

# University early entry information

---

## Early Entry

Early entry gives you the chance to receive an offer to university before you've finished your exams. This can give you peace of mind and help you be more relaxed during what can be a stressful time.

One important thing to note is that most early offers are conditional, which means you need to meet one or more 'conditions' before your offer becomes final. Common conditions include things like completing Year 12, achieving a minimum ATAR, or completing prerequisite subjects.

## How do I apply for early entry?

Most universities manage their own early entry programs, so you'll be applying directly instead of through UAC (though sometimes you'll need to apply through both).

Unfortunately, this means they all have different application processes and dates. Early entry guides can be accessed via the [Tertiary and Careers eVe page](#), with hard copies also available. Most programs open May through to June, with most applications due in September. Some programs will require additional supporting evidence, so ensure you know of the requirements and seek to access these in advance.

## Adjustment factors explained (formerly bonus points)

If you're in Year 12 and thinking about university, you've probably been browsing courses. You might also have come across terms like "ATAR cut-off", "Selection Rank", and "adjustment factors".

But what do these terms mean, and how might they affect your chances of getting into your dream course? Each of these terms is clarified below.

## Selection Rank vs ATAR

Your ATAR is a number that illustrates your overall academic performance when compared to everyone else in your year group across the state. It is a numerical value that universities use to easily see how your results compare to other Year 12 students.

So why do you sometimes see a minimum Selection Rank (SR) listed for a course instead of a minimum ATAR?

Each university is its own independent body, so they decide the minimum requirements for entry into their courses. Using SRs is how they do this.

To calculate your SR, the university will take your ATAR (a set number that will never change), then add any adjustment factors (formerly called bonus points) that you are eligible for. The final total equals your Selection Rank.

To put it simply,  $\text{ATAR} + \text{adjustment factors} = \text{SR}$ .

## How do universities set Selection Ranks?

Each year, universities set the minimum SR for each course based on a few key factors, such as:

- the number of places available
- how many people apply, and/or
- the overall competitiveness of applicants.

Because of this, the minimum SR required for entry to a course can change from one year to the next. These thresholds aren't set in advance, so when you're researching courses, last year's minimum should only be used as a general guide, not a guarantee.

If your ATAR is slightly lower than the published SR, you could be eligible for adjustment factors that will make up the difference.

### **Adjustment factors: What are they?**

Adjustment factors are the points that are added to your ATAR which make up your selection rank.

Adjustment factors exist to make the playing field more equal, ensuring that students who are at a disadvantage or who go the extra mile during their studies are given the best chance of securing a spot in their chosen course.

There are many reasons you might receive adjustment factors, including:

- performance in certain subjects
- diversity
- through schemes such as the Educational Access Scheme (EAS)
- athletic performance and achievement,

Remember, these bonus points don't change your final ATAR - they are applied individually by different institutions and are only considered during applications.

### **How do I access adjustment factors?**

Some adjustment factors are added automatically when you apply, so you don't need to do a thing. Others require a separate application (such as the EAS).

While one university might award you adjustment factors for certain things, another university might not. For example, UNSW awards bonus points to elite athletes and performers; UNE on the other hand does not. However, UNE offers automatic adjustment factors for rural students, while at UNSW you need to submit a separate application.

As selection rank adjustments vary between institutions, and even between courses at the same university, it is always worth checking the specific criteria for each before applying. The most reliable place to get information is from the universities themselves, so check on the course requirement pages, contact current students, or attend open days or information sessions.

### **Need more information?**

It is best to head directly to the university websites who provide specific information regarding early entry and adjustment factors.

Additionally, the [University Admissions Centre \(UAC\)](#) and careers websites such as [studyworkgrow](#) can be helpful for students and parents alike.

### **Mr Ryan Richards**

Head of Tertiary Pathways