



Preparing for UTAS: Application to Enrolment

After enrolment, look out for the companion fact sheet, 'Starting at UTAS'.

C O N T E N T S

- Plotting your course
- Get help from others
- Personal considerations
- Negotiating the system
- Size does matter
- Important practicalities
- Do you have the skills you need?
- Time management
- Becoming part of the University community
- Need more help?

You might be thinking of applying to study at UTAS, you might have applied, or you might have been accepted and wonder what you need to do next. This fact sheet provides information on things to consider and do in your preparation for university. Laying the groundwork in the months before university starts can make a big difference to your enjoyment of the first semester.

Visit the **Future Students website** for online admission guides, course and unit handbooks, application forms and a wealth of other information. Go to the UTAS home page at: www.utas.edu.au and click on 'Future Students'.

PLOTTING YOUR COURSE

"I didn't think I was smart enough to go to uni." (current student).

To make a smooth transition to university it is essential to think in terms of you as manager of your learning. A key outcome for any degree is learning how to learn. A second outcome for most students is applying the knowledge and skills they have acquired to a career. Choosing the right course and the right major for you can be informed by examination of your interests, exploration of different options and help from others.

For more information and assistance with **career decisions**, go to: myfuture.edu.au, an Australian online career service.

Interests

Pursue areas of interest and do some research and networking to explore the employment trends around your interests. Research shows that students who choose courses that they are interested in and have some relevance to their future career direction are more likely to be successful in their studies. Employers are interested in your ability to learn as much as the knowledge you have gained.

Phone 1300 363 864 for an individual appointment with a **Student Recruitment Officer** to discuss your course options.

GET HELP FROM OTHERS

Taking time to clarify your course and subject choice now, could save years of frustration.

- Use your school careers service.
- Talk to people already working in your career of interest.
- Gain work experience in the area of interest.
- Attend Uni Info Days in August.
- Follow the links from the Future Students website for subject choice advice at: www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents
- Talk to a Student Recruitment Officer on 1300 363 864.
- Talk to faculty officers, faculty Student Advisers and lecturers.

Attend an **Acceptance Session** for information on the steps you need to take prior to commencement of study. Details and times, and how to book into a session, will be sent with letters of offer.

For more information, visit the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au and click on 'Orientation, UniStart & Enabling Programs'.

PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS

"My partner thinks that students just drink coffee all day and have long holidays..." (first year student).

Choosing to come to university is seldom a choice made in isolation. It has consequences for family, partners and friends. Support people can play a vital role in helping you to maintain your motivation in study over the time of your degree.

It will help to include these people in your planning, particularly if they have not been involved in tertiary education before. Talking about the nature of university and how it will impact on them can be helpful. Working together to decide when and how you will fit in study can prevent problems later on. A fact sheet entitled Information for Family Members of First Time University Students is available from Student Services or can be downloaded from www.studentservices.utas.edu.au (click on 'Fact Sheets').

NEGOTIATING THE SYSTEM

"I found the process of starting uni extremely confusing." (first year student).

The size of the University and the formality of the application and enrolment process can make it quite daunting. It's important to remember that behind all the paper are real people. If you have any questions about your enrolment, or don't know who to ask, ring the Student Centre on 1300 361 928. If they can't answer your question, they'll refer you to someone who can.

Visit the **First Year at UTAS website** for a host of information relevant to you as you start uni. Read the **Quick Help Guide** and **Important Steps for new students** linked from the site at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au

WAITING FOR YOUR OFFER

Offers for non-quota restricted courses will be mailed progressively from August the year prior to commencement of study and offers for quota restricted places will be mailed progressively from mid-October. Make sure to let the Student Centre know if your address

changes (1300 361 928). Remember that offers are made up until the start of semester.

If you receive an offer and need more information on what happens next, contact the Student Centre on 1300 361 928 or email Student.Centre@utas.edu.au

SIZE DOES MATTER

"I finally thought I had the right room but it turned out to be a broom closet...!" (first year student).

