

Careers Newsletter

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Inside This Issue

- 1 Career Idea – Actuary
- 2 Virtual Careers Expo
- 2 Tips for Year 12
- 3 UAC – EAS and SRS
- 4 UAC – how to apply

Career Idea - Actuary

Actuaries use mathematics and statistics to determine the likelihood and risk of a particular event occurring and provide solutions and recommendations based upon their findings. Actuaries use mathematical expertise, statistical knowledge and economic and financial analysis to identify risks and uncertainty.

They need to have impeccable complex problem-solving skills in order to find solutions to unforeseen events that can occur, and need to be very analytical to be able to assess and minimise the impact of risk. They also need to be decision-makers as they weigh up a number of alternative solutions before choosing the most appropriate one.

Actuaries may work for commercial and investment banks to analyse the long-term risk of investments, predict cash flows and liabilities. They are found in the legal industry at court cases to determine economic losses in the form of wages and compensation. They could work in the building and construction industry analysing the financial risks and benefits of a manufacturing company purchasing an expensive piece of equipment. Actuaries also work for government agencies, retirement funds, superannuation, universities and health care – their workplaces are widespread and varied.

To become an actuary in Australia there are 5 steps. The governing body for actuaries is the Institute of Actuaries. Firstly, you must complete an undergraduate degree in Actuarial Studies or a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Actuarial Studies at one of five accredited universities – Macquarie University, University of New South Wales, University of Melbourne, Curtin University, Australian National University or Monash University.

It's important to note that you are not an actuary until you complete the next steps. The remainder of the program is completed through the Institute and involves a combination of specialisation, practical experience and a professionalism course. After all steps in the program are completed, students qualify as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Australia (FIAA).

For more information see individual university websites, or for general information :

<http://www.careerfaqs.com.au/news/news-and-views/what-is-an-actuary/>

A great youtube clip about becoming an actuary can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTSMRsR8ABc>





Virtual Careers Expo

SkillsOne has created an '**Online Career Expo**' of the recent expo held at Avondale College on the Central Coast. The Online Expo, was created from the live Central Coast Careers Expo event and uses video and exhibitor profiling to give you the very best contacts and career pathways information. To view the videos, go to:

<http://www.skillsone.com.au/category/central-coast-career-pathways-expo/>

Skills One TV has hundreds of videos about getting a trade or a skill – something for everyone. Have a look at the website TODAY!!!

Tips and Suggestions for Year 12

During Term 3 you will need to be really well organised and manage your time well. You may have major works and performances due, Trial exams and other assessment tasks to complete. At the same time you also need to prepare for next year! Applications to university, accommodation applications, scholarship applications etc. all often need to be lodged by the end of September! Alternatively you may need to lodge an application for a competitive course at TAFE or another provider, attend interviews and auditions. You may be looking for work – so a resume will be important, as well as a good cover letter. References need to be collected. Job interviews may need to be completed. If you are going overseas to participate in a Gap Year program or holiday, your passport and visas need to be sorted out. It's a busy time! To help with this:

- # Get your family on board to help out where they can
- # Negotiate your way out of 'chores' for a month or two
- # Draft applications/resumes etc. and get someone to check it for you well before due dates!
- # Scan your Year 11 and 12 reports and save as a PDF – you may need these for scholarship applications
- # Collect character references from your school, employer, sport coach etc.
- # Have a passport photo taken to have on hand in case you need to attach a photo to various applications
- # Make sure you have a Tax File Number – if you don't, go to <https://www.ato.gov.au/Forms/TFN---application-for-individuals/> and apply online.
- # If you are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, make sure you have your documentation – you will need to provide this when applying for indigenous targeted positions, scholarships etc.
- # Sometimes a full Birth Certificate is required for identification purposes. If were born in NSW and you don't have yours, go to <http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-birth-certificate> to order one.

Educational Access Scheme (EAS)

Most of UAC's participating institutions have Educational Access Schemes (EAS) to help students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study. To be eligible for EAS consideration your educational performance must have been seriously affected, normally for a period of at least six months during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent, due to circumstances beyond your control and choosing. **There are seven broad categories of long-term educational disadvantage.** See <http://www.uac.edu.au/eas/> for details, including downloadable application form.

