



Guide to university for parents and friends

The first year of university is full of new experiences whilst also being a time of rapid personal growth. Every student's journey will be unique, and they'll manage challenges in their own way. This brochure provides some key insights into university life, so that you can be prepared to have discussions and offer additional support.

High School	VS	University
Students must leave school grounds after hours.	Access	Students can study on campus 24/7.
Teachers manage assessments and provide prompts and reminders.	Assessments	Assessment information is available from week one. Students are responsible for managing their deadlines and submissions.
Attendance is closely monitored by both home group and subject teachers.	Attendance	Students are independent learners and are responsible for managing their attendance.
Classes are generally small.	Classes	Class sizes vary from small to large.
Teachers may allow extra time for assignments.	Deadlines	Formal extensions are available, however they are only given with a significant reason.
Most learning is face-to-face.	Delivery	Learning is flexible with options to study on campus, online or a combination of both.
Students are known by staff and other students.	Identification	Students are guided by their Program Director and generally have different lecturers and tutors in each study period, so proactively forming connections is important.
Some students have casual jobs.	Jobs	It is very common for a university student to have a job whether it be casual, part-time or full-time.
Classroom learning is essential to success.	Learning	Independent learning is a huge part of university study. Students engage in lectures, workshops, practicals, tutorials and placements.
Students attend one location.	Location	University students may have classes at different campuses, online and within industry.
School reports are sent to parents/guardians.	Results	Results are confidential and are only available through an online student portal. This information is not shared with others without written permission from the student.
Classroom teachers manage most student issues.	Support	Students can access a wide range of support services on campus and online.
School hours are routine and regular.	Timetable	Classes are scheduled from early morning to mid-evening. Every student's timetable will look different and vary each study period.



Workload explained

Each academic year is typically broken into two main study periods (also known as semesters). Here's a breakdown of the workload expected.

Indicative of one study period, which usually consists of four courses (subjects).

WEEKS 1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workload starts at an introductory pace and assessments commence.• Generally one assessment per subject.
WEEKS 6–7 <i>+ two week teaching break</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workload begins to increase.• One assessment per subject.• Assessments increase in size and value.
WEEKS 8–13 <i>+ swot vac and exams</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workload increases again.• Final assessment or exam, which is generally the largest in size and value.

Study load

Full-time study is approximately 40 hours per week

- 12–26 class contact hours
- 14–28 independent study hours

Contact hours refers to the time a student spends in lectures, tutorials, workshops and practicals, either on campus or online.

Setting up for success

FINDING THE RIGHT DEGREE

It's really important for students to explore the many degree options on offer and to understand what interests them most. Here's a quick checklist of questions we recommend asking to help in the decision making process.

- Does this degree lead to their career goal?
- Do they like the subjects in this degree?
- Why does this degree interest them?
- What will their study schedule look like?
- Do they meet the entry requirements?
- Do they need an alternative entry pathway?
- Is there an upcoming information session or Open Day event to attend? [👉 unisa.edu.au/infosessions](https://unisa.edu.au/infosessions)

Explore our full range of degrees at [👉 unisa.edu.au/study](https://unisa.edu.au/study)

If they're still unsure, we encourage high school students to speak with their school Career Adviser or any prospective student can reach out to UniSA's Future Student Enquiries team at [👉 unisa.edu.au/enquire](https://unisa.edu.au/enquire)

Flexible learning

In addition to our on campus study options, we offer a range of other modes of study, including online, blended, part-time and accelerated learning.

Students can discuss their options with our Campus Central team when they are commencing their enrolment.



Support services

We offer a wide range of support services, so students can perform at their best. This includes:

- Academic learning support
- Personal counselling
- Career services
- Access and inclusion services
- Aboriginal student services
- Online study resources
- Peer mentoring
- Health and medical clinics
- Gym and fitness facilities
- Accommodation
- Legal advice

Our friendly Campus Central teams are there to provide administrative support and can answer any questions students have along the way. The free UniSA SafeZone app is also available, providing 24-hour security services to students while on campus.

unisa.edu.au/student-services

Student life

Life beyond the classroom is also an important part of the university experience. We encourage our students to get involved with the following:

- Orientation
- Events and activities
- Volunteering
- Student clubs
- UniSA Sport
- USASA (student association)
- Personal development

unisa.edu.au/student-life

University study tips

- Attend classes regularly.
- Develop academic and social networks with other students.
- Proactively research information as needed.
- Dedicate study hours to each subject every week.
- Ask for help if things are confusing.
- Be engaged during tutorials and participate in online forums.
- Complete internships, placements, an overseas exchange or international study tour.
- Read assessment details carefully and submit them on time.
- Learn from feedback provided by markers.
- Be organised and balance extra curricular activities.
- Stay healthy by exercising regularly and getting enough sleep to minimise stress.



#1 IN SA FOR GRADUATE CAREERS 16 YEARS RUNNING

Graduate Destinations Survey 2007-2015 and Graduate Outcomes Survey 2016-2022 (Domestic Undergraduate Full-time Employment Indicator for SA public universities).



#1 IN SA FOR STUDENT SATISFACTION

QILT: Course Experience Questionnaire 2016-18 – Overall Compared (QILT) Course Experience Questionnaire 2021-22 – Overall Satisfaction Indicator (Domestic Undergraduate). SA public universities.



Additional information

FEES

Australian Citizen's and Permanent Resident's receive Commonwealth Supported funding. This means they're charged for a portion of the cost of their studies and the Australian Government contributes the rest. If eligible, students can defer their contribution through a HECS-HELP loan and repay it later through the taxation system. The contribution will vary depending on the degree and fees can vary from year to year.

FINANCIAL COSTS

Beyond the payment of fees, there are some additional costs involved with university study.

The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) was introduced by the Federal Government to improve non-academic services for tertiary students. Please be aware that this fee is compulsory.

Students may also be required to purchase textbooks and materials for each subject. Textbooks can be purchased from online bookstores and second-hand sales. Some might be available as e-books or loaned through the UniSA library network.

There may also be additional costs involved in placements, field trips, uniforms, stationery etc, and this will be outlined to students before the start of each subject.

unisa.edu.au/fees

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Every year, more than 2,500 students benefit from our wide range of scholarships and grants. Find out what's available through the UniSA scholarships search engine.

unisa.edu.au/scholarships

HOW TO APPLY

Applications to study at university are completed through the SATAC website. We have some handy resources that can help guide you through the process. Go online to find out more.

unisa.edu.au/apply

NEED SOME HELP?

If you have any questions about studying at UniSA, you can reach out to our Future Student Enquiries team.

Ph 08 8302 2376

unisa.edu.au/enquire



**University of
South Australia**

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