



# ABORIGINAL PATHWAY PROGRAM

2023 STUDY GUIDE



University of  
South Australia



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*We respectfully acknowledge the Kurna, Boandik and Barngarla First Nations Peoples and their Elders past and present, who are the First Nations' Traditional Owners of the lands that are now home to the University of South Australia's campuses in Adelaide, Mount Gambier and Whyalla. We are honoured to recognise our connection to the Kurna, the Boandik and the Barngarla lands, and their history, culture and spirituality through these locations, and we strive to ensure that we operate in a manner which respects their Elders and ancestors. We also acknowledge the other First Nations of lands across Australia with which we conduct business, their Elders, ancestors, cultures and heritage.*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRO VICE CHANCELLOR

**Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy  
Professor Irene Watson**



**Welcome to the Aboriginal Pathway Program at UniSA College.**

Offered across five regions and delivered over 18 months, the Aboriginal Pathway Program is designed for Aboriginal students to develop the skills they need to successfully complete university study.

The program is open to all people who identify as Aboriginal<sup>1</sup> and can lead to entry into a bachelor's degree at UniSA.

If you're looking for a change in your life, I encourage you to read through this guide. I know it can be daunting when thinking about making that change, especially if you're the first in your family to undertake such a journey.

When I graduated from university, I was not only the first in my family to do so, but I was also the first Aboriginal law graduate in South Australia.

As a Tanganekald Meintangk Boandik woman of the Coorong and the south east of South Australia, I wanted to use my law degree to fight for the land rights and self-determination of First Nations Peoples.

At UniSA, we're committed to creating an environment where Aboriginal students and staff can learn, grow and define the future in a place which respects and learns from Aboriginal knowledge.

I wish you all the best in deciding the path for your future. As one of our first graduates said, "Take that first step. There's a whole world out there. Whatever you want to become or do, it's waiting for you."

<sup>1</sup> Consistent with common usage now in many organisations, this publication uses the shorter form of reference to 'Aboriginal People' but is intended, always, to be inclusive of both Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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"I always dreamt of going to university, but thought I was too old and not ready. I reached 30, was working in a job I didn't love and saw my husband following his passions. I then discovered the APP and this changed everything. I finished my nursing degree and I now work as a Registered Nurse at the local hospital in Mount Gambier. I've even decided to further my studies and become a midwife."

*Amie Brant  
APP (Mount Gambier)/  
Bachelor of Nursing,  
Bachelor of Midwifery*



**100% OF ABORIGINAL PATHWAY PROGRAM COMPLETERS HAVE RECEIVED OFFERS INTO UniSA DEGREES**

"I am the great, great granddaughter of a beautiful Aboriginal woman whose children were part of the stolen generation. Being raised in a world where you were wary of admitting you were Aboriginal has made it hard for me to learn about my culture or history. One day I was driving to my cleaning job and I heard about the APP on the radio and it got me thinking – this was a chance to learn about my culture and give me a meaningful career in social welfare, not just a job that pay the bills."

Amy Munro  
APP (Mount Gambier)



"I've made some great friends during my studies, plus the staff really support you to achieve your goals. I'm hoping to become a physiotherapist for an AFL team. After being a sports trainer for 17 years, it's something I'm extremely passionate about."

Stella Garlett  
APP (Adelaide)

# ABORIGINAL PATHWAY PROGRAM

## WELCOME

Developed exclusively for Aboriginal students, the Aboriginal Pathway Program is delivered over 18 months by UniSA College. It's designed to develop your academic, literacy, digital and numerical skills, along with enhancing your knowledge in areas such as Aboriginal culture and wellbeing, and the community and environment.

📍 [unisa.edu.au/app](https://unisa.edu.au/app)

## PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY

APP courses are designed to build the academic skills you need for success at university. You'll learn in a highly supportive environment as you develop foundation knowledge and explore different discipline areas.

## FURTHER STUDY

After successfully completing the program, you can use your competitive Grade Point Average (GPA) to transfer into any UniSA or UniSA Online degree. UniSA College provides advice and support throughout this process, and there is no fee to transfer. Explore our wide range of degrees online.

📍 [unisa.edu.au/study](https://unisa.edu.au/study)

📍 [unisaonline.edu.au](https://unisaonline.edu.au)

## LOCATION

APP is offered in Adelaide at City West Campus, as well as in regional locations, including Mount Gambier, Whyalla, Ceduna and Port Lincoln.

## FLEXIBILITY

You can choose to study full-time over 18 months or the part-time equivalent.

*To be considered full-time, students must be enrolled in three courses in each six month period.*

## FEES

There are no tuition fees for this program. You can defer the compulsory student amenities fee via the Federal Government's HECS-HELP loan scheme.

## DIRECT ENTRY

There are no formal entry requirements and applications can be made directly through UniSA College.

📍 [unisa.edu.au/appform](https://unisa.edu.au/appform)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a range of scholarships available to support your learning, including:

- Commonwealth Accommodation Support (CAS); and
- Commonwealth Education Costs (CECS).

To see what you might be eligible for, go to our online scholarships search engine.

📍 [unisa.edu.au/scholarships](https://unisa.edu.au/scholarships)

## TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Travel and accommodation support may be available if you live remotely or are located far from our learning facilities.

# WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

## SKILLS TO HELP YOU SUCCEED

The Aboriginal Pathway Program delivers the skills and knowledge you need to thrive at university.



### UNIVERSITY SKILLS COURSES

are at the core of all UniSA College programs, providing you with the reading, writing and research skills needed for university study. These courses will build your understanding of the academic environment and the fundamentals of academic writing, debate and research.

Courses:

- > *University Studies*
- > *Building Academic Success*



### LITERACY COURSES

teach writing and critical thinking skills that will be important to your confidence at university. These include, writing for different audiences, purposes and areas of study.

