

CSU IP Academic Bulletin for Australia: 2017

Introduction

The California State University International Programs (CSU IP) Academic Bulletin (also known as the “Bulletin”) is the CSU IP academic “catalog” and provides academic information about programs 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 CSU 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 CSU 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 CSU IP website under “[Programs](#)” and click on the specific program to which you have been accepted.

General

CSU IP 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. (Note that this is not available as a study option in 2017.)

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 CSU IP. 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.

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 2017 are listed in the following table. Note that study areas are strictly limited to those listed below.

Australia: 2017	GU	MU	QUT	UQ	VU	WSU
Anthropology	NA			X		X
Biology	NA		X			X
Biology: Marine Biology	NA	X		X		
Business	NA		X		X	
Criminal Justice	NA				X	X
Engineering	NA		X		X	
Environmental Studies	NA	X				
Geography	NA			X		
History	NA			X		X
Hospitality and Tourism	NA				X	X
Kinesiology and Exercise Science	NA		X		X	X
Media Communication	NA		X	X		
Political Science/International Relations	NA					X
Psychology	NA	X	X		X	
Sociology	NA	X		X	X	
Studio Art	NA					

Study areas at universities are subject to change.

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 IP 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.

CSU IP 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, students 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
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, CSU IP 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 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 CSU IP. To request an exception, complete the General Petition form (located in your Academic Toolkit in your CSU IP portal) and email the form to 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.

Course Offerings

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

Each semester, CSU IP 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.

Macquarie University

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2017 IP participants (left column) and the corresponding department (and department abbreviations) at Macquarie University in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under "Course Offerings."

CSU IP Approved Study Areas	Departments at Macquarie University
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/2016/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.

To view courses that are not available to CSU IP students, click [here](#).

Note that the 2017 version of the handbook is not available at the time of this publication. The 2016 version can be used as a guide and is subject to change.

For questions about courses, registration or the university, please email Charlotte Cox at charlotte.cox@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. 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.

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2017 CSU IP participants (left column) and the corresponding departments and 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 Study Areas	Departments at QUT
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 2017 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 (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.

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.

The University of Queensland (UQ)

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2017 IP participants (left column) and the corresponding study areas at UQ in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.” CSU IP students are admitted to study at the St Lucia campus.

To find course information, either 1) click on the [link](#) for your study area (listed under “Arts” Undergraduate Program) and click on “Course List” on the left side of the webpage, or 2) click on the link below to view the course list and descriptions.

CSU IP Approved Study Areas	Courses at UQ
Anthropology	Anthropology. Click here .
Geography	Geography. Click here .
History	History. Click here .
Marine Biology	Marine Science. Click here .
Media Communication	Media, Communication and Cultural Studies. Click here .
Sociology	Sociology. Click here .

If you have any questions regarding courses, please email Julie Huberman at j.huberman@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. Juniors and seniors seeking upper division credit should plan to take second and third year courses.

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

Victoria University (VU)

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2017 IP participants (left column) and the corresponding study areas at VU in which students can take courses subject to the conditions stated under “Course Offerings.” CSU IP students attend the Footscray Park campus (six kilometers from the Melbourne Central Business District).

To find course information, click on the link for your study area below. View courses (known as “units”) offered under “Course Structure”. Scroll down the page to view course offerings. Click on the course title to view the course description.

CSU IP Approved Study Areas	Courses at VU
Business	College of Business. Click here .
Criminal Justice	College of Arts. Click here .
Engineering	College of Engineering and Science. For Civil Engineering, click here . For Electrical and Electronic Engineering, click here . For Mechanical Engineering, click here .
Hospitality and Tourism	College of Business. For Tourism Management, click here . For Hospitality Management, click here .
Kinesiology and Exercise Science	College of Sports and Exercise Science. Click here .
Psychology	College of Arts. Click here .
Sociology	College of Arts. Click here .

For questions about courses, registration or the university, please contact Anna Akstrand at anna.ekstrand@vu.edu.au or Damian Tyson at Damian.tyson@vu.edu.au.

Course Codes and Levels

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

Juniors and seniors seeking upper division credit should plan to take second and third year courses.

Western Sydney University (WSU)

Below is a table containing CSU IP approved study areas for 2017 IP participants (left column) and the corresponding study areas at 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	Courses at WSU
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.