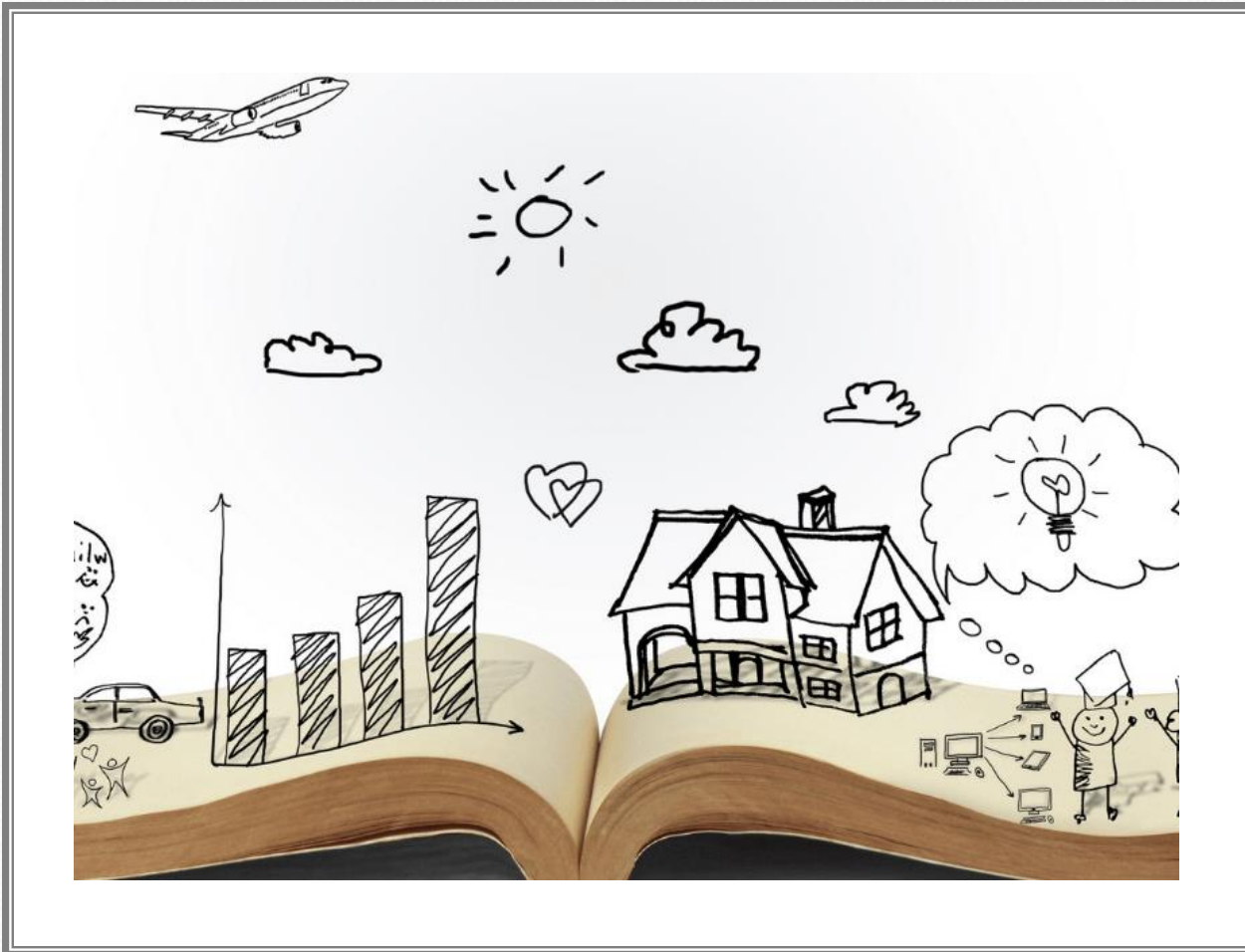


Applying for University

Things to consider



Things to consider before applying

- What you want to study
- Where you want to study
- Cost involved
- Pathway options



Knowing what you want to study and why

There are many reasons to choose to study at university. Some reasons may include:

- Employment opportunities
- An interest in a particular topic/field, or a general love of learning
- Experiencing 'uni life'/developing social networks

Studying for employment

If your goal of studying is to increase employment opportunities, it is worth ensuring your chosen course has a clear pathway to employment.

A Bachelor of Arts, majoring in philosophy may not increase your employability a great deal. However, if you then completed a Masters in Education it could be an interesting way to become a teacher.

You should be aware that studying something like “Journalism”, with a clear employment opportunity at the end, is not a guarantee of being employed in that field at the completion of study.





Knowing where you want to study

- Which state?
- Rural or Metropolitan?
- Are you choosing the location because of the courses on offer or the lifestyle on offer?

