

# Academic Bulletin for Australia 2025

## Introduction

---

The Academic Bulletin is the CSU International Programs (CSU IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Australia. This bulletin supersedes any previous bulletin(s) published for this year.

CSU IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants (also known as the “Academic Guide”). The Academic Guide contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants while abroad. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option, Course Withdrawals, and other policies. The Academic Guide also contains information on academic planning, how courses get credited to your degree, and the academic reporting process including when to expect your academic report at the end of your studies abroad.

To access the *Academic Guide*, go to our [website](#) and click the year which pertains to your study abroad period. For general information about the Australia Program, refer to the CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)”.

## Academic Program

---

CSU IP is affiliated with five universities in Australia: Griffith University, Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology, and Western Sydney University.

- **Griffith University (GU):** One of the newest universities in Queensland, Griffith began in 1975 and now has over 30,000 students, including 5,500 international students in more than 140 undergraduate degree programs on five campuses from Brisbane to the Gold Coast.
- **Macquarie University (MU):** 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 1849 with the beginning of technical and teacher education in Queensland. It currently has three campuses in metropolitan Brisbane, enrolling over 28,000 students.
- **Western Sydney University (WSU):** Western Sydney University (previously known as University of Western Sydney) is a multi-campus university with campuses located in the western suburbs of Sydney. Each campus has its own unique history with one dating back as far as 1813. WSU is gaining an increasing reputation for teaching and research excellence.

Programs in Australia are based on the principle of reciprocal exchange of students. As a result, the potential number of CSU participants is dependent on the ability of the Australian institutions to send students to study at the California State University.

## Academic Calendar

---

The academic year in Australia (excluding Griffith University) consists of two semesters. As the seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere, the first semester of Australia’s academic year begins in February and runs until June. Their second semester begins in July and ends in November.

Griffith University operates on a trimester system although CSU IP participants attend only two of the three terms. Two trimesters are equivalent to one academic year at CSU. CSU IP students who attend Griffith University during a calendar year enroll in Trimesters 1 (February to June) and Trimester 2 (July to October). Students who attend Griffith University during CSU’s academic year (fall and spring) attend Trimester 2 (July to October) and Trimester 1 (February to June) with

a four-month break in between trimesters. Since taking three trimesters at Griffith University is not permitted by CSU IP, CSU IP participants are responsible for paying international tuition fees if they choose to enroll in a third trimester.

## **Academic Advising**

---

The Australian system of higher education derives from the British model, although it has developed along unique lines. In that model, general education requirements as a component of the undergraduate degree do not exist. Undergraduate students enroll in a program of study that is relatively fixed and highly focused within a particular area of study. Courses are offered in a particular sequence in which first year courses serve as the foundation for second year courses, and second year courses serve as the foundation for third year courses.

The degree program normally takes three years to complete except for 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 the 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.

While online courses may be offered at the Australian universities, CSU IP participants should plan to enroll in “in-person” courses held at their host university. Upon rare cases, students may be able to take one online course at their host university, but this should be discussed with the International Office at the host university. Taking more than one online course per semester is not permitted unless there are health protocols in place that restrict “in-person” courses.

Students take at least four courses each semester. While CSU IP participants take most of their coursework in their field of study, they may take courses in other disciplines if they meet course prerequisites, there is space available in the course and this is approved by the host university.

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

	<u>CSU Units</u>
Courses in the approved area of study:	12
Elective course outside approved area of study:	<u>4</u>
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 20 units, etc.), must be approved by the CSU IP Office. To request an exception, students must submit a General Petition Form located in their CSU IP portal (in their Academic Toolkit).

## **Grading and Units**

---

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 six or 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. Students can get a general idea of the grading scale and grade conversion by reviewing the following table.

