

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
- 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:

- 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/guide/download.tisc>

University enabling courses

University enabling courses are designed to prepare students to qualify for a range of undergraduate courses. These courses develop the skills needed to succeed in university-level study, such as academic research and writing, numeracy, and critical thinking skills.

Enabling courses are free for school leavers who are 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
University of Western Australia	The University of Western Australia accept entry after the successful completion of enabling programs at Australian University or affiliated college with a final weighted average mark of 65% or higher. https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/admission-entry-pathways/enabling-programs

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.

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/pathways-to-uni/enabling-pathways/experience-based-entry/media-portfolio

Pathways and support 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.

University	Website
Curtin	https://karda.curtin.edu.au/study/enabling-courses
Edith Cowan	https://www.ecu.edu.au/degrees/aboriginal-and-or-torres-strait-islanders
Murdoch	K-Track https://www.murdoch.edu.au/course/Enabling/N1077
University of Notre Dame	https://www.notredame.edu.au/students/support/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-support
University of Western Australia	https://www.uwa.edu.au/study/indigenous-study

International Big Picture Learning Credential (IBPLC)

The IBPLC is a personalised form of final year assessment that measures and captures a broad range of capacities, experiences and qualities. A range of Australian universities offer places to graduates with this credential.

<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	https://www.ecu.edu.au/future-students/course-entry/experience-based-entry-scheme
Murdoch	https://www.murdoch.edu.au/study/pathways-to-uni/enabling-pathways/experience-based-entry
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/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 provides a variety of resources that you may find helpful, including a university admissions brochure available each year with requirements and pathways options.

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

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>