



University of  
South Australia

# 2024 ABORIGINAL PATHWAY PROGRAM





#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Kurna, Boandik, Barngarla, Kokatha, Mirning and Wirrungu 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 and study centres. We are honoured to recognise our connection to the lands, and the history, culture and spirituality through these locations. We strive to ensure that we operate in a manner which respects their Elders and ancestors. We also acknowledge the other First Nations Peoples of lands across Australia with which we conduct business, their Elders, ancestors, cultures and heritage.

Hayley Sumner, Aboriginal Pathway (Whyalla)  
Graduate/Bachelor of Social Work.



## Welcome to UniSA College



We're delighted that you've found the Aboriginal Pathway program at UniSA College. Offered across five regions and delivered over 18 months, this 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 or UniSA Online.

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."

*Professor Irene Watson  
Pro Vice Chancellor: Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy*

<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.



# Aboriginal Pathway explained

This program is exclusively for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Delivered over 18 months, it will help to develop your academic, literacy, digital and numerical skills, so you can feel confident to start your future university studies. You'll also explore Aboriginal culture and wellbeing, the community and environment.

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

## PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDY

We want you to achieve your best, so our courses are designed to build the academic skills you'll need to thrive at university while learning in a highly supportive environment.

## 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. We'll support you every step of the way and can help you find the right degree. You can also start exploring now:

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

## PROGRAM DELIVERY

You'll study nine courses, with classes running from January – November. There's a combination of 8-week and 13-week courses, including both face-to-face classes and online learning. The 8-week intensive courses are held for a full-day of study once a week.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Each course has an independent study load of around 7-10 hours a week. This is in addition to your contact hours. Your independent study time is where you can complete your readings and assignments. You can also connect with the Aboriginal Tutorial Program for extra help.

## LOCATION

We offer this program across both metro and regional locations, including Adelaide (City West Campus), Mount Gambier, Whyalla, Ceduna and Port Lincoln.

## FLEXIBILITY

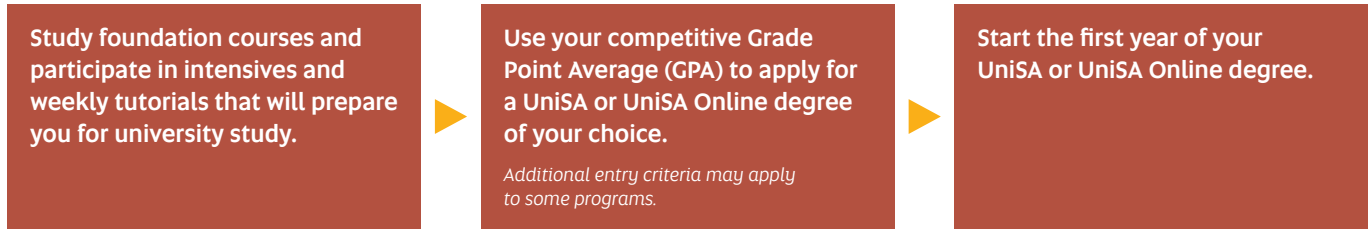
You can choose to study full-time over 18 months or the part-time equivalent. We're here to support you, so chat with your tutor about your study plan.

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

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for this program and it's open to all people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

*Applicants who have not completed SACE or equivalent must be 17 years of age or over before January 1st of the year of intended enrolment.*



*"I love that the subjects we tackle are setting me up for success once I begin a degree. I'm building the academic and language skills I need, but we're also covering culturally relevant topics. I've particularly enjoyed learning about land management."*

Cherrie Clancy | Aboriginal Pathway (Whyalla) Student

# What you'll learn



## UNIVERSITY SKILLS

Build your understanding of the academic learning environment and develop the reading, writing and research skills needed for university study.

*Courses:*

- *University Studies*
- *Building Academic Success*



## LITERACY

Develop the writing and critical thinking skills to grow your confidence for future learning.

*Courses:*

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



## NUMERACY

Maths is important – it's part of everyday life. You'll revise existing knowledge and build new skills.

*Course: Maths Fundamentals*



## CULTURE AND COUNTRY

We want to give you the space to acknowledge your Aboriginal culture and personal wellbeing, along with asking bigger questions about the world around you, including the meaning of community and key environmental challenges.

*Courses:*

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



## HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

Increase your awareness of how we make decisions, including how ethics and different personalities can impact how we behave.

*Course: Introduction to Human Behaviour*



## DIGITAL

Get hands-on experience using different technologies and software needed for future study and employment.

*Course: Applied Computing Practices*







# We're here to support you

## UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

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.

Our whole-of-university approach means that we create a culturally safe space at all levels where Aboriginal students can feel supported and thrive. We want our community to learn, teach, research and engage in a place that respects and grows from Aboriginal Peoples' knowledge and experiences.

We were the first university in Australia to issue a statement of reconciliation, and since then we've released a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and Stretch RAP, providing a road map for our commitment and action.

UniSA proudly teaches the largest number of Aboriginal students in South Australia –we're a place of true diversity and inclusion.

📍 [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 Kaurna name that means 'together and in common with', and has been used with permission from Kaurna Warra Pintyanthi and its sister organisation Kaurna Warra Karrpanthi.

As an Aboriginal Pathway 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)



*"The main people who inspire me are my late grandmother, my mum and Senator Lidia Thorpe – she strives to help Indigenous people and to make sure that we get justice, especially regarding disadvantages and disrespect towards people in our community. My aspiration is to become a politician too and create real change."*

Dharma Ducasse | Aboriginal Pathway (City West) Student

# How to apply

## WHO CAN APPLY?

The program is open to all people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. There are no formal qualifications required for entry.

*Applicants who have not completed SACE or equivalent must be 17 years of age or over before January 1st of the year of intended enrolment.*

## FEES

There are no tuition fees, however the student services amenities fee applies to all university students. These can be deferred through the Federal Government HECS-HELP loan scheme.

## 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 support may also be available if you live remotely or are located far from our learning facilities.

## WHEN TO APPLY

Applications are open from September – January, with study commencing in late January.

## APPLY DIRECTLY

Go online to complete your application.

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

## STUDENT ENQUIRIES

You can contact our friendly UniSA College team with any questions you have.

**P: (08) 8302 7407**  
**E: [app@unisa.edu.au](mailto:app@unisa.edu.au)**





## University of South Australia

*Australia's University of Enterprise*

### We're here to help

P: (08) 8302 2376

E: [unisa.edu.au/enquire](mailto:unisa.edu.au/enquire)

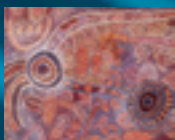
🌐 [unisa.edu.au/study](https://unisa.edu.au/study)



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### **Acknowledgement of Country**

UniSA respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Barngarla peoples spiritual relationship with their country.

🌐 [unisa.edu.au/RAP](https://unisa.edu.au/RAP)

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