



Guide for IB students applying to Australian institutions

This guide provides a brief introduction to the Australian higher education system and its application process, as well as information specifically relevant to IB students applying to Australian institutions from outside of Australia.

The Australian context

Australia has more than 170 post-secondary education providers, including 43 universities. Thirty-nine of these universities are public. Australia's universities are nationally regulated by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, which monitors quality and regulates higher education providers using standards from the independent Higher Education Standards Panel. These standards make a concerted effort to cater to international students.

International student friendly

Many higher education institutions in Australia are highly ranked internationally and go to great lengths to make the application process smooth for international students. Australian universities have a good deal of autonomy, and each institution determines its own admissions standards. About 25% of students enrolled in higher education in Australia are international students, which is among the highest proportions in the world.

Groups and networks

Many universities in Australia have banded together with similar institutions to form groups or networks.

[The Group of Eight \(Go8\)](#) comprises eight of Australia's leading research universities, and the group has collectively expressed its support for IB students. The [Australian Technology Network](#) and the [Innovative Research Universities](#) are also prominent university groups.

Although Go8 universities are generally the most highly ranked Australian institutions and are typically associated with the most prestige and highest entry requirements, regional Australian universities with lower entrance requirements also have many outstanding students and strong teaching and research.

Degree types

Students can pursue one of three degrees after completing the IB Diploma Programme: an Associate Degree, a Bachelor Degree or a Bachelor Degree (Honours).

An **Associate Degree** takes two years to complete and is career-focused. Students can get an Associate De-

gree to better prepare them for their career, to receive a certificate in their field and/or as a step towards getting a Bachelor Degree.

A **Bachelor Degree** usually takes four years to complete and is more in depth than an Associate Degree. It prepares students for their careers, as well as for postgraduate study. Bachelor Degrees in professional fields can sometimes take more time. Some students choose to do a double or combined programme, which results in earning two Bachelor Degrees. Some institutions offer “graduate-entry Bachelor Degrees”, which cannot be entered directly from senior secondary school and typically are in professional specializations.

In some professional specializations, Bachelor Degrees using Honours terminology (for example, Bachelor of Engineering with Honours) may be awarded on the basis of academic achievement. In such cases, an increased course load and/or short thesis may be required.

Bachelor Degree (Honours) programmes include a coherent and advanced development of knowledge and skills in one or more specializations in addition to research principles and methods. A significant research thesis or project is required.

Applying to Australian universities

Who to contact

There are three ways to apply to Australian higher education institutions.

Direct application: Students from outside of Australia can apply directly to an institution, following that institution’s application procedures. In this case, students must fill out separate applications for each course and institution to which they are applying.

Education agents: Students can also apply through a licenced Australian education agent. There are various agents in Australia, and each institution might be partnered with one or several of these agents. Institutions typically list which agent(s) they partner with on their websites. Agents help students put together their applications and supporting documents and send the application materials to the institution(s). Students might choose to work with agents if they need help with the

admissions process, obtaining student visas or preparing to study in Australia. [IDP Education](#) is one of the largest agent organizations and is co-owned by 38 Australian universities.

Tertiary Admissions Centres: Finally, there are offices called Tertiary Admissions Centres (TAC) that process applications to a number of institutions within a particular state or group of states. These TACs cover Queensland, South Australia/Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Check the individual TAC sites to see which institutions they cover. TACs provide students with relevant application information, as well as facilitate the application and offer processes. Some institutions might not accept a TAC’s international application process, so international students should check whether the course they are interested in encourages direct application from international students.

Choosing an area of study

To study at an Australian university, students typically apply to specific courses within a university. A course is a particular area of study, such as psychology or biology, and most classes a student takes will be related to this course. Thus, it is important that applicants are clear about what they would like to study at the time of their university application.

Some universities do allow students to apply to the university itself or to a broader degree within the university (for example, Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Commerce) that encompasses several course options. Students should be sure to understand the particular admissions processes at institutions to which they are applying.

The Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

The Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) shows Australian students’ achievement in relation to other students. The ATAR is calculated from students’ academic results prior to applying to universities, and in order to receive an ATAR students must complete the necessary courses in Australia.

International students do not receive an ATAR. Most Australian higher education institutions accept IB results as an equivalent to an Australian Year 12 qualification, and

there may be a scale in place to convert scores to ATAR.

Testing

There are several tests that certain courses and universities might require of applicants. For example, the [International Students Admissions Test](#) (ISAT) is required for international applications to some medicine, dental or veterinary courses and is offered in centres around the world.

The [Special Tertiary Admissions Test](#) (STAT) is a general test that assesses a variety of subjects and competencies, but it is generally used by students who don't have a recent Year 12 qualification.

English language proficiency testing is also quite common for students from non-English speaking backgrounds and may even be a requirement to obtain a student visa from the Australian government.

Other tests may be required for certain courses, so it is important that students are aware of the requirements of the courses and institutions to which they'd like to apply well in advance.

Receiving and accepting offers

After applying, students might receive offers from the university directly or through a TAC, depending on how they applied.

