

# IP Academic Bulletin for Australia: 2016

## Introduction

---

The IP Academic Bulletin (also known as “IP Bulletin” or “Bulletin”) is the International Programs (IP) “catalog” and provides academic information about the program in Australia.

The Bulletin must read in conjunction with the two publications listed below.

- [Academic Planning, Crediting and Reporting](#). This publication 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 year abroad.
- [Academic Policies](#). This publication contains academic policies which will be applied to all IP participants. Topics include but are not limited to CSU Registration, Enrollment Requirements, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option and Course Withdrawals.

To access the above publications, refer to the IP website under “Study Abroad”, and “Academic Program Information” or click on either of the document names above which are linked to our website.

To access general information about your program and study center, refer to the IP website under “[Programs](#)” and click on the specific program to which you have been accepted.

## General

---

The International Programs is affiliated with six universities in Australia: Griffith University, Macquarie University, University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Victoria University, 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.

**The University of Queensland (UQ):** The oldest university in Queensland, UQ is one of the leading universities in Australia and a world-class research institution. CSU students study at the St Lucia campus located in a bend of the Brisbane River in the city of Brisbane. UQ enrolls over 30,000 students in 350 programs through the Ph.D.

**Victoria University (VU):** Generally known as Victoria University, VU is one of Australia’s largest universities with 14 campuses in Melbourne, and enrolls over 50,000 students. Students attend the Footscray Park campus, six kilometers from the Melbourne Central Business District.

**Western Sydney University (WSU):** Western Sydney University (previously University of Western Sydney) consists of six 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.

### Study Areas in Australia for 2016

CSU IP students are assigned to one of the host universities by the CSU Office of International Programs. The CSU IP program in Australia is 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 in the U.S.

Students are selected for a particular study area at one of the six Australia universities and expected to take courses in that study area during their entire year abroad. Note that study areas are not available at each university and are subject to change.

The study areas in which students can be placed in 2016 are listed in the following table. Note that study areas are strictly limited to those listed below.

<b>Australia 2016</b>	<b>GU</b>	<b>MU</b>	<b>QUT</b>	<b>UQ</b>	<b>VU</b>	<b>WSU</b>
Agriculture and Horticulture						X
Criminal Justice					X	X
Engineering	X		X		X	
Environmental Studies		X				
History		X		X		
Hospitality and Tourism	X				X	X
International Business	X		X		X	
Kinesiology and Exercise Science					X	X
Marine Biology		X		X		
Political Science/International Relations	X					
Psychology	X	X	X		X	
Sociology		X		X		
Studio Art	X					

### Academic Year

The academic year in Australia is divided into two semesters. As the seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere, the first term begins mid to late February and runs until the end of June. The second term begins late July and ends in late November or early December.

### 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 as a component of the undergraduate degree is unknown. Undergraduate students enroll in a program of study that is relatively fixed and highly focused within the particular subject. The degree program normally takes three years to complete except 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. Full time courseload equivalents and unit value equivalents for most courses are explained in the following table:

<b>Australian University</b>	<b>CSU courseload requirement at Australian University per semester</b>	<b>Unit equivalent</b>
Griffith University	40 credit points = 16 CSU units	10 credits = 4 CSU units
QUT	48 credit points = 16 CSU units	12 credits = 4 CSU units
Macquarie University	12-14 points = 16 CSU units	3 or 4 credits = 4 CSU units
University of Queensland	8 units = 16 CSU units	2 units = 4 CSU units
Victoria University	40 credit points = 16 CSU units	12 credits = 4 CSU units
Western Sydney University	40 credit points = 16 CSU units	10 credit = 4 CSU units

Based on the table above, students take at least four courses each semester. A minimum of three courses must be within the approved area of study in which they were accepted. The fourth course can be an elective course.

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

	<b>CSU Units</b>
Courses in approved area of study:	12
Elective course outside approved area of study:	4
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 16 units, etc.), must be approved by the Office of International Programs. To request an exception, email the Office of International Programs at: < [IPacademics@calstate.edu](mailto:IPacademics@calstate.edu) >.

## Assessment and Grading

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 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 table below.

