

Making Uni ACCESSIBLE

STUDENT EQUITY AND
DISABILITIES UNIT



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



Making Uni ACCESSible

If you are a high school student or applying to university for the first time and your Year 11 and 12 studies **(or equivalent)** have been seriously disrupted by circumstances beyond your control, you may be eligible for the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) run by the Universities Admission Centre (UAC).

The EAS can increase your chances of gaining a place at university. It takes into account a range of difficult circumstances you may have experienced over a long time that have had an impact on your education.

Most universities participate in the EAS. At UNSW, we have the UNSW ACCESS Scheme that awards bonus points to eligible students applying for our courses. The bonus points increase your selection rank by being added to your Universities Admissions Index (UAI) score.

You can earn bonus points in two ways:

1. Automatically – because you attended a school that is under the NSW Priority Schools Program (PSP) or Country Areas Program (CAP). You do not have to apply for the ACCESS scheme.

2. By sending in an application – if you have experienced any of the difficult circumstances taken into consideration under the ACCESS Scheme, then you must send in an EAS application through UAC.

Boost your chances

If you went to a PSP or CAP school and you also experienced any of the difficult circumstances the ACCESS scheme considers, you may be eligible for additional bonus points.

To earn the extra bonus points, you **must** send in an EAS application through UAC.

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If your selection ranking is increased to the required cut-off score for the degree you have selected, you may be offered a place at UNSW.

You will still need to get good marks in your HSC. You will still be competing with others for a place at UNSW, but applying for the UNSW ACCESS scheme could improve your chances of going to university.

What type of difficult circumstances does the ACCESS scheme take into consideration?

- having a disability
- disrupted schooling
- prolonged illness or medical condition
- school environment
- financial hardship
- refugee status
- English language difficulties
- rural isolation
- excessive family responsibilities
- serious family illness
- difficult home circumstances

Who is Eligible for the ACCESS Scheme?

To be considered for the ACCESS scheme you must:

- be an Australian or a New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia, including a holder of a permanent humanitarian visa.
- demonstrate that your educational performance during Year 11 and/or Year 12 studies (or equivalent) has been seriously affected by circumstances beyond your control.

Who is Not Eligible for the ACCESS Scheme?

You are **not eligible** to apply for the ACCESS Scheme if:

- you are an international fee-paying student.
- you are currently enrolled in or have previously undertaken university, TAFE college or other tertiary level studies either here or overseas, (tertiary being defined as Diploma level or above).



- you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and are applying through the Nura Gili Indigenous Programs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants should contact Nura Gili, UNSW's Indigenous Programs Centre for information regarding admission and preparation programs.

See www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au.

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How do I earn ACCESS bonus points on my UAI?

Do you attend a school in NSW that is part of the Priority Schools Program (PSP) or Country Areas Program (CAP)?

YES



You will automatically be awarded bonus points when you send in your UAC application for university.



Check if you are eligible for extra bonus points!

Submit an EAS application with your UAC application to increase the number of bonus points you may be eligible to receive.

DON'T KNOW



See your school Careers Advisor to find out.

Possible extra **BONUS POINTS** this way!



YES

NO



Have you experienced any of the following circumstances that have affected your studies over a long period of time?

- having a disability
- prolonged illness or medical condition
- financial hardship
- English language difficulties
- excessive family responsibilities
- difficult home circumstances
- disrupted schooling
- school environment
- refugee status
- rural isolation
- serious family illness

NO



You do not need to apply for the ACCESS scheme.



How do I Apply for the ACCESS Scheme?

Everybody applying for a place at any university must complete the:

1. Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) Admission to University Application

You can do this via UAC's Apply-by-Web facility at www.uac.edu.au.

Current NSW/ACT Year 12 students are issued with a UAC Guide by their school/college. Other applicants can purchase the Guide from newsagents or from UAC.

If you want to apply for the ACCESS Scheme you must also complete the:

2. UAC Educational Access Schemes (EAS) Application

The EAS application form is available on the UAC website www.uac.edu.au/uac/eas.html, from the Careers Adviser at your school or from UAC. There is no charge for lodging an EAS application.

**BE EARLY.
DON'T MISS OUT!**

Key dates to remember:

End of September

Your UAC application to any university must be submitted by this date.

Your UAC Educational Access Scheme application must also be submitted by this date.

UNSW does not accept late direct applications for the ACCESS Scheme.

End of November

UAC will accept applications until end of November, but cannot guarantee that they will be processed for the main round of offers.

Your application must provide evidence of the events in your life that have significantly affected your school performance.

Use the EAS Guidebook

Make sure you read the EAS booklet on the UAC website: www.uac.edu.au/uac/eas.html when you download your application form. It outlines all the details about the types of disadvantages the Educational Access Schemes consider and the documentation you require when you send in your application.

Your application will have a better chance of success if you follow the guidelines before submitting your application.

Good luck!

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Scholarships @ UNSW

UNSW offers approximately 250 scholarships for financially disadvantaged students. Commonwealth Scholarships and UNSW Equity Scholarships are available to students who have experienced a range of educational disadvantages including financial hardship, rural isolation and attendance at a Priority Schools Program (PSP) or Country Areas Program (CAP) school. Most scholarship applications close at the end of September each year. For further information on scholarships available see www.scholarships.unsw.edu.au.

Ongoing Support @ UNSW

If you are successful and accept an offer at UNSW, there is ongoing help available to you while you are at university.

Some of the support services are:

- Assistance with studies if you have a disability
- Counselling
- Meetings with the ACCESS Scheme Co-ordinator as required

- Assistance with study skills
- Careers and employment advice
- Consideration for accommodation and equity scholarships
- Help in finding accommodation

You will be also be invited to participate in the UNSW ACCESS Scheme support program provided by the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (SEADU), including the Smart Start program.

Smart Start is a one day orientation of UNSW that gives you the chance to familiarise yourself with the Kensington campus before university starts and the crowds arrive.

There are tours, workshops and activities organised for small groups so you can make some new friends and learn some tips on how to manage your first year at university.

Visit the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit website for more information about Smart Start and the UNSW ACCESS Scheme
www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au



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Further Information

If you have any questions about the
ACCESS Scheme, please contact:

Head UAC Admissions and Equity Programs

UNSW Admissions Office

Tel: (02) 9385 3089

Email: S.Nitchell@unsw.edu.au

ACCESS Scheme Information on the UNSW Web:

www.unsw.edu.au/access

www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au

Student Equity Officer (ACCESS and Programs)

Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (SEADU)

Tel: (02) 9385 5434/4734

Email: seadu@unsw.edu.au

Address for written enquiries:

UNSW Admissions Office (ACCESS Scheme)

The University of New South Wales

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