

## Australia - IP Bulletin 2010

### General

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The International Program is affiliated with six universities in Australia: Griffith University, Macquarie University, the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, the University of Western Sydney, and Victoria University. CSU students apply to an academic program in general rather than to a specific institution. The Office of International Programs reviews each student's file and placement is made based on the student's academic needs and preparation as well as programmatic considerations. Disciplines are strictly limited to those indicated below.

Students are selected for a particular field of study and expected to take courses in that field of study during their year abroad. The fields of study in which students can be placed in 2010 are:

- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Australian and Indigenous Studies
- Communication Studies
- Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Food and Nutrition
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Kinesiology and Exercise Science
- Marine Biology
- Occupational Therapy
- Performing Arts
- Psychology
- Studio Art

#### Griffith University

Another Queensland university, Griffith began in 1975 and now has 29,000 students, including 5,500 international students in more than 140 undergraduate degree programs on five campuses from Brisbane to the Gold Coast.

#### Macquarie University

Located in Sydney's northern suburbs, Macquarie is also a fairly new university with a reputation for innovation.

#### Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

QUT was created in 1989, however, its origins go back to the beginning of technical and teacher education in Queensland in 1849. It currently has three campuses in metropolitan Brisbane, enrolling over 28,000 students.

#### The University of Queensland (UQ)

The oldest university in Queensland, UQ is one of the leading universities in Australia and a world-class research institution. CSU students study at the St Lucia campus located in a bend of the Brisbane River in the city of Brisbane. UQ enrolls approximately 30,000 students in 350 programs through the Ph.D.

#### The University of Western Sydney (UWS)

UWS has six campuses located in the western suburbs of Sydney.

#### Victoria University (VU)

Generally known as Victoria University, VU is one of Australia's largest universities with 14 campuses in Melbourne, and enrolls over 50,000 students. Disciplines available are Business, Engineering, Hospitality and Tourism, and Human Movement (Physical Education). Students attend the Footscray Park campus, six kilometers from the Melbourne Central Business District.

### Academic Calendar

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The academic year in Australia is divided into two semesters. As the seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere, the first term begins mid to late February and runs until the end of June. The second term begins late July and ends in late November or early December.

### Academic Advising

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The Australian system of higher education derives from the British model, although it has developed along unique lines. In that model, general education as a component of the undergraduate degree is unknown. Undergraduate students enroll in a program of study that is relatively fixed and highly focused within the particular subject. The degree program normally takes three years to complete except some specialized or professional fields such as Engineering, Teaching or Physical Therapy, which require a fourth year of study. CSU students will enroll only in courses within the approved field of study in which they are placed, following the same general plan as their Australian counterparts.

Since Australian undergraduate students cover a field of study in great detail, they spend two to three times as long in concentrated study as do typical American undergraduate students. It is not surprising, therefore, to find American seniors taking second or third year courses in Australia.

Students should be aware that there is a distinction between first, second and third year courses. First year courses are usually introductory courses and taken by students in their first year of university study. Depending on course content, these are generally considered lower division courses. Second and third year courses are more advanced and considered equivalent to upper division courses. American students will find that second and third year courses can require more prerequisites and students are expected to have met prerequisites if they wish to take the course. If in doubt about whether the course is a first, second or third year course, students should look at the course description or outline online or ask their advisor at their host university during their academic advising sessions after arrival.

Students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 15 CSU semester units each semester. Since most courses in Australia are worth four CSU semester units, CSU student will enroll in the equivalent of 16 CSU units each semester. Full time courseload equivalents and unit value equivalents for most courses are explained in the following table:

Australian University	CSU courseload requirement at Australian University per semester	Unit equivalent
Griffith University	40 credit points =16 CSU units	10 credits = 4 CSU units
QUT	48 credit points =16 CSU units	12 credits = 4 CSU units
Macquarie University	12-14 points = 16 CSU units	3 or 4 credits = 4 CSU units
University of Queensland	8 units = 16 CSU units	2 units = 4 CSU units
University of Western Sydney	40 credit points =16 CSU units	10 credit = 4 CSU units
Victoria University	40 credit points =16 CSU units	12 credits = 4 CSU units

Based on the table above, students take at least four courses each semester. A minimum of three courses must be within the approved area of study in which they were accepted. The fourth course can be an elective course.

