

# Year 10 Guide

## *Domestic students*

For Year 10 students in 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



# Why choose *Sydney?*

## Design your own degree

At the University of Sydney, our degrees offer flexibility, allowing you to combine your interests across different subjects with more than 400 study areas available.

## Get experience while you study

Practical and professional experiences are an integral part of all of our degrees. You can get involved with our highly sought-after placements, internships, research programs and projects.

## Make the world your campus

We have the largest student exchange program in Australia with over 260 international partners,\* making it easy for you to travel as part of your study.

## Find your people

Immerse yourself in our vibrant student community and make friends by joining one of our 270+ clubs and societies.

## Score a scholarship

We have over \$135 million in scholarships and prizes available to our students each year.

## Become part of something bigger

We are ranked in the top 25 universities in the world\*\* and have over 450,000 graduates forming an influential worldwide network.

## Find your pathway to your dream degree

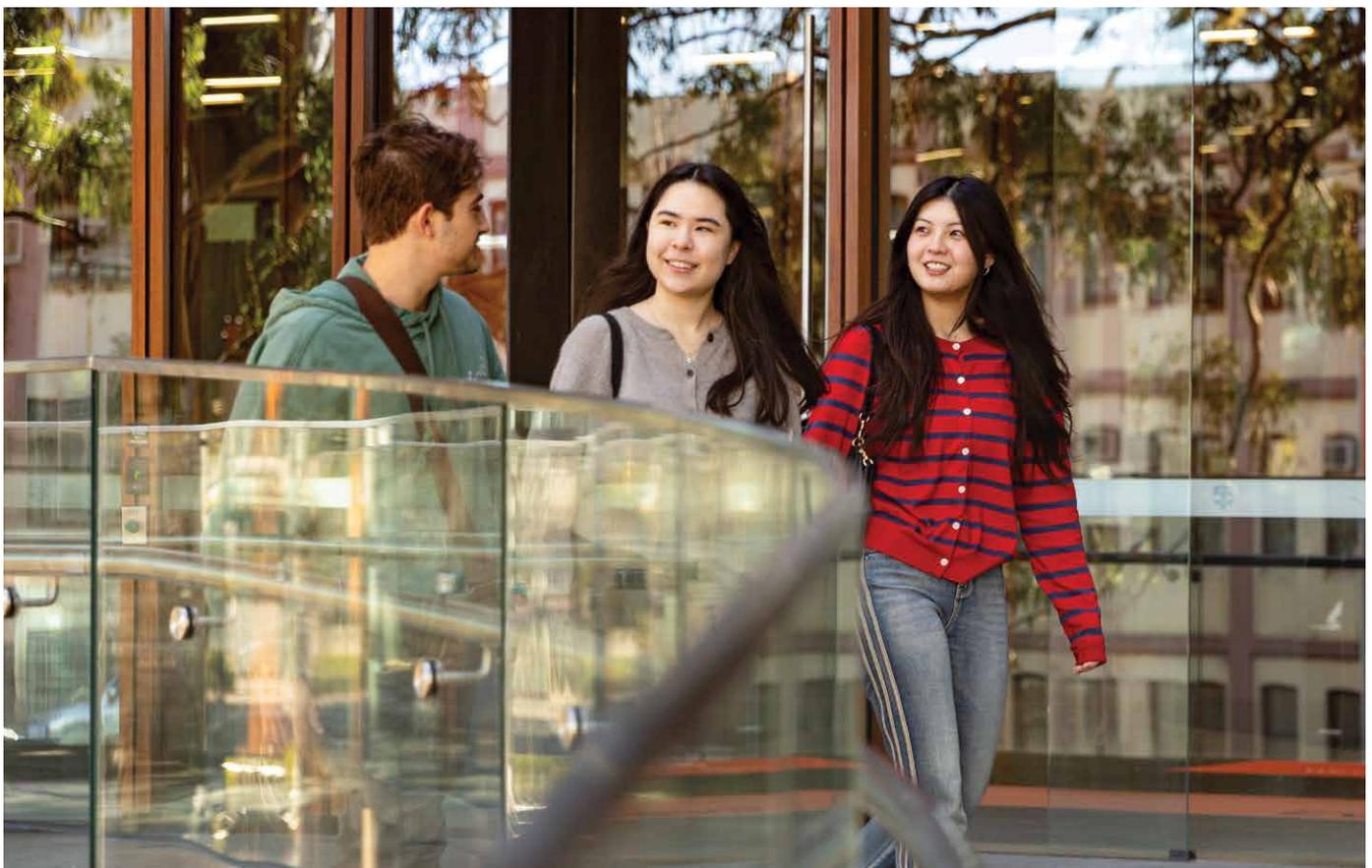
There is more than one way to get into your course. We take your achievements, circumstances or abilities into consideration through our admission pathways.

## Access our other guides

- [sydney.edu.au/study/guides](https://sydney.edu.au/study/guides)



\* Australian Universities International Directors' Forum Learning Abroad Benchmarking 2024 (in 2025)  
\*\* QS World University Rankings 2026



# Where do you start?

It's time to think about your future and learn how the University of Sydney can turn your interests into a career.



**"I'm the first in my family to go to uni and it was a tricky process, particularly deciding to live away from home. But at the University of Sydney there were lots of scholarships and pathways for regional students... The University's rankings are so impressive. I was also drawn by the fact that I could study my passion, Art History, as a major."**

**Maeve Sullivan**  
Bachelor of Arts student

Start your journey early. Preparation is key.