Note: you will need to collect documentation and a supporting statement from your school outlining how each disadvantage you are claiming has impacted on your performance.

UAC Schools Recommendation Schemes (SRS)

Schools Recommendation Schemes (SRS) are one way institutions make early offers to current Australian Year 12 students who have applied for undergraduate admission through UAC. SRS offers are made on 3rd December, before ATARs are released and are made only to first preferences.

Institutions have their own policies on determining SRS eligibility and making offers. These approaches may include making early offers based solely on SRS criteria, making offers based on both SRS criteria and ATAR (or equivalent) or making offers based on SRS criteria and ATAR (or equivalent) and equity criteria.

There are 10 institutions will be participating in SRS in 2015-16 : Australian National University, Charles Sturt University, Griffith University, Macquarie University, National Art School, University of Canberra, University of Newcastle, University of New England, University of Technology Sydney and University of Western Sydney. See Page 17 of UAC or website for details.

Other institutions have their own 'early entry' programs, for example: University of Wollongong and Southern Cross University. Check individual university websites for details.

To apply for SRS, you need to first apply to UAC and list your preferences and pay the application fee. Then go to <http://www.uac.edu.au/srs/> then to lodge your SRS application. Conditions apply. Successful applications will be made a conditional or unconditional offer on 3rd December through the UAC website. Follow instructions on offer letter about how to accept the offer.

You can change your preferences to be considered for another course for the main round of offers on 20th January generally based on ATAR. See UAC pages 31-34 for details on offer rounds.

UAC Step by Step – How to apply

1. Have your 8 digit Board of Studies number and 4 digit UAC PIN ready
2. Go to www.uac.edu.au and click on “I’m an Undergraduate”
3. Click on the “apply” button on the right hand side of the screen – applications open 5th August.
4. Read the introductory information and click on the “Apply Now” button
5. Select “start a new UAC application”
6. Enter your citizenship status
7. Enter “yes” to the question “Are you a current Year 12 applicant”?
8. Enter your student number (BOS number) and UAC PIN
9. Check all your personal details, and add your email address and contact phone number. If your address is different to that shown on this page, enter your correct address and notify your school and the Board of Studies of your correct address. You should use a private email address (eg: Hotmail or yahoo) not a school email, as you may not have access to this in 2016
10. Record your UAC Number.....
11. Record your UAC PIN.....
12. Carefully read all questions on the following pages and answer those as they are relevant to you
13. On the course preferences page, enter at least one course code and click “Add this course”. Course codes can be found in the 2015 UAC Guide or you can do an online search from this page.
14. Remember you can add up to 9 preferences. Preferences are like a ‘wish list’. Make sure you list them in rank order of what you want most to least. If applying for one of the various early entry schemes, see your Careers Adviser for advice on how to preference these.
15. Check your application summary. If you need to make changes, click “Edit” and when you have made the change, make sure you save it.
16. Agree to the declaration
17. Choose your payment method
18. Click “Submit my application now”
19. Download and print your Confirmation Package
20. If you have a tax invoice in your confirmation package, make sure you pay it ASAP or your application will not be considered.
21. **On time applications close Wednesday 30th September 2015** – late fees apply after this date

After You Have Applied:

1. Use “Check and Change” to make changes to your application. ALWAYS remember to save any changes.
2. When you get your ATAR on 17th December, make sure your course preferences are realistic and listed in the order you want them considered.
3. You have until 6th January 2016 to finalise your preferences for the main round of offers on January 20th at 6pm.
4. Access “Check and Change” to see your offers and any other communication from UAC.

Remember that there are several offer rounds, including the ‘early’ offer round on 3rd December – it is important to list your ‘early entry’ preference 1st at this point to secure an ‘early offer’ that may be conditional or unconditional as part of the various university early entry / principals recommendation schemes, and UAC’s SRS scheme. See Page 31 of UAC book for more detail.