Below is an example of the academic schedule for each semester in Australia.

	<u>CSU Units</u>
Courses in approved area of study	12
Elective course outside approved area of study:	4
Minimum number of units required:	16

Any exceptions to the above schedule (e.g. taking more than one elective course in a given semester, taking more than 16 units, etc.), must be approved by the Office of International Programs. To request an exception, email the Office of International Programs at: < [IPacademics@calstate.edu](mailto:IPacademics@calstate.edu) >.

## Assessment and Grading

A course at an Australian university usually combines both seminars/tutorials and lectures, and students are expected to perform a great deal of independent work (e.g. reading, library study and doing research) in order to achieve high marks. Participation in class discussions during the seminars and tutorials is expected in addition to regular assignments. Courses may require fewer assignments but these assignments are worth a higher percentage of the total grade. For example, it is not uncommon to have a large percentage of a final grade based upon only one or two exams.

Typically, the Australian grading system is based on a seven-point scale. The mark of "High Distinction" is the best grade a student can receive, followed by "Distinction". Both grades equate to an A. "Credit" equates to a B and "Pass" equates to a C. "Pass Conceded" equates to a D and "Failure 1 or Failure 2" equates to an F. Students can get a general idea of the grading scale and grade conversion by reviewing the table below. Note that grading scales, percentages and grade conversions shown in the table can differ slightly between institutions.

Australian University	CSU Grade
7 = High Distinction (HD) (85-100)	A
6 = Distinction (D) (75-84)	A
5 = Credit (CR) (65-74)	B
4 = Pass (P) (50-64)	C
3 = Pass Conceded (PC) (45-49)	D
1 or 2 = Failure (44 and below)	F

Attendance is graded, and failure to attend the majority of lectures and tutorials can result in a professor refusing admission into the final exam and/or giving you a much lower grade. Australian universities also have strict policies with regards to taking exams and may not allow a student to take an exam if the student arrives late. Therefore, it is important that you become familiar with the test-taking policies by reading these policies when you arrive at your host university and

again, before you take any exams. CSU students are expected to comply with the policies implemented by their host university.

## Academic Reporting

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To ensure accurate reporting, OIP will report courses taken in Australia by using a special course designation number, which will allow the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student's CSU academic record. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi and other course materials to their home campus advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor or general education requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms at your campus.

## Course Offerings

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Students are advised to consult the university's websites for specific course offerings, keeping in mind that CSU students are limited to the disciplines indicated below, and sometimes to courses for international students.

Each semester, students are expected to take a minimum of three courses within the approved area of study in which they are placed, following the same general plan as their Australian counterparts. The fourth course can be an elective course. Note that admission to courses is subject to availability, approval of the host university and the particular department's prerequisites.

Most courses taken are equivalent to four CSU semester units. All students are required to take four courses each semester, which is equivalent to 16 CSU semester units.

## Griffith University

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Communication Studies (Gold Coast or Nathan campus)
- Engineering (Gold Coast or Nathan campus)
- Environmental Studies (Nathan campus)
- Hospitality and Tourism (Gold Coast campus)
- Information Technology (Gold Coast or Nathan campus)
- Studio Art (Queensland College of Art, South Bank campus)

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at Griffith in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Communication and Media Studies	Communication and Media Studies
Engineering	Engineering
Environmental Studies	Environmental Studies
Hospitality and Tourism	Tourism
Information Technology	Information Technology
Studio Art	Visual Arts and Crafts

To find a course listing and descriptions, go to < <http://www.griffith.edu.au/programs-courses/course-search> > and do the following:

- Below "Course Search", click on "Course (Unit of Study) Search".
- Click on "Subject area" (on the menu on the left column).
- Under "Select a Subject Area", select the department which corresponds to the area for which you have been admitted as shown in right column in the above table.
- Select the "Semester" and appropriate campus under "Campus".

If the semester that you wish to attend is not yet online, then select any semester to get an idea of the course offerings and keep checking the website for updates.

