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Graduated 2005

When Narelle returned to Tasmania after working in Kalgoorlie where jobs were plentiful, she found that work opportunities in her area of interest were limited by her lack of university education. "I initially came back to uni just to get 'the piece of paper' but I got so much more... My mind was broadened by conversations, experiences and new knowledge."

Having graduated from UTAS with first class honours in Social Work, Narelle is now a school social worker. "I work with school-aged young people, their families and the teaching staff, including one-on-one counselling, group work, crisis work and advocacy. I love my work because I get to listen to young people – one of our most marginalised groups."

"I talk to lots of people about coming back to uni, and many mature-aged people say they don't think they could do it. I say, if you have determination you can do it. The personal rewards are worth it alone – the professional rewards are a bonus."

What are the costs?

The main cost for your study is the student contribution to a Commonwealth supported place (previously called HECS). This is charged at different rates depending on your choice of units. 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

You will also need to purchase textbooks and maybe, depending on the course you are studying, materials or equipment. Textbook costs can be minimised by searching out secondhand copies.

Do I need to have good computer skills?

You don't need to have a high level of computer expertise when you start university. However, as a student you are expected to have some basic word processing skills for submitting essays and assignments. These days, the University often uses email to communicate with its students.

A variety of introductory programs are offered at UTAS, depending on your needs:

- Unistart includes essential skills for commencing students with little or no knowledge of computers.
- Online self-paced training is available for students with some rudimentary knowledge of computers.
- Workshops are run in the first weeks of semester, giving an overview of the computing environment for student users at UTAS.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Here's a quick guide to the steps to take you from choosing the right course to starting classes.

Decide which course suits your needs – if you're unsure, visit www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents or give us a call on: 1300 363 864



Complete an online application at www.utas.edu.au/apply

At this stage you don't choose specific units, just your course preferences



Receive an offer, Enrolment Form and HECS-HELP form in the mail



Complete and return Enrolment Form and HECS-HELP form



Unless your course has a prescribed course structure, this is where you will need to choose individual units



Receive Confirmation of Enrolment and other helpful info in the mail



Attend Orientation Week and/or Unistart to familiarise yourself with your campus



Start class!

Who can I contact for further information?

For information about courses at UTAS and the application process:

Phone: 1300 363 864

Email: Course.Info@utas.edu.au

For detailed information about starting university or to make an online application:

Website: www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents

Uni Info Days are held during August each year. They are a great opportunity to talk to current students and academics about the courses offered, and see the University's facilities. Go to www.utas.edu.au for this year's dates.



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Return to Learn



BECOMING AN ADULT STUDENT

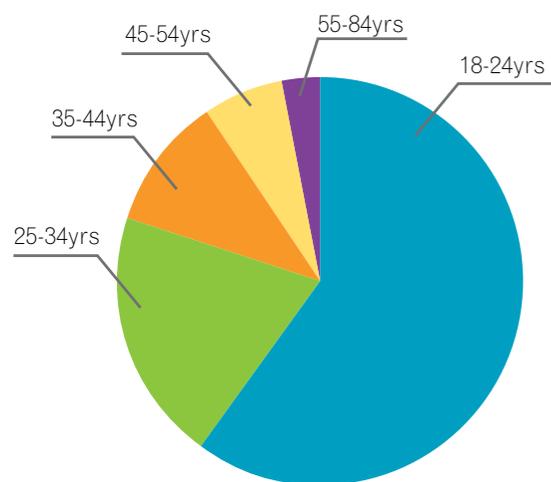
Is university really for me?

University is for everyone. Students of all ages and from very diverse backgrounds choose to study at the University of Tasmania, for many different reasons:

- achieving a lifelong goal
- improving career prospects
- consolidating a current career
- preparing for a career change
- the joy of learning.

Will I be the only one?

You won't be alone! Around 40% of our students are over the age of 25, and 19% are over the age of 35. Our experience shows that mature age students are often more successful than younger students. Your wealth of experience and life skills will be invaluable for time management, motivation and commitment—all very important qualities for university study.