## → Year 10

Join us at the Sydney Info Night for Years 10–12 to begin exploring your options.



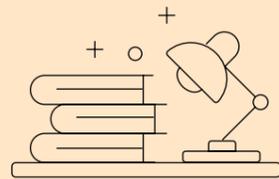
**1.** Consider different career options and what job you can see yourself doing.



**2.** Make a short list of the university courses that interest you and match your career goals.

**6.**

Maintain a healthy study-life balance with sports, hobbies and community involvement. These activities may also improve applications for some scholarships and entry schemes.



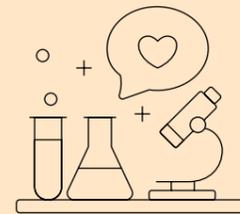
**5.**

Get into good study habits to prepare yourself to achieve strong results in Year 12.



**4.**

Choose subjects you like and do well in at school. This is also a good way to determine your future career direction.



**3.**

Take note of any 'prerequisites' and 'assumed knowledge' listed for your courses. These can help you decide which subjects to take in Years 11 and 12.

**TAKE NOTE**



## → Year 11

Visit a career expo to find the answers to your questions.



**7.**

Learn about how the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), is calculated and how subjects are scaled.



**8.**

Look at the entry requirements for your dream course. What ATAR should you aim for? Are there any prerequisites you must meet? Do you need to submit a portfolio or attend an interview?



## → Year 12

Don't miss Open Day! Saturday 29 August 2026

Open Day is a must in Year 12, but many students attend in Year 10 and 11 to get a taste of uni life.



**9.**

This is the year to get serious about your university choices. Remember to maintain a healthy study-life balance with your extracurricular activities.



**10.**

Consider the pathways you may take if you don't get the ATAR you need. Look into entry schemes and research scholarships you'd like to apply for.



**11.**

Double check the details of your courses and understand the application process. Most offers to university are made throughout December and January.



## Things to note when selecting your subjects

PREREQUISITES

VS

ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE

Prerequisites are subjects you need to complete at the required standard to be eligible for admission. Some of our courses have a **mathematics prerequisite**.

For details, visit [sydney.edu.au/study/maths](https://sydney.edu.au/study/maths)

Some of our **education degrees** also have specific prerequisites. To check if you need to meet a prerequisite, visit [sydney.edu.au/courses](https://sydney.edu.au/courses)

For some courses, we expect you to achieve a certain level of knowledge in areas such as **mathematics, physics or chemistry** through your high school studies in order to successfully study at a university level. You can still receive an offer to a course if you do not meet the assumed knowledge.

For details, visit [sydney.edu.au/hsc-subject-selection](https://sydney.edu.au/hsc-subject-selection) and [sydney.edu.au/study/prerequisites](https://sydney.edu.au/study/prerequisites)

Get ready for university!



# How uni works

## High school

VS

## Uni

Start and finish at the same time,  
Monday to Friday

Start and finish at different times  
each day, Monday to Friday

Learn in the classroom

Learn in lectures, tutorials, labs, design studios,  
workshops, field research and more

Teacher-directed study

Independent learning and self-directed study

Four school terms

Two university semesters:  
late February to late June;  
late July/early August to late November

Spend all day at school

Your daily schedule is determined by your subject  
choices and degree, giving you more freedom  
and control over how you spend your time

## Learn the lingo

How to  
choose your  
HSC subjects



**BACHELOR** When you start university after high school, you will apply for an undergraduate (bachelor's) degree. These are at least three years long.

**ENROLMENT** Enrolment is the process that secures your place in a course at the University. It includes accepting the University's conditions of being a student and selecting units of study for the coming semester or year.

**UNIT** The individual subjects you take each semester are referred to as 'units' or 'units of study'. Each unit has assessments and exams you must successfully complete to pass a unit of study.

**MAJOR** A major is a sequence of subjects that develop depth of expertise in a field of study. A major is usually made up of 8 units of study. A full list of majors and minors can be found for each degree on our website:

– [sydney.edu.au/courses](https://sydney.edu.au/courses)

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E	K	E	U	R	H	T	C	D	A	H	N	A	A	R	L	S	R	T	I	L	A

**MINOR** Similar to a major, a minor is a set of subjects, taken sequentially, that are designed to develop expertise in a particular study area. In comparison to a major, you would study fewer units of study (usually 6).

**PREREQUISITE** Prerequisites are subjects you must complete at the required standard to be eligible for admission.

### PART-TIME or FULL-TIME STUDY

Studying full-time or part-time depends on how many units of study you take for the semester. If you choose to study part-time, you will have fewer hours in lessons or group activities, and it will take longer to finish your degree. Not all degrees are available part-time.

**FACULTY** A faculty is a group of university departments or schools that teach a similar area of study, e.g. the Faculty of Science or Faculty of Medicine and Health.

# Join us

at an event



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Sydney Info Night for Years 10–12**

Wednesday 29 April 2026

**Open Day**

Saturday 29 August 2026

Stay up to date with our  
upcoming events:

[sydney.edu.au/ug-events](https://sydney.edu.au/ug-events)



## SHARE THE EXCITEMENT

#USYD

@Sydney\_uni



We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledge across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.

The information published in this guide is current at the time of publication and is subject to change for future years. For the latest course information, including admission criteria, course structure and availability, refer to: [sydney.edu.au/courses](https://sydney.edu.au/courses)

Produced by Marketing and Communications, the University of Sydney, January 2026. The University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice.