

UNSW Exchange Fact Sheet

About UNSW



Welcome to UNSW Sydney

UNSW Sydney is a globally recognised university, ranked among the top 20 worldwide and a leader in research, innovation, and teaching excellence. With over 63,000 students and a vibrant exchange program, UNSW offers a dynamic academic experience enriched by strong industry connections and a global outlook. The university is committed to shaping forward thinking, environmentally conscious and socially engaged students who will make a positive impact in the world.

Located in Sydney—Australia's business and technology capital —UNSW combines world-class education with an unbeatable lifestyle. Our campuses in Kensington and Paddington are nestled between iconic beaches and the bustling city centre, easily accessible via public transport including light rail and buses. A short bus trip will take you to explore the famous beaches of Coogee or Bondi, while the new Light Rail network takes you from UNSW's Kensington campus to the central business district and inner city.

UNSW is proud of its accreditations including:

- UNSW Business School: Accredited by AACSB and EQUIS

- Faculty of Engineering: Programs are accredited by Engineers Australia

Explore our campuses through the [360 virtual campus tour](#), view the UNSW Sydney [Bring your difference](#) and [UNSW Campus Tour](#) to see what we have to offer!

Course information and selection



Language of instruction

The language of instruction at UNSW is English.

Course selection

For a complete list of UNSW courses, term availability, class times and content outlines, please refer to the [UNSW Handbook](#). If you need assistance navigating the handbook, see our [instructions](#) for searching for courses. For courses expected to run in the Winter Term, see our [Winter Term Course Guide](#).

When selecting courses, it is important to be flexible. Please keep in mind:

- You must meet course prerequisites. This is assessed at the time of application. Additional courses can be submitted for approval after acceptance.
- Ensure your proposed courses are offered in the term(s) you will be on exchange.

- You should have back up courses ready to accommodate any changes upon arrival, such as course cancellations or timetable clashes. Faculties generally do not approve timetable clashes. We recommend submitting back up courses for approval as early as possible.
- You should discuss your proposed courses (and back up options) with your home university and obtain their approval in advance.
- You are expected to remain at UNSW for the entire duration of your study plan, including all exams and assessments.
- Generally undergraduate students are not able to enrol in postgraduate courses, but there may be some limited options for Law and some Science and Engineering subjects.
- It is generally not possible for postgraduate students to enrol in undergraduate courses.

Course load

You must enroll in a full-time course load at UNSW in accordance with your study plan. Please refer to the Term Options below for available study plans. It is not possible to underload or overload within your study plan.

Equitable Learning Services

Equitable Learning Services provide a range of services to students with disabilities, including note takers, classwork support, assistive technology and exam adjustments.

If you receive educational adjustments at your home university, you need to register with UNSW Equitable Learning Services prior to study commencement to ensure the appropriate services are in place by the time you start at UNSW. You will not be registered automatically.

Support services in Australia may be different to those offered at your home university (for example, adjustments for extra time in exams may be shorter). While at UNSW you will receive the same educational adjustments as local students, and it is best to make enquiries about what services may be available to you before you arrive.

Course restrictions



Most courses are open to exchange students who meet the required academic background,. However, some courses have restrictions or are not available to exchange students.

- Exchange students are permitted to take only one online course. Please check with your home university in advance, as they may have additional restrictions for online courses.
- Winter Term courses are limited and are generally offered as electives, we recommend you are flexible.

Faculty of Law & Justice

- Enrolment is restricted to Law Majors. Coursework is available at undergraduate and postgraduate level
- Juris Doctor courses are open to students enrolled in a Juris Doctor Program at their home institution
- Students are not able to take both LAWS and JURD courses simultaneously
- LLM elective courses are open to Law Exchange students
- Undergraduate and JD law enrolment for Exchange students is capped, and students are encouraged to also look at LLM elective courses

- Core courses and prescribed theory elective courses are not available to Exchange students
- Course LAWS3331 is not available to Exchange students

Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture

The Arts & Media, Education, Humanities & Languages, Social Sciences

- Students wishing to take stage 3 ARTS courses must be majoring in the desired field
- Undergraduate students can only enrol in undergraduate courses
- Postgraduate students are not eligible to take undergraduate courses
- INST, GLST, DANC, EDST, MDIA and Music courses are restricted to declared majors
- Postgraduate Education courses (EDST) are not open to exchange students, and some limitations to Undergraduate Education courses.

