

Academic Bulletin for Australia: 2016-17

Introduction

The Academic Bulletin is the International Programs (IP) "catalog" and provides academic information about the program in Australia.

IP participants must read this publication in conjunction with the two 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, Minimum/Maximum Unit Load in a Semester, Attendance, Examinations, Assignment of Grades, Grading Symbols, Credit/No Credit Option and Course Withdrawals.

To access the above publications, go to our website [here](#) and click on the year that pertains to your year abroad. For general information about the Australia programs, refer to the IP website under "[Programs](#)".

Academic Program

The CSU International Programs is affiliated with several universities in Australia. For the 2016-17 academic year, the CSU International Program is offering programs at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane and Western Sydney University in Sydney.

Students are selected for a particular study area at their host university in Australia and expected to take courses in that study area during their entire year abroad. Note that study areas are strictly limited to those listed in subsequent tables.

The academic year in Australia is divided into two semesters. The first term late July and ends in late November or early December. The second term begins mid to late February and runs until the end of June.

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. 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 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.

Australian University	CSU Courseload Requirement at Australian University per semester	Unit equivalent
QUT	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

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.

	<u>CSU Units</u>
Courses in the 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 19 units, etc.), must be approved by the CSU Office of International Programs. To request an exception, email 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 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 table below.

CSU Grade	QUT	WSU
A	7 (High Distinction)	H (High Distinction)
A	6 (Distinction)	D (Distinction)
B	5 (Credit)	C (Credit)
C	4 (Pass)	P (Pass)
D	-----	-----
F	1, 2, 3 (Fail)	F (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. Admission to courses is subject to availability, approval of the host university and the particular department's prerequisites.

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2016-17 IP participants (left column) and the corresponding study areas with the two letter department identifier at QUT (right column) in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings."

CSU IP Approved Area of Study	Relevant courses can be found in the following study areas:
Biology (Gardens Point Campus)	Biology (BV, BZ), Biomedical Sciences (LQ, LS)
Business (Gardens Point Campus)	Accountancy (AY), Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations (AM), Economics and Finance (EF), Management and Human Resources (MG)
Engineering (Gardens Point Campus)	Electrical & Electronic Systems (EP), Engineering (EN, EG)
Kinesiology and Exercise Science	Exercise and Nutrition (XN)
Media/Mass Communication (Kelvin Grove Campus)	Media Communication (KC), Journalism (KJ)
Psychology (Kelvin Grove Campus)	Psychology and Counselling (PY)

To find information on courses (or known as "units" at QUT) go to <http://www.student.qut.edu.au/studying/units>. For "Calendar" click on 2016 Semester 2 to find courses offered in your first semester at QUT. For "Discipline" click on the study area that you have chosen to study (refer to 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.

For questions about courses, registration or the university, please email Ms. Natalie Pye at 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. Typically, first-year courses and courses numbered 000-199 are considered lower division (with some exceptions depending on course content). Second and third-year courses (numbered 200-299 and 300-399, respectively) and are considered upper division (with some exceptions depending on course content). Juniors and seniors seeking upper division credit should plan to take courses numbered 200-399. Students are not permitted to take courses above 399 or graduate level courses.

Western Sydney University (WSU)

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2016-17 IP participants (left column) and the corresponding study areas WSU in which students can take courses (known as "units" at WSU) subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings."

To find course information, refer to the CSU IP Pre-Approved Course List found [here](#) or **click** on the link found in the right column that correlates to the study area in the first column, **scroll down** the page to view course offerings, and then **click** on the hyperlinked numeric "unit" code on the left side of the webpage to view the course description. Note that the WSU Autumn session is held February to June and the WSU "Spring session" is held from July to November.

Areas of study	Relevant courses can be found in the following degree programs:
Agriculture (including Animal Science) and Horticulture (Hawkesbury campus)	Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. Click here Natural Science (Animal Science). Click here or here
Biology (Hawkesbury campus)	General Biology. Click here . Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Click here . Conservation Biology. Click here . Marine Biology. Click here . Zoology. Click here .
Criminal Justice (Penrith or Bankstown campus)	Criminology. Click here
History (Bankstown, Parramatta or Penrith campus)	History and Political Thought. Click here
Tourism (Parramatta or Penrith campus)	Heritage and Tourism. Click here Tourism Management. Click here
Kinesiology and Exercise Science (Campbelltown campus)	Sport and Exercise Science. Click here
Political Science (Bankstown, Parramatta or Penrith campus)	History and Political Thought. Click here International Relations. Click here

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.

For questions regarding courses, registration or the university, please email 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 = 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.