Costs involved

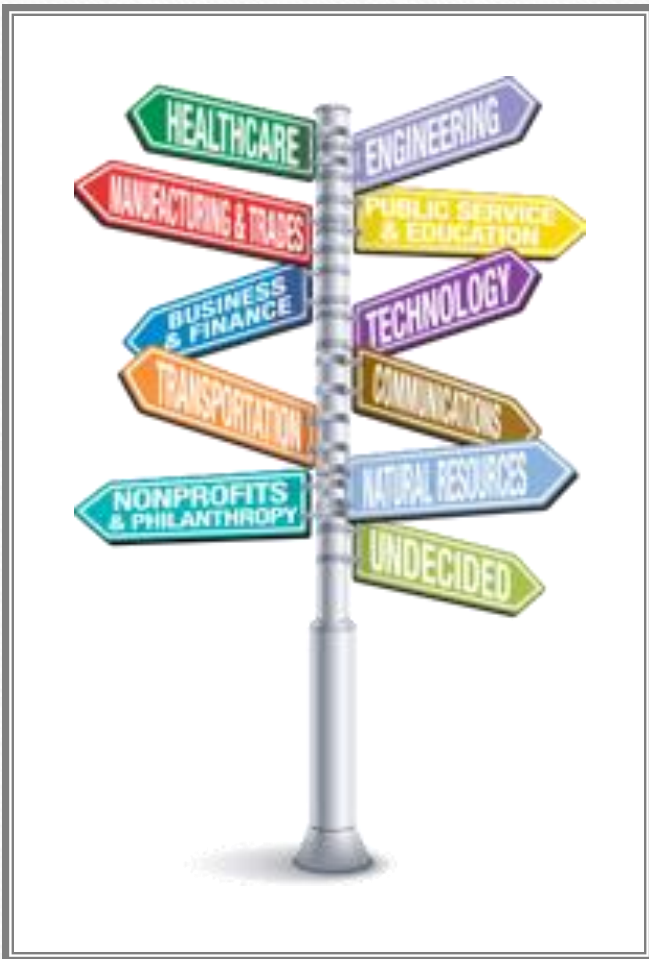
Depending on where you choose to apply, it can cost from \$44 up to \$150 per application. Cost vary from university to university, and there are a number of universities that have no fees for applying.

Costs involved

Other costs include:

- Moving interstate
- The cost of living - depending on your situation you may or may not qualify for government support while you are studying
- Course fees - even though these can be deferred via HECS/HELP loans, studying at university can accrue significant debt. Most people will consider this to be a valuable investment in the long term.





Pathway options

There are many ways to get into university, or to get into the course you want.

These include:

- Applying as a school leaver
- Applying as a “mature age student”.
- Applying for a similar course to the one you are interested in and then transferring.
- There are others depending on your situation.

Applying as a school leaver

Generally speaking, if you are applying for university while you are in Year 12 your acceptance into your chosen course will be influenced by your ATAR.

However, due to the impact of COVID, there are some universities that are accepting students based on their academic performance in Year 11 and the completion of their NTCET.



Applying as a school leaver



When applying as a school leaver you will either need to apply directly to the university you wish to study at or via a state-based Tertiary Admission Centre (like SATAC for SA universities, QTAC for QLD, VTAC for Victoria).

DATES ARE CRITICAL – AVOID LATE FEES

You will find information on how to apply on the website for the specific universities and courses you are interested.

Applying as a school leaver

Some Tertiary Admission Centres also offer an optional test (STAT) that people can complete to be considered instead or along side their ATAR.

This is not a requirement of applying, merely another option to support people seeking to study at university. There are additional cost involved with completing a STAT



Applying as a school leaver



If your application to study is successful you are able to defer studies until the next school year.

The number of times you can defer a course depends on the university and the course.

Applying as a “mature age student”.

Each university has a different definition of “mature age”. One university in WA defines it as “not a school leaver”, so 18 or 19. It is commonly about 21, can be as late as 25.

The benefit of being “mature age” is your ATAR is no longer strongly considered. Instead, weight is given to your life experience and why you wish to return to study. Some universities require the completion of an additional tests that acts as a stand in for an ATAR.

What if I change my mind?

Most people who begin study at university will complete their course, however, if you begin studying and decide it is not for you there are options:



- You can transfer courses, universities, or even locations if you decide you don't like the place you are living. There is some paperwork involved but there are people at uni who can guide you through this
- You can decide to discontinue studying before “census date”, which is the date that fees are due for the semester, and you will not have to pay uni fees. You may still have to pay for any accommodation you have committed to.
- You can defer study, either before you start or at the end of a semester.



What if I change my mind?

Very few people regret their decision to go to uni, even if they don't end up completing their course or their course doesn't end up advancing their career opportunities.

A background image showing various study supplies including a pencil, a ruler, a spiral notebook, a pen, and a pencil case, all slightly out of focus and overlaid with a dark grey semi-transparent layer.

How do I know what study options there are?

There are many websites out there that can help, but [The Good University Guide](#) is a good place to start.



Want more info?

Please contact Ms Stacey Gill if you have further questions or wish to discuss your specific circumstance.

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