Often the first response of students visiting the campus is awe at the physical size. The number of buildings, the geography of the campus and the distances to cover can be overwhelming at first. Lecture classes can be more than 300 people! Finding rooms can seem impossible! Car parking can be a nightmare! Studying with a wide variety of age and culture groups may be a vastly new experience. Take time to walk around the campus and find the buildings relevant for you before your classes start.

Download a **campus map** from the web. Follow the link from the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au

Take a **campus tour** during Orientation Week.

IMPORTANT PRACTICALITIES

"If I had of known all this stuff in first year, it would have made such a difference." (third year student).

Fees

There are a number of costs associated with attending University. An approximate summary of these costs (per year) is provided below:

Text books and stationery	\$300 - \$800
Accommodation	\$4,000 – \$11,000
Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS)	\$3,920 - \$6,535 *

* 2008 figures

There may be financial support available through Centrelink as well as scholarships, bursaries and grants. For more information, follow the links on the Future Students website at: www.utas.edu.au/futurestudents.

In 2005 the government introduced higher education reforms, which involved changes to Commonwealth supported university places.

For more information, go to:

www.goingtouni.gov.au, pick up a booklet from the Student Centre, or phone 1800 020 108.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available through a number of avenues. These include:

University Accommodation Services (Hobart and Launceston)	1300 138 497
Jane Franklin Hall (Hobart)	6223 2000
Investigator Hall (Launceston)	6335 4703
Tasmania University Union Housing Scheme (Hobart)	6226 2498

For more information about any of these accommodation options, go to:

www.utas.edu.au/accommodation/

DO YOU HAVE THE SKILLS YOU NEED?

UTAS offers a range of enabling programs to help prepare you for university study. These include bridging programs for business, law, science, maths, chemistry, physics, etc. For more information, pick up a brochure from the Student Centre, or go to: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au and follow the links from 'Orientation, UniStart & Enabling Programs'.

UniStart

All new students are encouraged to enrol in UniStart, an enabling course that provides a short face-to-face program prior to each semester and access to many learning resources online throughout the year.

UniStart is free for all domestic students. To enquire about UniStart call 6226 7251 (Hobart), 6324 3504 (Launceston/Cradle Coast), or go to: www.utas.edu.au/unistart for more information.

University Preparation Program (UPP)

The University Preparation Program (UPP) is a flexibly delivered course designed specifically to enable mature-age (over 21 years) students to become successful university students. If you think this may be relevant for you, contact the UPP Coordinator on 6430 4949 or email UPP.Course@utas.edu.au

TIME MANAGEMENT

"I finally realised that it was not so much about being smart, but being organised." (PhD student).

Juggling study, social, family and often work commitments takes high-level skills that we need to continually revise. Some students forget that their time is their own and they wait for others to organise them. This won't happen at uni. Take the initiative to organise yourself and seek help if you need it.

- Yearly planners and diaries are available through the Tasmania University Union or the Co-op Bookshop on your campus – get one!
- Pick up a Time Management fact sheet and free weekly planner from Student Services, or download copies from the web at: www.studentservices.utas.edu.au (click on 'Fact Sheets', then 'Other Resources' for the weekly planner.)
- Add University key dates to your planner.
- Schedule in lectures, tutorials, work times and other commitments. When you get them, mark all assignments and tests onto your planner.
- Enrol in UniStart to learn more about time management.

BECOMING PART OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Research repeatedly shows that students who succeed at uni become part of the community. They get to know other students, lecturers and tutors and make use of support services. They take the lead with their learning and use the wide range of resources at university in the way that best suits them. It is important to recognise that university is not just about a 'piece of paper' but a life development process. The faster you can feel part of the place, the easier your time at university will be. There are a few things you can do to help yourself with this process:

- Get used to your campus. Explore, wander around, have a coffee, read noticeboards and chat to people.

- If you have a question: ASK! ASK! ASK!
- Attend all orientation events relevant to you.
- Find out if your school or faculty has a mentor scheme and make use of it.

Orientation Activities are held prior to the start of semester on a range of academic and general topics. Check the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au and follow the link to 'Orientation, UniStart & Enabling Programs' for details.

NEED MORE HELP?

Go to the First Year website at: www.firstyear.utas.edu.au or call 1300 361 928 for further details on any of the information contained in this fact sheet.