CSU Grade	GU	MU	QUT	WSU
A	7 (High Distinction)	HD (High Distinction)	7 (High Distinction)	H (High Distinction)
A	6 (Distinction)	D (Distinction)	6 (Distinction)	D (Distinction)
B	5 (Credit)	Cr (Credit)	5 (Credit)	C (Credit)
C	4 (Pass)	P (Pass)	4 (Pass)	P (Pass)
D	----	----	----	----
F	1, 2, 3 (Fail)	F (Fail)	1, 2, 3 (Fail)	F (Fail)
WU	FNS (Fail, No Assessment Submitted) WF (Withdrawal with Failure)	I (Incomplete)	W (Withdrawn – Failure)	FNS (Fail, non-submission) E (Fail – Discontinue) I (Incomplete)

The CSU grade of WU (Withdrawal Unauthorized) may be given in some circumstances, e.g., for uncompleted courses or unauthorized course withdrawals. Refer to the Academic Guide for additional grade information.

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 critical that you become familiar with the test-taking policies by reading these policies upon arrival at your host university and again before taking exams. CSU students are expected to comply with the policies implemented by their host university.

Although some universities permit students to retake a final examination after the original examination period has taken place, CSU IP participants are not permitted to retake exams once the academic year at their host university has ended. Also, refer to the Academic Policies section (Section II) of the Academic Guide for CSU IP Participants.

**Unit Conversion Guidelines**

Unit value equivalents for most courses are explained in the following table.

Australian University	CSU Unit Requirement at Australian University per semester	Unit Equivalent
Griffith University	40 credit points = 16 CSU units	10 credits = 4 CSU units
Macquarie University	12-14 points = 16 CSU units	10 credits = 4 CSU units
Queensland University of Technology	48 credit points =16 CSU units	12 credits = 4 CSU units
Western Sydney University	40 credit points =16 CSU units	10 credit = 4 CSU units

To convert the value of CSU semester units into CSU quarter units, multiply the CSU semester units by 1.5.

## Course Offerings

---

Students are advised to consult the university's websites for specific course offerings, subject to availability, prerequisites, and other restrictions.

Admission to courses is subject to availability, approval of the host university and the particular department's prerequisites.

### Griffith University

Griffith University offers a wide range of courses in many different disciplines offered at the following campuses: Gold Coast, Logan, Mt Gravatt, Nathan, and South Bank.

As stated earlier, Griffith University operates on a trimester system, but CSU IP participants attend only two of the three terms which is equivalent to one academic year at CSU. CSU IP students who attend Griffith University during a calendar year enroll in Trimesters 1 (February to June) and Trimester 2 (July to October). Since taking three trimesters at Griffith University is not permitted by CSU IP, CSU IP participants are responsible for paying international tuition fees if they choose to enroll in the third trimester.

The study areas that Griffith University offers include:

- Architecture, Construction and Planning
- Business and Government
- Criminology and Law
- Education
- Engineering, IT and Aviation
- Humanities, Language and Social Sciences
- Medicine, Dentistry and Health
- Music and Performing Arts
- Science and Environment
- Visual and Creative Arts

To find courses, go to <https://www.griffith.edu.au/study/courses>. Then do the following:

- Enter your academic field of interest under "Find a Course" (e.g., communication, history, sociology, etc.).
- Check the campus you are interested in attending.
- In the left navigational bar under "Refine results by" check "Undergraduate" under "Level of Study."
- Check "Trimester 1" for our spring semester (2025) or "Trimester 2" for second semester (2025) under "Commencing".
- Then click on the search icon.
- Click on the course that you are interested in for information. If no courses appear, try entering another field of study related to what you are interested in. It may be listed under a different name.

If you have questions about courses, please email [inboundmobility@griffith.edu.au](mailto:inboundmobility@griffith.edu.au). For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email [IPacademics@calstate.edu](mailto:IPacademics@calstate.edu).

### 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)\*
- 3000-3999: Third-year courses (upper division)

\*Some exceptions will apply depending on course content.

Students are not permitted to take courses above 3999.