CSU Grade	Griffith	Macquarie	QUT	UQ	WSU	Victoria
A	7 (High Distinction)	HD (High Distinction)	7 (High Distinction)	7 (High Distinction)	H (High Distinction)	HD (High Distinction)
A	6 (Distinction)	D (Distinction)	6 (Distinction)	6 (Distinction)	D (Distinction)	D (Distinction)
B	5 (Credit)	Cr (Credit)	5 (Credit)	5 (Credit)	C (Credit)	C (Credit)
C	4 (Pass)	P (Pass)	4 (Pass)	4 (Pass)	P (Pass)	P (Pass)
D	----	PC (Pass Conceded)	----	----	----	----
F	1, 2, 3 (Fail)	F (Fail)	1, 2, 3 (Fail)	1, 2, 3 (Fail)	F (Fail)	N (Fail)

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, IP participants are not permitted to retake exams once the academic year at their host university has ended. Also refer to the Academic Arrangements section of the Participant Guide for Australia.

## Course Offerings

Students are advised to consult the university’s websites for specific course offerings, keeping in mind that CSU students are limited to the disciplines indicated below, and sometimes to courses for international students.

Each semester, students are expected to take a minimum of three courses within the approved area of study in which they are placed, following the same general plan as their Australian counterparts. The fourth course can be an elective course. Note that admission to courses is subject to availability, approval of the host university and the particular department’s prerequisites.

Most courses taken are equivalent to four CSU semester units. All students are required to take four courses each semester, which is equivalent to 16 CSU semester units.

## Griffith University

CSU students are admitted to study in the following study areas:

- Engineering (Nathan campus)
- Hospitality and Tourism (Gold Coast or Nathan campus)
- International Business (Gold Coast or Nathan campus)
- Political Science/International Relations (Gold Coast or Nathan campus)
- Psychology (Gold Coast)
- Studio Art (South Bank campus)

Below is a table containing the study area and the corresponding study area at Griffith in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings". To find courses, click on link. Under "My details", enter "Semester 1", and "2016" in the fields where indicated. Then scroll down the page to view course offerings. Click on the course code to access the course description.

Areas of study	General Study Area and Links to Courses
Engineering	Engineering and IT ("Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Electronic and Computer Engineering" degree). Nathan: Click <a href="#">here</a> .
International Business	Business and Government ("Bachelor of International Business" degree). Gold Coast: Click <a href="#">here</a> . Nathan: Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Hospitality and Tourism	Business and Government ("Bachelor of International Tourism and Hotel Management" degree). Gold Coast: Click <a href="#">here</a> . Nathan: Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Political Science/International Relations	Business and Government ("Bachelor of Government and International Relations" degree). Gold Coast: Click <a href="#">here</a> . Nathan: Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Psychology	Health ("Bachelor of Psychological Science" degree). Gold Coast: Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Studio Art	Visual and Creative Arts ("Bachelor of Fine Art" degree). South Bank: Click <a href="#">here</a> .

If you have questions about courses, please email [exchange@griffith.edu.au](mailto:exchange@griffith.edu.au).

### 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

CSU students are admitted to study in the following study areas:

- Environmental Studies
- Marine Biology
- Psychology
- Sociology

Below is a table containing the study area and the corresponding department (and department abbreviation) at Macquarie in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings".

Area of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Environmental Studies	Biological Sciences (BIOL), Environmental Sciences and Geography (ENV, ENVE, ENVG), Geography (ENVG)
Marine Biology	Biological Sciences (BIOL)
Psychology	Psychology (PSY, PSYC)
Sociology	Sociology (GEN, GEND, SOC, SSC)

To find a course listing and descriptions, go to: <http://handbook.mq.edu.au/2015/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.

As the 2016 version of the handbook is not expected to be released until December 2015, the 2015 version should only be used as a guide and is subject to change.

If you have questions about courses, please email Sarah O'Reilly at [sarah.oreilly@mq.edu.au](mailto:sarah.oreilly@mq.edu.au).

### Course Codes and Levels

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

- 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.

Students are not permitted to take courses above 399.

### Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

CSU students are admitted to study in the following study areas:

- Engineering (Gardens Point campus)
- Business (Gardens Point campus)

Below is a table containing CSU majors and the corresponding "faculties" and degree programs at QUT in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings."

CSU Major (approved area of study)	Relevant courses can be found in the following study areas:
Engineering	Electrical & Electronic Systems (EP), Engineering (EN, EG)
International Business	Accountancy (AYB), Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations (AMB, AMN, AMX), Economics and Finance (EFB), Management and Human Resources (MGB)

To find information on courses (or what QUT refers to as "units") go to <http://www.student.qut.edu.au/studying/units>. For "Calendar" click on 2016 Semester 1 to find courses offered in your first semester at QUT. For "Discipline" click on the study area that you have chosen to study by selecting the name of the study area in the right column in the above table and click on "select". A list of courses will appear. To find more information about courses click on the number or title of the course.

