TER as a guide to the minimum score for entry into that particular course.

Undergraduate (study): study undertaken in order to gain a diploma or degree.

Unit: a set of lectures, seminars, tutorials and/or practicals on a particular topic, and the associated assessment. Each unit has a specific code (e.g. HTA101 History 1A) and a percentage weighting (e.g. 12.5%).

Weighting: UTAS uses a percentage point weighting system for its units to determine student contribution amounts (see 'Costs of study'). A full-time enrolment for one year is 100% weight. Most semester-long units are weighted at 12.5% each, and a full-time enrolment usually consists of 4 x 12.5% units in each semester.