## Macquarie University

Below is a list of departments at Macquarie University in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”

- Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance
- Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics
- Department of Ancient History
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Applied Finance
- Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Chiropractic
- Department of Cognitive Science
- Department of Computing
- Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
- Department of Economics
- Department of Educational Studies
- Department of Engineering
- Department of English
- Department of Environmental Sciences
- Department of Geography and Planning
- Department of Health Professions
- Department of Indigenous Studies
- Department of International Studies
- Department of Linguistics
- Department of Management
- Department of Marketing
- Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies
- Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
- Department of Molecular Sciences
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Physics and Astronomy
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Security Studies and Criminology
- Department of Sociology
- Macquarie Law School

To find course descriptions, go to: <http://handbook.mq.edu.au/2019/Units/UGByDepartment>.

- Click on the department of the area that you have been selected to study to view course offerings. Refer to the above chart to locate the department (or departments) for your study area.
- Click on the specific course or “unit” to access the course description. When reading course descriptions, carefully note the relevant prerequisites.
- Click on the [link](#) for more information about Macquarie University. .

An online “[handbook](#)” is also available on WSU’s website. The handbook describes the degrees that the University offers by “faculty” or academic division.

Students at Macquarie University may participate in the [Global Citizenship Program](#) (GLP) to support your personal and professional development goals. This is a non-credit bearing program that will complement your academic experience at Macquarie University. Students who successfully completes GLP requirements will receive a micro-credential, a letter of recommendation, a certificate of achievement and a transcript of all GLP activities completed.

For questions about accessing course descriptions and the GLP, please email [mi.exchange@mq.edu.au](mailto:mi.exchange@mq.edu.au). For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email [IPacademics@calstate.edu](mailto:IPacademics@calstate.edu).

### Course Codes and Levels

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

- 1000-1999: First-year courses (lower division)\*
- 2000-2999: Second-year courses (upper division)\*
- 3000-3999: Third-year courses (upper division)

\*Some exceptions will apply depending on course content. Juniors and seniors seeking upper division credit should plan to take second and third year courses.

Students are not permitted to take courses above 399.

## Registration

After being accepted to Macquarie University, students receive information on how to register for courses (called “units”. Students will register via an online portal called eStudent and access all learning material via another portal called iLearn. Students register for units on a first-come first-serve basis, however, should classes fill up, additional units may be added. Students have to apply for “Prerequisite Waiver Requests” for units that have prerequisites. Most 1000 level units do not have prerequisites; however, higher level units do and as such, students would need to apply for waivers based on the prerequisites they hold at the time of admission. Once they receive approvals, students will be able to enroll. Students can apply for these waivers as soon as they have been accepted to Macquarie University.

Students may find all deadlines on the [Calendar of Dates](#) page. Information and reminders on other deadlines relevant throughout the year such as for prerequisite waivers (in Week 2) and Late Enrolment requests (Week 3) will be emailed to students in a timely fashion throughout the session.

## Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Below is a list of faculties which are available subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.”

- Faculty of Business and Law: Accounting, Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, Economics, Finance, Law and Management
- Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice: Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice: Creative Writing, Dance, Digital Media, Drama, Entertainment Industries, Fashion, Film/Screen/Animation, Industrial Design, Interaction Design, Journalism, Music, Professional Communication, Creative Practice, Design, Early Childhood, Justice, Teacher Education, Visual Arts and Visual Communication.
- Faculty of Engineering: Architecture and Built Environment, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Robotics, Mechanical, Medical and Process Engineering.
- Faculty of Health: Biomedical Sciences, Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, Nursing, Psychology and Counseling, Public Health and Social Work.
- Faculty of Science: Biology and Environmental Science, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Information Systems, and Mathematical Sciences.

To find information on courses (also known as “units” at QUT) use QUT’s search engine: [All Study Abroad and Exchange Units](#).

For questions about accessing course descriptions, please email [stae@qut.edu.au](mailto:stae@qut.edu.au). For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email [IPacademics@calstate.edu](mailto:IPacademics@calstate.edu).

## Course Codes and Levels

At QUT, each course is given a unique course catalogue number (course code) in the following format: AAAAnnn. 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-year courses (upper division)

\*Some exceptions will apply depending on course content. Juniors and seniors seeking upper division credit should plan to take second and third year courses.