Courses:

- > *Communication for Academic Purposes*
- > *Critical Thinking*
- > *Media and Academia*



### A NUMERACY COURSE

is included because many university degrees require an understanding of mathematics. In this course, you'll revise existing knowledge and build new skills that will help you with your future studies.

Course:

- > *Maths Fundamentals*



### CULTURE AND COUNTRY COURSES

acknowledge the importance of your Aboriginal culture and personal wellbeing, as well as the environment and the community. These courses allow you to explore topics of interest and further your knowledge in environmental and cultural areas, while encouraging you to ask questions about the broader world.

Courses:

- > *Aboriginal Knowledges, Narratives and Experiences*
- > *Land Management*



### A DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC COURSE

designed to increase your awareness and critical engagement with key concepts and theories specifically surrounding personality, decision making and ethics and observe your own behaviour in relation to them.

Course:

- > *Introduction to Human Behaviour*



### A DIGITAL COURSE

will give you practical experience using the different technologies and software programs needed for future study and employment.

Course:

- > *Applied Computing Practices*



Sharyn Wye-Hill, APP/Bachelor of Business (Legal Studies) and Millicent Taylor, APP/Bachelor of Psychology.

# HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

## PROGRAM DELIVERY

There are nine courses in the Aboriginal Pathway Program. Classes are held from February to November, with study breaks in the first phase of the program aligning with school holidays. In the second phase of the program, classes may be combined with UniSA College's Foundation Studies classes.

## TAILORED STUDY LOADS

The Aboriginal Pathway Program has a combination of 8-week and 13-week courses, incorporating both face-to-face classes and online engagement.

The 8-week courses have an intensive delivery of classes held each Tuesday\* between 9:00am–5:00pm. The 13-week courses follow the standard university schedule.

\*Some intensives may be scheduled on Mondays due to teaching availability.

## FLEXIBILITY

Study can be completed full-time over 18 months, or the part-time equivalent. If you're unable to commit to full-time study, you can speak with your Program Director.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Each course has an expected study load of 7–10 hours of independent study per week. This is in addition to your contact hours (maximum of three days per week). During your independent study, you'll also be able to connect with the Aboriginal Tutorial Program for extra help.

## Program delivery explained...

18 months full-time study, or equivalent, available in both Adelaide and regional locations.

Study foundation courses and participate in intensives and weekly tutorials that will prepare you for university study.

Use your competitive Grade Point Average (GPA) to apply for a UniSA or UniSA Online degree of your choice.

Start the first year of your UniSA or UniSA Online degree (competitive entry criteria apply).

# OUR COMMUNITY

## UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

We're the University of Choice for Aboriginal people.

We're the University of Choice for Aboriginal people. From its foundation, UniSA has been committed to improving the education and life opportunities of Aboriginal people.

UniSA is the University of Choice for Aboriginal people and we're continuing our ongoing commitment to Aboriginal engagement through a range of important initiatives, including our Aboriginal Pathway Program.

In 2018, we released our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which is focused on supporting Aboriginal students to achieve success.

The Stretch RAP sets out a range of actions, from enhancing student

outcomes and Aboriginal research to building cultural awareness with staff and students.

This is a whole-of-university approach that is fundamental to providing a culturally safe space where our students can thrive.

We're committed to strengthening our position as the University of Choice for Aboriginal people. We aim to create an environment where Aboriginal students and staff can learn, teach, research and engage with each other in a place that respects and learns from Aboriginal people and their knowledge.

📍 [unisa.edu.au/rap](https://unisa.edu.au/rap)

## WIRRINGKA STUDENT SERVICES

We provide support to Aboriginal students across all UniSA campuses.

Wurringka is a Kurna name that means 'together and in common with', and has been used with permission from Kurna Warra Pintyanthi and its sister organisation Kurna Warra Karrpanthi.

As an Aboriginal Pathway Program student, you'll have full access to all of the support services available. You can meet Wurringka staff face-to-face on campus, or make contact by phone, email or virtual meetings.

If you then choose to go on to further studies with UniSA, you'll continue to be supported by

Aboriginal Student Engagement Officers from Wurringka.

The dedicated staff will help you navigate the university environment and provide supportive arrangements through culturally-safe study centres and access to the Aboriginal Tutorial Program.

📍 [unisa.edu.au/wurringka](https://unisa.edu.au/wurringka)

"My studies provided me with solid academic foundations, like formatting and referencing skills, which are useful when completing assessments. It has given me the confidence to experiment with different styles of writing to find one that suits me, as I progress through my law degree."

Rhys Peden  
APP (Adelaide)/Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Psychology



# YOUR APPLICATION

### COST

There are no tuition fees. You can defer the compulsory student amenities fee via the Federal Government's HECS-HELP loan scheme.

### WHO CAN APPLY

The program is open to all people who identify as Aboriginal and there are no formal qualifications required for entry.

### WHEN TO APPLY

Enquiries are welcome all year round. Applications open from August to January, with study commencing in February.

### APPLY ONLINE

Apply directly at:

📍 [unisa.edu.au/appform](https://unisa.edu.au/appform)

## CONTACT US

### City West

Metropolitan Tutor  
P: (08) 8302 9249  
M: 0435 658 581

### Ceduna

Regional Tutor  
P: 0428 199 654

### Mount Gambier

Regional Tutor  
P: (08) 8721 8931  
M: 0435 656 260

### Port Lincoln

Regional Tutor  
P: (08) 8302 5310  
M: 0466 511 519

### Whyalla

Regional Tutor  
P: (08) 8302 6073  
M: 0466 351 653

### UniSA College

160 Currie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
P: (08) 8302 7407  
E: [app@unisa.edu.au](mailto:app@unisa.edu.au)



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