### Course Codes and Levels

At Griffith, each course is given a unique course catalogue number (course code) in the following format: nnnnAAA. AAA is a three character alpha code for the School which is the academic owner for the course and nnnn is the four character numeric code providing the unique identifier. The first number represents the course level as follows:

- 1000-1999: First-year courses (lower division)
- 2000-2999: Second-year courses (upper division)
- 3000-3990: Third-year courses (upper division)

### Macquarie University

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Psychology

Below is a table containing the area of study and the corresponding department (and department abbreviation) at Macquarie in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

Area of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Psychology	Psychology (PSY)

To find a course listing and descriptions, go to: < <http://handbook.mq.edu.au/2009/Home.php> > and do the following:

- Enter the three letter departmental code under "Handbook Search".
- Scroll down the webpage until you find the section entitled "Units" (which is the Macquarie term for course).
- Click on the specific unit to access the course description.

### Course Codes and Levels

Each course is assigned a departmental three-letter code (as shown in the above table) followed by three digits. The first digit represents the course level as shown below.

- 100-199 First-year courses (lower division)
- 200-299 Second-year courses (upper division)
- 300-399 Third-year courses (upper division)

### Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

CSU students are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Communication Studies (Kelvin Grove campus)
- Engineering (Gardens Point campus)
- Information Technology (Gardens Point campus)
- Performing Arts: Dance and Drama (Kelvin Grove campus)

Below is a table containing CSU majors and the corresponding "faculties" and degree programs at QUT in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

CSU Major (approved area of study)	Relevant courses can be found in the following degree programs:
Communication Studies	Creative Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Design</li> <li>• Mass Communication</li> <li>• Journalism</li> <li>• Media and Communication</li> </ul>
Engineering	Faculty of Design & Built Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Engineering</li> <li>• Electrical Engineering</li> <li>• Mechanical Engineering</li> </ul>
Information Technology	Science and Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Technology</li> </ul>
Performing Arts	Creative Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance*</li> <li>• Drama</li> </ul>

\* Practical courses in Dance require previous dance training and an audition video/DVD.

To find course information, go to the following website: < <http://www.qut.edu.au/study/courseinfo/> > and do the following:

- Under “Course List”, click on the study area in which you were admitted.
- Click on the Bachelor program(s) relevant to your study area.
- Scroll down to “Course Structures” and click the area that you were approved to study.
- Scroll down the webpage and click on the specific course to find a list of courses and course information.

**Course Codes and Levels**

At QUT, each course is given a unique course catalogue number (course code) in the following format: AAAnnn. AAA is a three character alpha code for the School which is the academic owner for the course and nnn is the three character numeric code providing the unique identifier.

In the faculties of Business and Creative Industries, the first number represents the course level as follows:

- 100-199: First-year courses (lower division)
- 200-299 Second-year courses (upper division)
- 300-399: Third and fourth-year courses (upper division)

**The University of Queensland (UQ)**

CSU students are admitted to study at the St Lucia campus in the following areas:

- Australian Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Marine Biology
- Psychology

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding departments at UQ in which students can take courses (subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings”).

<b>Areas of study</b>	<b>Relevant courses can be found in the following undergraduate programs:</b>
Australian Studies	<u>Arts (St. Lucia)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies</li> <li>• Anthropology</li> </ul>
Environmental Studies	<u>Environmental Management (St. Lucia)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Systems and Wildlife</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> </ul> <u>Environmental Science</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth Sciences</li> <li>• Ecology</li> <li>• Molecular and Microbial Science</li> <li>• Natural Resource Science</li> </ul>
Marine Biology	<u>Marine Studies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquaculture &amp; Marine Biotechnology</li> <li>• Coastal Management</li> <li>• Marine Biology &amp; Ecology</li> <li>• Marine Geology &amp; Coastal Processes</li> </ul>
Psychology	<u>Arts (St. Lucia)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychology</li> </ul>

To find course descriptions, go to < <http://www.uq.edu.au/study/browse.html?level=ugpg> > and do the following:

- Search for the undergraduate program for which you were admitted (underlined in the right column in above table) on the left side of webpage
- Click on the specific undergraduate major offered at the St Lucia campus.
- Click on “Course list” to view the courses offered as part of that degree.
- Click on the course code to obtain course information.
- If the course description is available, click on “Profile”.

If courses are not yet listed for 2010, then view a listing under 2009, and keep checking the website for updates.

