

Change of Preference

For students & their families

2025



Change of Preference Guide

For students & their families

A guide to changing preferences for students looking to study at university in Australia in 2026. Created by Study Work Grow Pty Ltd in 2025.

EDITION 7 | VERSION 1

Dates and application procedures can change unexpectedly, so we recommend you double check all information directly with the university or Tertiary Admissions Centre before changing your preferences. We have verified the information in this guide, but in some cases the information may differ from that provided on third party websites or printed material.

SCHOOL LICENSED EDITION (APPROVED FOR SHARING WITHIN A SCHOOL)

In this guide...

What are preferences?

Why change your preferences?

The change of preference flowchart

Important dates

Limits and fees

Change of preference FAQs

Information sessions

Change of preference checklist



What are preferences?

Preferences are simply the courses you're applying for listed in the order you'd like to study them.

When you submit an application, you'll typically add your dream course as your first preference, some similar options next, and one or more backup options at the end.

Listing the maximum number of possible preferences on your applications is usually a good idea. This will give you the best opportunity to receive at least one offer – or maybe more.

But did you know that your preferences aren't set in stone, even after you've submitted your application?

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR PREFERENCES

Once you submit your application, universities will often allow you to change your preferences, allowing you to re-order the existing courses on your list or even add and remove courses.

In this guide, we're going to explore:

- Some of the reasons why you might change your preferences
- When you need to do it by
- Where you can find more information

Let's get started.



Change of Preference

studyworkgrow

SCHOOL LICENSED EDITION (APPROVED FOR SHARING WITHIN A SCHOOL)



Why change your preferences?

There are lots of reasons you might like to change your preferences – here are just a few:

- ☐ Your ATAR was better than you expected
- ☐ Your ATAR wasn't as good as you had hoped for
- ☐ You've had a change of heart about the best course or university for you
- ☐ You've discovered a course you didn't know about when you applied
- ☐ The prerequisites for a course on your list have changed
- ☐ The course you applied for has been dropped or changed
- ☐ You didn't put your preferences in the right order the first time

If you do decide to change your preferences, make sure you're doing it because you want or need to - and not because your friends are, or your parents think you should.

The change of preference flowchart

The process of changing your preferences is relatively simple. Here's an overview of the steps you'll need to follow:



Important dates

Most universities and Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs) provide plenty of opportunities for you to change your preferences. After submitting your application and before you receive your first offer, you can usually log into your application and adjust your preferences.

Note that change of preference might only be available during certain periods, and that each offer round may have separate cut-off dates.

TAC	Main Offer Round	CoP Main Round Deadline	CoP Next Round Deadline
UAC	23 December 2025	18 December 2025	30 December 2025
VTAC	23 December 2025	13 December 2025	23 December 2025
QTAC	23 December 2025	19 December 2025	6 January 2026
SATAC	15 January 2026	5 January 2026	--
TISC	24 December 2025	20 December 2025	14 January 2026
UTAS	Mid-December	--	--

This information is correct at the time of publication (November 2025), but sometimes dates change for various reasons - so we recommend double-checking the cut-off dates for your chosen universities or courses directly with the TAC or institution.

Note: UTAS send out their main round of offers to Tasmanian students mid-December and to students in all other states/territories in January. If you don't receive an offer, UTAS can provide you with advice on alternative pathways to study.

Limits and fees

Each TAC and university has different application processes, and this includes change of preference. Here are the preference limits and fees you might need to keep in mind:

TAC	Preference Limit	CoP Limit	CoP Fee
UAC	5	Unlimited	Free
VTAC	8	Unlimited	Free
QTAC	6	Unlimited	First 3 free, then \$70 for each subsequent CoP
SATAC	6	Unlimited	Free
TISC	6	Unlimited	Free

There are some other important things you should know too:

SOME COURSES CAN'T BE ADDED AFTER CERTAIN DATES

If a course has an early closing date, you might find it can't be added to your preferences once this date has passed.

COURSE PLACES MIGHT FILL AFTER THE FIRST OFFER ROUND

If enough offers are accepted to a course in the first offer round, it won't be available in subsequent rounds.

NOT ALL COURSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR OFFERS IN EACH ROUND

Each university is able to decide when they want to make offers for their courses, and not every uni will make offers in every round.

RECEIVING AN OFFER CAN LIMIT YOUR OPTIONS

If you receive an offer to a course, you may not be able to remove it from your preferences in subsequent rounds.

Change of preference FAQs

Have questions about change of preference? We have the answers.

WHAT IF I MISS THE CHANGE OF PREFERENCE DEADLINE?

If you miss the change of preference deadline for the main offer round, you might have the chance to change them again before the next offer round.

Keep in mind that some institutions (like [SATAC](#)) only have **one** change of preference deadline for all offer rounds for courses starting in Semester 1.

DOES THE ORDER OF MY PREFERENCES REALLY MATTER?

Yes! You can only receive one offer in each round, and it will be to the highest course in your preferences that you're eligible for - so make sure you put your most wanted course right at the top.

WHAT IF I DON'T RECEIVE ANY OFFERS?

If don't have an offer by the last round, it definitely doesn't mean you have to give up. There are lots of alternative pathways into your dream course. We recommend speaking with the university to discuss your options and ask for advice on what to do next.

DO I NEED TO CHANGE MY PREFERENCES?

If you're happy with your preferences, then stick with them.

If you receive a higher ATAR than expected, don't immediately rush off and change your preferences just because you can apply for a "better" course - stick with the course you actually want to do! And remember, there's no such thing as "wasting" a good ATAR.

CAN I ACCEPT AN OFFER, THEN CHANGE MY PREFERENCES AND WAIT TO SEE IF I RECEIVE ANOTHER IN THE NEXT ROUND?

In most cases, this is totally fine (**note:** if you are applying through [TISC](#), **do not accept or defer your offer** and use their 'automatic safety net' instead).

If you do end up accepting a different offer, just make sure you withdraw from the first one before any important deadlines.

Information sessions

Still confused about change of preference?

Lots of universities hold special events around results release and offer time to guide you through the process and answer any questions you might have.

You can find upcoming change of preference events in your location by clicking on the link below, or visiting studyworkgrow.com/change-of-preference.

FIND CHANGE OF PREFERENCE EVENTS HERE

If your chosen university isn't holding a dedicated change of preference event, don't panic.

You can always get in touch with the future students team to ask any questions you might have. They'll be more than happy to help in any way they can.

You can also browse the information available on the university or TAC's website to find out more.

Or you might like to use the handy checklist on the next page to help you make a decision.

Wherever you end up, good luck and best wishes from the entire team at Study Work Grow.



Change of Preference

SCHOOL LICENSED EDITION (APPROVED FOR SHARING WITHIN A SCHOOL)

Do you need to change your preferences?

Use this checklist to help you decide whether or not to change your preferences and keep track of your applications.

- ☐ Check if there are fees for making changes
- ☐ Make a note of the results release date
- ☐ Note any change of preference cut-off dates
- ☐ Attend information sessions to find out more
- ☐ Research courses & eligibility carefully
- ☐ Seek advice from teachers, family & friends
- ☐ Consider whether a change is really necessary
- ☐ Wait to see if you receive an offer
- ☐ Find alternative pathways into your course

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH FUTURES THEY LOVE



studyworkgrow

p. + 61 7 4039 3862

e. info@studyworkgrow.com

Study Work Grow has exercised its best efforts and judgement in compiling the information in this Guide, however you acknowledge that: 1) it is provided for information and general advisory purposes only and does not constitute professional, legal or career advice, 2) it should not be relied upon or regarded as a comprehensive assessment or evaluation or recommendation of your skills, competencies or personality or your prospects of success in a particular vocation, field or industry, 3) we recommend you contact the relevant educational institution or professional or trade organisation before making any decisions about a career or future plans, 4) to the extent permitted by law, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, 5) you release us from liability for any loss, damage or expense resulting or arising from your use of or reliance on this communication.

All rights are reserved.