Art & Design

- Courses are held at the Paddington campus, approximately 20 minutes away – a [free shuttle bus service](#) is available
- Priority will be given to students majoring in Art/Design
- Students can take a mix of courses from Paddington and Kensington (main) campus, as long as they are aware of the travel involved

Built Environment

- Students are limited to one studio-based course due to space limitations and should be flexible with subject choices

UNSW Business School

The following courses are not available to exchange students:

- Industrial Training courses including MARK2999, MARK3999, MARK4999, FINS3100, FINS3200
- MARK6xxx courses
- GBAT course

Faculty of Medicine & Health

- Exchange students can enrol in courses from the School of Health Sciences however courses in the Doctor of Medicine program are not open to exchange students.

Faculty of Engineering

- Enrolment in Biomedical Engineering and Computer Science courses is extremely limited; students need to be prepared to select courses from another major.

Faculty of Science

- Postgraduate psychology courses are not available to exchange students.
- Undergraduate psychology courses are very limited.
- SCIF2041 & SCIF3041 (Research Internships) are not available to incoming students

Courses not open for exchange

- MBA Coursework
- Courses that are part of the Honours degree (4xxx)
- UNSW Canberra and the Australian Defence Force Academy (all courses starting with 'z')
- UNSW College
- Doctor of Medicine program

Term information and dates



The current UNSW academic calendar consists of three terms, plus a Summer Term in January (ST) and Winter (WT) intensive term in August. For semester-based programs, you can choose:

- 3 courses over a standard Term
- 4 courses over a double or Tailored Term

For yearlong programs, you can take 8 courses. Please note the course sequence below.

At the point of nomination, your home university needs to enter a [term selection](#) for you. This determines your length of study and terms you will be at UNSW. Please discuss your term options with your home university.

Term dates

Refer to the [Academic Calendar](#) for Study Abroad and Exchange and [Key Dates](#) for UNSW term dates and important information. It is important you are aware of your start and end dates.

You are required to study with UNSW for the entire session and exam period. Your personal exam timetable will be released mid-term, and you should not make any travel arrangements until you have received your exam timetable.

Term options

Three courses (18 UNSW credits, 22.5 ECTS)

If you would like to study 3 courses in 2027, you can choose from:

- Term 1 (T1) which is from February to mid-May and has a course sequence of 3
- Term 3 (T3) which is from September to mid-December and has a course sequence of 3

Four courses (24 UNSW credits, 30 ECTS)

If you would like to study 4 courses in 2027, you can choose from:

- Tailored Term 1 (ST + T1) which is from January to mid-May and has a course sequence of 1+3
- Tailored Term 3 (WT + T3) which is from August to mid-December and has a course sequence of 1+3
- Term 1 + Term 2 (T1 + T2) which is from February to late August and has a course sequence of 2+2

- Term 3 + Summer Term (T3 + ST) which is from September to early February of following year and has a course sequence of 3+1

Eight courses (48 UNSW credits, 60 ECTS)

If you would like to study 8 courses or one year from 2027, you can choose:

- Term 1 + Term 2 + Term 3 (T1 + T2 + T3) which is from February to mid-December and has a course sequence of 3+2+3
- Term 3 + Summer Term + Semester 1 (T3 + ST + S1) which is from September to mid-June of following year. and has a course sequence of 3+1+4
- Tailored Term 3 and Semester 1 (WT + T3 + S1) which is from August to mid-June of following year and has a course sequence of 1+3+1+3

Tailored Term 1 or Tailored Term 3

Course Sequence - 1 + 3

Maximum number of courses - 4

Maximum units of credit - 24

Term 1 or Term 3

Course Sequence - 3

Maximum number of courses - 3

Maximum units of credit - 18

Term 1 + Term 2

Course Sequence - 2 + 2

Maximum number of courses - 4

Maximum units of credit - 24

Term 3 + Summer Term

Course Sequence - 3 + 1

Maximum number of courses - 4

Maximum units of credit - 24

Full Year - commencing Term 1

Course Sequence - 3 + 2 + 3

Maximum number of courses - 8

Maximum units of credit - 48

Full Year - commencing Term 3

Course Sequence - 3 + 1 + 4

Maximum number of courses - 8

Maximum units of credit - 48

Tailored Term 3 and Semester 1

Course Sequence - 1 + 3 + 4

Maximum number of courses - 8

Maximum units of credit - 48

[Launching in 2028: UNSW flex-semester calendar](#)

Starting in 2028, UNSW will introduce its new flex-semester calendar featuring two semesters, each running for 17 weeks and including:

- Orientation week
- 13-week teaching period (with a one-week mid-semester break)
- One-week study vacation
- Two-week exam period

Students applying for a one-year exchange commencing in Tailored Term 3 or Term 3, 2027 will transition from a term-based to a semester-based study structure. Please refer to the information above for available study plan options.