Offers can be unconditional, meaning the student has been accepted to study at the institution. Conditional offers are contingent upon the student fulfilling certain conditions, such as a minimum number of points for IB diploma results and a minimum score on specific IB subjects. A university might choose to decline an application rather than giving an offer.

Once final IB results have been sent to the institution and the requirements of conditional offers are met, students must respond to the offers and pay the required fees by the set deadline. At this point, students are officially enrolled in a course and on track to begin study at the institution. There are several deadlines and fees throughout this process, so it is important for students to be aware of important dates and communications with the institution or TAC.

Timeline

Many Australian higher education institutions operate on a two-semester basis, with the first semester being February through June, and the second being July through

November. Application deadlines might vary from institution to institution, but to start in February, deadlines are generally sometime in October.

Information for IB students

The IB diploma is recognized by all major tertiary institutions in Australia. Some universities offer advanced placement, credit and bonus schemes for Diploma Programme (DP) students.

Most Australian higher education institutions accept IB diploma results as an equivalent to an Australian Year 12 qualification, and students' IB results will be used as a ranking system instead of an ATAR. In some cases, higher education institutions have a conversion scale in place to convert IB scores to ATAR. More information about the IB and Australian rankings can be found on the [UAC website](#), which includes a conversion scale of IB results to UAC rankings.

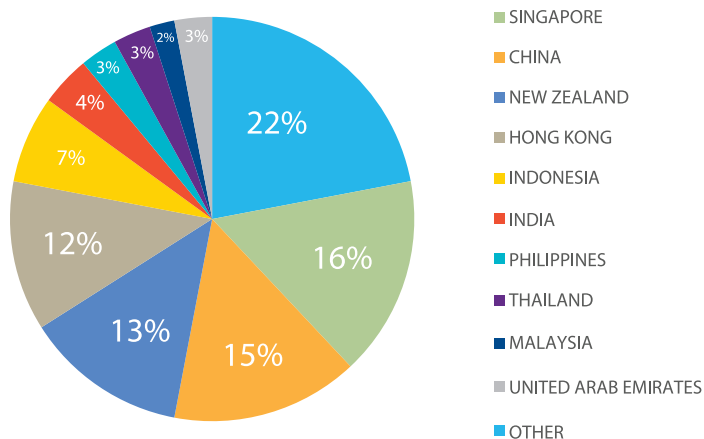
Anticipated, predicted and final IB scores

Due to the application timeline, offers may be made based on anticipated IB scores submitted directly by the student's school to the university or by predicted IB scores the student's school submits to the IB and the IB in turn reports to the university. To confirm an offer, final IB results may need to be submitted either to the TAC or directly to the institution.

Who sends transcripts to Australia?

In 2014, 1,355 students from IB World Schools in 89 countries sent 3,046 transcripts to 65 Australian institutions, including the TACs, an average of 2.25 transcripts per student. A total of 1,075 transcripts were sent to TACs, leaving 1,971 (nearly two-thirds) sent directly to the institutions.

Most common source of transcripts coming into Australia



Where do IB students send transcripts?

While the TACs are among the single largest recipients of transcripts (as they typically represent several institutions), nearly two-thirds of transcripts from IB students outside of Australia bypass the TACs and are sent directly to the institutions.

Over 85% of these transcripts were sent to just 10 universities. All 10 are ranked in the top 300 universities by the QS World University Ranking, and 5 of them are ranked in the top 50. All 10 are public institutions, and all of the Go8 universities are represented.¹

Information on the 10 institutions that received the most transcripts from international IB students²

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY		
General admissions information ³		
Australian National University (ANU) accepts the IB diploma and bilingual diploma as equivalent to an Australian Year 12 qualification. If you are an international student completing a high school or university qualification outside Australia, you need to submit your application directly to ANU. If you are applying from an IB programme in Australia, you need to apply through UAC.	Total undergraduate enrollment ⁴	8k
	Overall acceptance rate ⁵	83%
	Global ranking ⁶	19
	Average DP score ⁷	34
Example course requirements ⁸		
Business Administration BA: 30 points overall		
Additional considerations		
Presentation of an IB diploma where the language of instruction is English satisfies the university's English language requirements.		

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY		
General admissions information		
Macquarie University knows that as an IB student, you are distinctive. You have a "switched on" approach to learning and you're actively engaged with the world around you. At Macquarie you will be nurtured as a global leader of tomorrow through unique programmes like PACE (Professional and Community Engagement), and the Global Leadership Program. If you're studying in Australia but have your eye on bigger things, you'll also be a perfect fit for our Global Leadership Entry Program, giving you access to exclusive on-campus learning activities while you're still in high school.	Total undergraduate enrollment	22k
	Overall acceptance rate	81%
	Global ranking	229
	Average DP score	29
Example course requirements		
Commerce BA: 29 points overall		
Additional considerations		
IB students in Australia who excel in subjects relating to Macquarie's programmes can receive Academic Advantage Bonus Points to increase their entry score. Macquarie University accepts English A Literature or English A Language and Literature at Standard or higher level; English B at Higher Level with a Grade of 4 or more; English B at Standard Level with a Grade of 5 or more.		