Students are not permitted to take courses above 399.

### Western Sydney University (WSU)

Students may attend any of the following WSU campuses: Bankstown, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Liverpool, or the Paramatta campuses including Paramatta City – Macquarie St, Paramatta City – George St., or Paramatta City – Victoria Rd (Paramatta South) which is their main campus.

Typically, students’ study at one campus but year-long students are permitted to study at a different campus each semester. Paramatta South is the only campus that has dedicated international office, but all campuses have student support staff.

While WSU has campuses in different parts of Sydney, students are expected to take all four courses each semester from one campus. Enrolling in courses at two different campuses in any given semester is not encouraged and would require permission from the International “Go Global and Study Abroad” Office at WSU.

WSU offers many subjects including but not limited to the following:

- |               |                           |                                |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Business    | • Communication and Media | • Mathematics                  |
| • Biology     | • Computer Science        | • Political Science and Policy |
| • Chemistry   | • Environmental Studies   | • Psychology                   |
| • Criminology | • Health Sciences         | • Sport and Recreation         |
| • Design      | • Information Science     | • Tourism                      |
| • Engineering | • Language and Literature | • Visual Arts                  |

There are a few ways to find out which campuses offer courses in the various areas.

1. By Code. Each WSU degree program has a degree “code”. To find the code that is similar to the degree that you are pursuing, click on the [link](#), and search for the degree under which you may find courses of interest. Then enter that code using their “[Course Search](#)” search engine. Courses will appear that are part of the WSU degree that may also be relevant to your field of study.

2. By Subject (Field of Study). To explore courses and campuses, click on the [link](#) to access their “Subject Search” search engine. Select:

- “Subject Prefix” and select your study area of interest or search by “School” by selecting the school that is mostly likely associated with your course(s) of interest.
- “Subject Level”: Select Undergraduate Level 1, Undergraduate Level 2 or Undergraduate Level 3. Most Level 1 courses are regarded as lower division, whereas Level 2 and Level 3 courses are regarded as upper division. There are exceptions depending on course content.

SEARCH ALL SUBJECTS

You can use the above filters in combination with other filters on the WSU webpage.

To explore what is offered by semester and by campus, use the filters under “Search Subjects on Offer”.

- To search by session, click on “Autumn” for their autumn semester (February to June) which is CSU’s spring semester. Click on “Spring” for their spring semester (July to November).

- To search by campus, select on of campuses: Bankstown, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Liverpool, Paramatta City – Macquarie St, Paramatta City – George St., or Paramatta City – Victoria Rd (Paramatta South).

**SEARCH SUBJECTS ON OFFER\***

Any Session

Any Campus

Any Delivery Mode

You can search for a subject area by campus, or you can search for a subject area to see which campus offers your subject area.

Important: It is critical that students review the sequence of courses (or “units”) offered at WSU carefully since courses are offered in a sequential order and students must meet course prerequisites.

### Course Codes and Levels

Courses are given a unique course number containing six digits. Courses have different levels. Course level information is provided in the course description. Below is a general guideline for how courses translate back to the CSU system:

- Level 1 = Lower division\*
- Level 2 = Upper division\*
- Level 3 = Upper division

\*Some exceptions will apply depending on course content. Juniors and seniors seeking upper division credit should plan to take second and third year courses.

### Registration

UWS’s registration is conducted online on a first come first serve basis once the student has received their Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) and has activated their student account. Registration opens mid-January for the Autumn semester (March – July) and mid-June for the Spring semester (July – November). To get the best selection of courses, students should plan to register prior to arrival. Students can change their course registration up to two weeks after the teaching session starts.

As a general rule, students can take most courses (or “units”), subject to availability and meeting the prerequisites. Units in the School of Medicine and School of Nursing and Midwifery are not available to exchange and study abroad students.

For questions about courses or registration, please email [studyabroad@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@westernsydney.edu.au). For questions about CSU IP academic policies or academic program requirements, email [IPacademics@calstate.edu](mailto:IPacademics@calstate.edu).