This new model has been created to support the best learning experiences for students and will allow exchange students to complete four courses per semester or eight courses over

two semesters. The calendar simplifies intakes to two main periods - Semester 1 (February start) and Semester 2 (August start). Visit our [website](#) for further information and [FAQs](#).

Orientation

All Exchange students are required to attend an in-person compulsory orientation according to their start term. It is normally held the week before Term starts. Details are confirmed closer to the time.

2027 International Student Welcomes

- Summer Term: 7 January
- Term 1: 8 February
- Winter Term: 12 August
- Term 3: 6 September

Applications



How to apply

You must first be nominated by your home university before you can apply to UNSW (please do not submit a direct application through the UNSW website). Once nominated, you will receive an email with instructions on how to submit your application. Please check your

nominated terms are correct, as changes cannot be made after your application has been submitted.

As part of your application, you need to upload the following documents by the application deadline. Hard copies are not required.

1. Official academic transcript (with English translation, if applicable). Unofficial copies or screenshots cannot be accepted.
2. Valid passport (ID page). Please make sure you have a valid passport at time of application. You must be 18 years or over at time of application.
3. Proof of [English language](#) proficiency, if applicable.

Deadlines

Tailored Term 1 & Term 1

- Nomination deadline: 5 October
- Application deadline: 15 October

Tailored Term 3 & Term 3

- Nomination deadline: 26 March
- Application deadline: 1 April

All dates are Sydney time (AEDT). Please note that your term selection cannot be changed once your application has been submitted. Offers and visa documentation are sent after the application deadline.

Language requirements

All Exchange students must meet UNSW's English language requirements before they can be admitted.

You can meet the requirements by providing evidence that you satisfy one of UNSW's approved criteria and uploading the required documents to your Exchange application.

English-speaking background

Students from a recognised [English-speaking country](#) are considered to have met these requirements if they meet all of the following:

- You are a citizen or permanent resident of a recognised English-speaking country or you have lived in one of these countries for at least 10 years, and
- You have completed your secondary or tertiary education in an English-speaking country.

If this applies to you, you will need to upload a valid passport to confirm you meet these criteria.

Non-English-speaking background

If you do not meet the above criteria, you can still meet UNSW's English language requirements through:

- an approved English test
- certain senior secondary qualifications
- previous tertiary study taught entirely in English

For details on accepted tests, validity periods, alternative pathways and the list of recognised English-speaking countries, please refer to our [English Language Requirements](#)

Important information

- Please make sure you will meet UNSW's English requirements before your home university nominates you.
- You are required to upload evidence of your English language proficiency to your application by the deadline.
- If you need to take an English language test, you should arrange this at least 6 months in advance to avoid delays.
- Proof of English that does not meet one of UNSW's approved criteria cannot be accepted.
- It is too late to sit a test after our application deadline if you don't meet the entry requirements.
- The Australian Government has its own [English language](#) requirements and has recently updated its TOEFL iBT test requirements (Taking TOEFL for Australia). You should check and ensure you take an English language test that also meets the requirements for the visa you intend to apply for.

[Academic admission requirements](#)

At the time of application, you must meet the following criteria:

- Credit average or a 3.0 out of 4.0 GPA
- Undergraduate students must have completed at least one year of study before commencing their exchange at UNSW.

- Postgraduate students must have completed at least one semester of study before commencing their exchange at UNSW.

Please note:

Undergraduate students

- If you plan to take second year or higher courses with listed prerequisites, it is highly recommended that you provide a transcript showing at least one year of study at the time of application. Courses will not be approved without evidence that prerequisites are met.
- If you're in your first year at your home university, you will need to have completed at least one semester of coursework and received grades for those courses at the time of application. These grades should be available on your official transcript when applying.