¹<http://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>

²These institutions are listed in alphabetical order, and inclusion here does not necessarily indicate that these institutions have the most generous or appropriate offerings for IB students

³Whenever possible, language taken directly from the university website.

⁴<http://www.topuniversities.com/universities>

⁵Australian Government, Department of Education and Training. Rates are calculated

on the number of direct application compared to the number of offers. <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/38373>

⁶<http://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>

⁷Based on all overseas full diploma transcripts sent directly to the institution by the IB in 2014. Not all students who send transcripts necessarily go on to enroll at the institution. Does not include retakes

⁸Please note that the entrance scores indicated here vary from year to year depending on enrollment demand

MONASH UNIVERSITY

General admissions information

Entry requirements are specific to each course. Typically it is required for the full diploma to be awarded.

Total undergraduate enrollment	40k
Overall acceptance rate	82%
Global ranking	67
Average DP score	32

Example course requirements

Business BA: 28 points overall; at least 4 in English standard level (SL), 3 in English higher level (HL), 5 in English B SL or 4 in English B HL, and at least 4 in mathematics SL/mathematical studies SL or 3 in mathematics HL/further mathematics

Additional considerations

IB English A or B may fulfill English language requirements, but requirements are specific to each course.

ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (RMIT)

General admissions information

Completion of the IB diploma, including English, with a minimum score of 25 to 31 depending on the programme of study. Some programmes may have additional prerequisites.

Total undergraduate enrollment	23k
Overall acceptance rate	99%
Global ranking	273
Average DP score	30

Example course requirements

Bachelor of Business (International Business): 25 points overall

Additional considerations

English language requirements are fulfilled by a minimum of 4 in English A HL or SL, 4 in English B HL or 5 in English B SL.



UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

General admissions information

Completion of the IB diploma, plus any programme-specific requirements is sufficient for entry.

Total undergraduate enrollment	16k
Overall acceptance rate	100%
Global ranking	113
Average DP score	31

Example course requirements

Economics BA: 25 points overall

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

General admissions information

The University of Melbourne guarantees admission to a course when an IB student achieves the required score as listed on the course website, has met the prerequisites, and has satisfied the English language requirements.

Total undergraduate enrollment	22k
Overall acceptance rate	57%
Global ranking	42
Average DP score	35

Example course requirements

Commerce BA: Guaranteed entry with an IB total score of 35 points, grade 4 in mathematics SL/HL or further mathematics

Additional considerations

4 or higher on IB English HL or SL satisfies English language requirements.

UNSW AUSTRALIA

General admissions information

Though there are no specific prerequisites for undergraduate degrees, candidates must study certain subject areas in their last year of high school. Specific courses list IB scores that will gain students direct entry into that course.

Total undergraduate enrollment	28k
Overall acceptance rate	90%
Global ranking	46
Average DP score	34

Example course requirements

Commerce BA: 34 points overall

Additional considerations

The following fulfill English language requirements: 4 or above in English A: language and literature HL/SL, English A: literature HL/SL, or English B HL.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

General admissions information

The University of Queensland welcomes IB students from around the world. We recognize that the IB diploma is a comprehensive and challenging programme. Our experience is that IB diploma graduates are incredibly well prepared for university success. The programme's international flavour, academic rigour and emphasis on inquiry-based learning means that IB students enter university with a global outlook, an excellent work ethic and the critical thinking skills to ensure they achieve great results. IB students may be offered credit or exemption for selected courses. Depending on the degree programme, students may be awarded up to one semester (8 units) credit.

Total undergraduate enrollment	35k
Overall acceptance rate	80%
Global ranking	46
Average DP score	32

Example course requirements

Business Management BA: 29 points overall and IB English and any IB mathematics course

Additional considerations

The following fulfill English language requirements:

A grade of 4 or better in Language A: Literature or Language A: Language and Literature (previously English A1 and English A2) at HL or SL.

A grade of 5 or better in Language B (previously English B) at HL or SL.

Note – Literature and Performance is not accepted.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

General admissions information

Each course lists a minimum IB score required to obtain entry to that course. Typically it is required for the full diploma to be awarded.

Total undergraduate enrollment	28k
Overall acceptance rate	98%
Global ranking	45
Average DP score	34

Example course requirements

Economics BA: 31 points overall

Additional considerations

Completing the Diploma Programme in English satisfies English proficiency requirements.



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

General admissions information

The University of Western Australia welcomes applications from students who have completed the IB DP. To be admitted you must: satisfy the English language requirements, achieve a sufficient number of DP points, and satisfy any prerequisites for your chosen course and major.

Total undergraduate enrollment	16k
Overall acceptance rate	82%
Global ranking	98
Average DP score	34

Example course requirements

Business Law BA: 29 points overall and a score of 4 or above in SL or HL mathematics or mathematical studies

Additional considerations

The following fulfill English language requirements: English A (SL) – 4; English A (HL) – 3; English B (HL) – 5



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