

Change of Preference Guide

A guide to changing preferences for school leavers applying to university in Australia

studyworkgrow

Change of Preference Guide

A guide to changing preferences for students looking to study at university in 2025. Created by Study Work Grow Pty Ltd in 2024.

EDITION 6 | VERSION 1

From time to time dates and application procedures can change, so we recommend you double check all information directly the university or TAC 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.

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE GUIDE

In this guide...

WHAT IS CHANGE OF PREFERENCE?

WHY CHANGE YOUR PREFERENCES?

IMPORTANT DATES

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE FAQs

INFORMATION SESSIONS

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE CHECKLIST

studyworkgrow

What is change of preference?

Preferences are simply the courses you want to apply for, listed in the order you'd like to study them.

When you submit your application, we recommend that you list your dream course first, some more realistic options next, and one safe option last. Listing the maximum number of possible preferences on your applications is also 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?

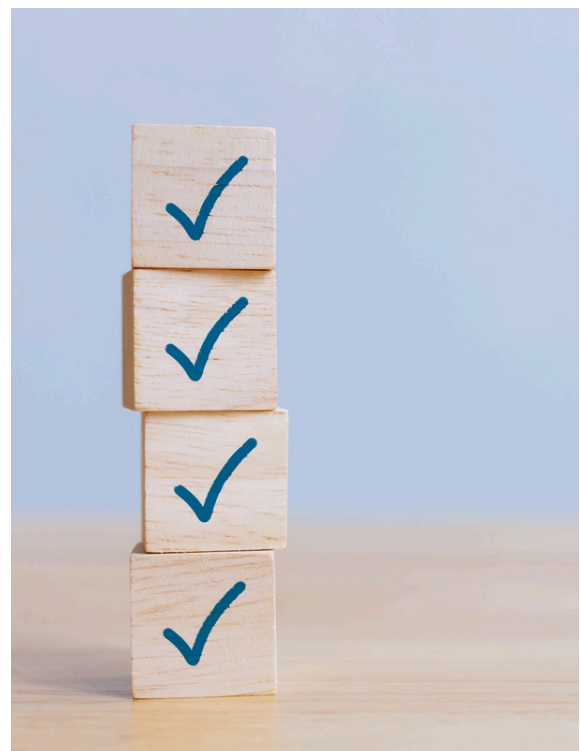
YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR PREFERENCES

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 jump in.

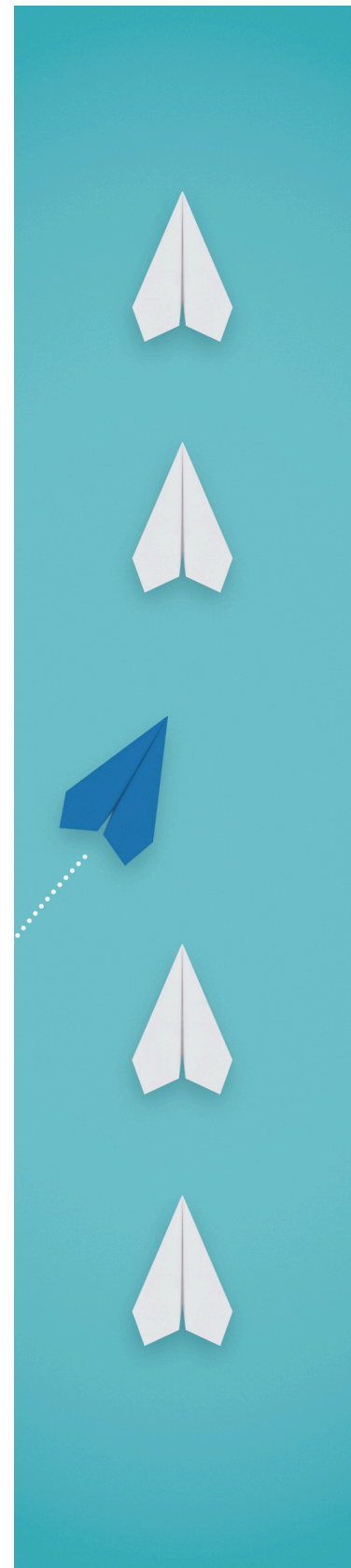


Why change your preferences?

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 have a change of heart about the best course or university for you
- You discover a course you didn't know about when you applied
- The prerequisites for a course on your list change
- The course you apply for is 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 to - not because your friends are or your parents think you should.



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 2024	18 December 2024	2 January 2025
VTAC	23 December 2024	14 December 2024	24 December 2025
QTAC	23 December 2024	18 December 2024	7 January 2025
SATAC	10 January 2025	2 January 2025	--
TISC	21 December 2024	17 December 2024	15 January 2025
UTAS	Mid-December	--	--

This information is correct at the time of publication (Oct 2024), 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, so you may need to call and check with them when the last chance to change your preferences will be.

Change of preference FAQs

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

WHAT IF I MISS THE DEADLINE?

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

If all the offer rounds are over and you still don't have an offer for your preferred course, contact the university and find out what your options are.

WHAT IF I DON'T GET ANY OFFERS?

If all the rounds have passed and you still don't have an offer, it definitely doesn't mean you have to give up.

There are lots of alternative pathways to get into your dream course. We recommend speaking with the university to discuss the various pathways and weigh up your options.

DO I HAVE TO CHANGE MY PREFERENCES?

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

Say for example you get a higher ATAR than you expected. Don't immediately rush off and change your preferences just because you can apply for a "better" course now – there's no such thing as "wasting" a good ATAR.

CAN I ACCEPT AN OFFER AND WAIT TO SEE IF I GET ANOTHER IN THE NEXT ROUND?

It's totally fine to accept an offer as a backup, then withdraw from it later if you receive another offer that suits you better.

If you do accept multiple offers, just make sure you withdraw from all but one before any key dates.



Information sessions

Still confused about change of preference?

Lots of universities hold special events leading up to the first round of offers 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.

[FIND CHANGE OF PREFERENCE EVENTS](#)

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.



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
- Check any change of preference cut-off dates
- Attend information sessions to find out more
- Research courses + eligibility carefully
- Seek advice from teachers, family + friends
- Make sure changing your preferences is really necessary
- Wait and see if you receive an offer
- Find alternative pathways into your course

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH FUTURES THEY LOVE



studyworkgrow

p. + 617 4039 3862

e. info@studyworkgrow.com