If you have any questions regarding courses, please email Natalie Pye at [n.pye@qut.edu.au](mailto:n.pye@qut.edu.au).

### 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.

Students are not permitted to take courses above 399.

## The University of Queensland (UQ)

CSU students are admitted to study at the St Lucia campus in the following study areas:

- History
- Marine Biology
- Political Science/International Relations
- Sociology

Below is a table containing study areas and the corresponding departments at UQ in which students can take courses (subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings"). To find course information, click on the link for your study area below. Click on the course code to view the course description.

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following degree programs:
History	History. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Marine Biology	Marine Science. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Political Science/International Relations	International Relations. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Sociology	Sociology. Click <a href="#">here</a> .

If you have any questions regarding courses, please email Karen Fisher at [k.fisher@admin.uq.edu.au](mailto:k.fisher@admin.uq.edu.au).

### Course Codes and Levels

At UQ, each course is given a unique course number in the following format:

AAAAAnnnn. AAAA is a four 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 numeric character reflects the following levels:

1 = First-year course (lower division)\*  
 2 = Second-year courses (upper division)\*  
 3 = Third-year courses (upper division)

\*Some exceptions will apply depending on course content.

Students are not permitted to take courses above the third year level.

## Victoria University (VU)

CSU students attend the Footscray Park campus (six kilometers from the Melbourne Central Business District), and are admitted to study in the following areas:

- Criminal Justice
- Engineering
- Hospitality and Tourism
- International Business
- Kinesiology and Exercise Science
- Psychology

Below is a table containing CSU majors and the corresponding colleges (schools) at VU in which students can take courses from subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings". To find course information, click on the link for your study area below. View courses (known as "units" at VU) offered under "Course Structure". Scroll down the page to view course offerings. Click on the course title to view the course description.

<b>CSU Major (approved area of study)</b>	<b>Relevant courses can be found in the following colleges.</b>
Criminal Justice	College of Arts. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Engineering	College of Engineering and Science. For Civil Engineering, click <a href="#">here</a> . For Electrical and Electronic Engineering, click <a href="#">here</a> . For Mechanical Engineering, click <a href="#">here</a> .
Hospitality and Tourism	College of Business. For Tourism Management, click <a href="#">here</a> . For Hospitality Management, click <a href="#">here</a> .
International Business	College of Business. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Kinesiology and Exercise Science	College of Sports and Exercise Science. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Psychology	College of Arts. Click <a href="#">here</a> .

If you have any questions regarding courses, please contact Anna Akstrand at [anna.ekstrand@vu.edu.au](mailto:anna.ekstrand@vu.edu.au) or Damian Tyson at [Damian.tyson@vu.edu.au](mailto:Damian.tyson@vu.edu.au).

### Course Codes and Levels

At VU, each course is given a unique course number in the following format: AAAnnnn. 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.

There is a distinction between first and subsequent year courses. First year courses are usually introductory courses taken by students in their first year of university study which are generally considered lower division courses with some exceptions depending on course content. Second and third year courses are more advanced, considered equivalent to upper division courses, and can require more prerequisites with some exceptions based on course content. If in doubt about whether the course is a first, second or third year course, students should look at the course description or outline and ask their advisor at their host university during their academic advising sessions after arrival.

## Western Sydney University (WSU)

CSU students are admitted to study at WSU in the following areas:

- Agriculture (including Animal Science) and Horticulture (Hawkesbury campus)
- Criminal Justice (Penrith or Bankstown campus)
- Hospitality and Tourism (Penrith campus)
- Kinesiology and Exercise Science (Campbelltown campus)

Below is a table containing areas of study and the corresponding degree programs at WSU in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings". To find course information, click on the link for your study area below. Scroll down the page to view course offerings. Click on the course title to view the course description.

<b>Areas of study</b>	<b>Relevant courses can be found in the following degree programs:</b>
Agriculture (including Animal Science) and Horticulture	Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. Click <a href="#">here</a> . Natural Science (Animal Science). Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Criminal Justice	Criminology. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Hospitality and Tourism	Tourism and Urban Planning. Click <a href="#">here</a> .
Kinesiology and Exercise Science	Sport and Exercise Science. Click <a href="#">here</a> .

If you have any questions regarding courses, please email [studyabroad@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@westernsydney.edu.au).

### 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 = First-year course (lower division)\*
- Level 2 = Second-year courses (upper division)\*
- Level 3 = Third and fourth-year courses (upper division)

\*Some exceptions will apply depending on course content.