**Course Codes and Levels**

At UQ, each course is given a unique course number in the following format: AAAAnnnn. AAAA is a four character alpha code for the School which is the academic owner for the course and nnnn is the four character numeric code providing the unique identifier. The first numeric character reflects the following levels:

- 1 = First-year course (lower division)
- 2 = Second-year courses (upper division)
- 3 = Third and fourth-year courses (upper division)
- 4 = Fourth-year level (upper division)

**The University of Western Sydney (UWS)**

CSU students are admitted to study at UWS in the following areas:

- Agriculture and Horticulture (Hawkesbury campus)
- Food and Nutrition (Hawkesbury campus)
- Hospitality Management (Parramatta campus)
- Kinesiology and Exercise Science (Campbelltown campus)
- Occupational Therapy (Campbelltown campus)

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding degree programs at UWS in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

<b>Areas of study</b>	<b>Relevant courses can be found in the following degree programs:</b>
Agriculture	Agriculture
Food and Nutrition	Food and Nutrition
Hospitality Management	Hospitality Management
Kinesiology & Exercise Science	Sport and Exercise Science
Occupational Therapy	Occupational Therapy

To find course descriptions, go to < [http://handbook.uws.edu.au/hbook/course\\_search.aspx](http://handbook.uws.edu.au/hbook/course_search.aspx) > and do the following:

- Enter the name of the degree program which corresponds to the area for which you have been admitted (as shown in the right column in the above table).
- Select "Students CONTINUING in 2010" under "Only find courses available to:".
- Select "Undergraduate only" under "Course Type".
- Click on the numeric program code for your undergraduate program.
- Scroll down the page until you find a list of "units" (courses).
- Click on the unit code for descriptions.

Check their website periodically for updates.

**Course Codes and Levels**

At UWS, each course is given a unique course number containing six digits. Courses have different levels and course level information is provided in the course description. The following is a general guideline for how courses translate back to the CSU system.

- Level 1 = First-year course (lower division)
- Level 2 = Second-year courses (upper division)
- Level 3 = Third and fourth-year courses (upper division)

**Victoria University (VU)**

CSU students attend the Footscray Park campus (six kilometers from the Melbourne Central Business District), and are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Engineering
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Kinesiology and Exercise Science

Below is a table containing CSU majors and the corresponding Schools at VU in which students can take courses from subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

<b>CSU Major (approved area of study)</b>	<b>Relevant courses can be found in the following degree programs:</b>
Engineering	<u>Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School of Architectural, Civil and Mechanical Engineering</li> <li>• School of Electrical Engineering</li> </ul>
Hospitality and Tourism	<u>Faculty of Business and Law</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School of Hospitality, Tourism and Marketing</li> </ul>
Kinesiology and Exercise Science	<u>Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School of Human Movement, Recreation and Performance</li> </ul>

To find course descriptions, go to: < <http://wcf.vu.edu.au/Handbook/index.cfm?ViewAZSubjects=ViewAZSubjects> > and do the following:

- For the "Handbook Year", click on the year that you will attending VU and click on "Next". If your year of study does not appear, click on the most current year.
- When "Institution" and "Higher Education" appears, click on "Next".
- When "Faculty or School" appears, select the Faculty (from the drop down list) which corresponds with the area for which you have been admitted (as underlined in the right column in the above table) and click on "Next".
- When "School or Department" appears, select the School (from the drop down list) which corresponds with the area for which you have been admitted (as listed below the faculty in the right column in the above table) and click on "Next".
- Scroll down the webpage and click on the course to find specific course information.

Check their website periodically for updates.

Students must select courses related to your study area from the Footscray Park campus only.

### **Course Codes and Levels**

At VU, each course is given a unique course number in the following format: AAAAnnnn. AAA is a three character alpha code for the School which is the academic owner for the course and nnnn is the four character numeric code providing the unique identifier.

There is a distinction between first, second and third year courses. First year courses are usually introductory courses taken by students in their first year of university study which are generally considered lower division courses. Second and third year courses are more advanced, considered equivalent to upper division courses, and can require more prerequisites. If in doubt about whether the course is a first, second or third year course, students should look at the course description or outline and ask their advisor at their host university during their academic advising sessions after arrival.