Age range of UTAS students

What courses can I choose?

The University of Tasmania offers a broad range of courses and subjects. Some courses require a background in specific subjects (called 'prerequisites'), and some have additional entry requirements such as auditions or interviews. For a complete list of courses available at UTAS, as well as information about prerequisites and entry requirements, go to www.utas.edu.au/courses, or contact the Uni Info Centre on 1300 363 864 to request a copy of our Course Guide.

How do I qualify for study at UTAS?

Mature-aged applicants normally apply under the Alternative Entry category. This means that your application is assessed on the basis of a supporting statement addressing the following selection criteria:

- academic and employment background
- relevant skills
- demonstrated interest in the course
- equity or other special considerations.

Remember, there are no 'right answers', but it is in your interests to provide us with information under each of the criteria.

If you have:

- completed studies at TAFE (Cert III or higher)
- prior University study (either completed or partially completed)
- successfully completed a University enabling program, then you won't need to provide us with a supporting statement when you apply.

How much work is involved?

Required attendance at lectures and tutorials (called 'contact hours') can be as little as 12 hours a week for a full-time enrolment, but the timetabling may be scattered throughout the week. You should think of full-time study as equivalent to a full-time job—that is, about 36 hours a week, or 8–9 hours per subject. Included in this study time is reading for tutorials, assignment preparation, and study for any end-of-semester exams.

Can I fit university into my life?

Many people who return to study have other demands, like family and jobs. The good news is that you can plan your course to suit your life.

Part-time and off-campus study

Most courses can be studied part-time, and some courses include options for off-campus study, such as print- or web-based distance education. This means that you can continue to work or care for young children while you are a student. You can also vary the amount of study from year to year, according to your circumstances.

Access to facilities

Many of the University's facilities can be accessed out of normal working hours. A number of computer labs have 24-hour access, and the University Library is open most evenings during the week. Computer facilities and UTAS support material are also available at your local Online Access Centre and State Library branch.

Childcare

For students with children, reliable childcare is a necessity for peace of mind. In addition to listed childcare providers across the State, the University has on-campus childcare centres in Hobart and Launceston. At times, these facilities can experience periods of high demand, and thus bookings are essential and waiting lists often apply.

Can I get recognition for my previous study?

If you have undertaken studies at another institution at some stage, you may be entitled to credit (sometimes called 'advanced standing'). The faculty responsible for your course gives advice about what documentation to provide and makes the final decision on the credit.

There are articulation and credit arrangements between TAFE Tasmania and the University of Tasmania. For detailed information, go to www.utas.edu.au/tafetouni

What support is available?

We understand that starting at university can be quite daunting, especially if it has been a number of years since you last did any formal study. UTAS has a number of support programs to assist you in the transition to university:

- **Unistart**—a short free-of-charge program for new students, available at the start of each semester. Focuses on developing essay-writing and other essential skills required for independent learning at university.
- **University Preparation Program (UPP)**—pre-university program for future students, providing the learning and personal skills needed to succeed at University.
- **Enabling programs**—provide intensive study in subjects required for entry to particular courses. For a full list, go to www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents
- **Mentor scheme**—a free-of-charge scheme that introduces new students (mentees) to experienced students (mentors) during the first week of university. Go to www.firstyear.utas.edu.au and click on 'Services and support'.

What does all this jargon mean?

When you begin to look into university study, you may feel like you're encountering a whole new language! Don't be put off—here's a short list of some commonly-used words to get you started:

Associate degree: a course which provides an alternative pathway into the University if you don't meet minimum entry requirements. 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 of at least three years (full-time), e.g. Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Nursing.

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

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

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.

Undergraduate (study): study undertaken in order to gain an associate degree or bachelor 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. HEA101 Australian Literature) and a percentage weighting (e.g. 12.5%).

Weighting: UTAS uses a percentage point weighting system for its units to determine student contribution amounts. 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.