Postgraduate students

- If you are in your first semester at the time of application and do not yet have a transcript with results from your postgraduate studies, you should select first year postgraduate courses.
- Upper-level postgraduate courses will not be approved without a transcript demonstrating you meet the prerequisite requirements. Please ensure your transcript is submitted at least 6 weeks before term start date if you wish to request enrolment in these courses at UNSW.

Housing, living costs & Student Life



Off-campus Housing

Most exchange students choose to live off campus and enjoy the beautiful suburbs that surround UNSW. Sydney is a safe city, with public transport connecting the UNSW campuses, beaches, and city centre.

- [UNSW Off-Campus Accommodation](#) provides advice and resources to help you navigate the housing market and find safe and convenient off campus housing within a range of budget options.
- We recommend arriving at least two weeks prior to the beginning of term, to have enough time to find the right place. You can arrange temporary accommodation (such as a hotel) for your first few nights in Sydney to allow time to find more permanent housing.
- UNSW does not endorse any off-campus accommodation. Be careful when looking at social media and any shared accommodation websites, as they may not be safe or reliable. To stay safe, learn about [your rights as a tenant](#) and be aware of [rental scams](#).

You should never arrange off-campus accommodation or transfer money from overseas.

On-campus Housing

Several independent, privately managed [colleges](#) are located on the UNSW Kensington campus. As affiliated accommodation, each college has its own application process. You need to apply directly to each accommodation of interest separately. Please make sure you select the affiliated options when using the above link. On campus accommodation is extremely limited and is not guaranteed even if you apply by the deadline.

Approximate living costs

Your expenses will vary depending on your lifestyle and where you choose to live. Students can live modestly for roughly AUD \$12,000 per half year, or up to an estimated AUD \$19,000 per half year or more if living in an apartment by themselves and going out often.

For an estimated overview of general weekly expenses, click [here](#)

You may also wish to refer to the Study Australia [Cost of Living Calculator](#) (studyaustralia.gov.au) to get an estimate on how much it could cost to have the lifestyle you choose in Australia.

Unless you are contacted with confirmation of a scholarship from UNSW, there are no other available funding opportunities. Students are responsible for funding their own exchange.

Student Life

There is always a lot's happening at UNSW and we encourage you to get involved in UNSW student life. [Find out more!](#)

Insurance & OSHC



Overseas Student Health Cover

An Australian student visa requires you to have [Overseas Student Health Cover](#) (OSHC) for its full duration (most students from Belgium, Norway and Sweden are exempt). OSHC is a government requirement and cannot be waived with off-shore health insurance and/or comprehensive travel insurance.

The UNSW's preferred provider is Medibank. Further instructions are provided upon acceptance.

Working

Student visas allow you to work once you have commenced your course at UNSW. You can work up to 40 hours a fortnight during session and unlimited hours when your course is not in session. [UNSW Employability](#) can assist you with your resume and interview preparation.

Transcripts



UNSW transcripts

An official transcript will be sent to you digitally through [My eEquals](#) at the end of your exchange, after results are released, that you can share with your home institution.

See [Grade Definitions](#) and [Comparing grading systems](#) for details on our grading system.

Transcripts for UNSW students

For Exchange Partners who send transcripts for UNSW students electronically, please send them to toc@unsw.edu.au

Contact details



Useful websites

UNSW Sydney unsw.edu.au

Academic calendar student.unsw.edu.au/calendar

Courses handbook.unsw.edu.au

UNSW Course Outlines <https://www.unsw.edu.au/course-outlines>

Key Dates student.unsw.edu.au/calendar/exchange/inbound

Faculties unsw.edu.au/faculties

Accommodation at UNSW accommodation.unsw.edu.au

Off Campus Housing student.unsw.edu.au/accommodation

Equitable Learning Services <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>

Exchange Office

Email: exchange@unsw.edu.au

Visit us on the web at www.unsw.edu.au or [Study Abroad and Exchange at UNSW](#)

UNSW Security

For after hours emergencies please contact UNSW security on

General Security

P : +61 2 9385 6000

Campus Emergency

P : +61 2 9385 6666

W: www.estate.unsw.edu.au/security/your-safety



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COMPLIANCE:

The Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 sets out the legal framework governing delivery of education to overseas students studying in Australia on a student visa. UNSW in providing education services to overseas students complies with the ESOS Framework and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (The National Code). A description of the ESOS framework can be found at the following link: internationaleducation.gov.au/Regulatory-Information/Pages/regulatoryinformation.asp