



Australian Government
Department of Education

Undergraduate applications and offers 2022-2024

July 2025



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The document must be attributed as the Undergraduate applications and offers 2022-2024.

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Introduction

Purpose of the report

This report identifies trends in the number of applications and offers to study undergraduate higher education courses by domestic students in Australia. It is important to bear in mind that this report does not necessarily provide a complete picture of higher education demand, as this collection is limited to undergraduate level study in the first semester of each year. This data collection contains no information on applications and offers for postgraduate level study and no information in relation to international students. It contains no information on second (or third) semester undergraduate study and so does not capture the full cohort of prospective students for each academic year.

Overview of the data

This report analyses data on applications and offers for university admission to Commonwealth Supported places in undergraduate courses for the first semester of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 academic years, as of 15 May in each year. The data are limited to domestic, undergraduate students and do not include information on overseas students studying in Australia, domestic postgraduate students, or applications or offers in later semesters.

In reading this report it is important to consider that students in Australia can make multiple applications as well as receive multiple offers for entrance to university degrees. This report presents data on a per student basis and applies various treatment rules to the data based on assumptions about student decision making (as detailed in the explanatory notes). The data reflect students' highest preference for study and the latest offer they have received. The intent of this is to provide an indicator of student demand and sector response that more realistically reflects numbers of students seeking to commence a university degree in the first semester of a given year.

Applications and offers do not align precisely with subsequent enrolments in higher education.

The relationship between applications and offers and subsequent enrolments should be considered indicative only. Not all offers result in a student commencing a course. Many students will receive more than one offer, including for lower preference courses, and not all receive an offer for their highest preference for study. The most recent offer made may not be the one the student accepts. Therefore, enrolments at the field of education level may differ substantially from patterns reported in these applications and offers data.

In addition, enrolment statistics, as published in the Higher Education Statistics – Student Data collection cover a broader scope of higher education students. The data presented in this (undergraduate applications and offers) report pertain to only a subset of students in a given year and this could result in biased conclusions if these trends are extrapolated to full academic year commencements or total enrolments. Readers should particularly bear in mind the important contribution of postgraduate level study on overall provider and field of education enrolments. This varies year to year, across and within different fields of study, and these students are not reflected in these data.

Data are derived from the University Applications and Offers Data Collection. The collection consists of data on:

- applications and offers processed through Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs), and
- applications made directly to universities and resulting offers.

The full data are available in tables and visual analytics form on the department's website, along with previous Applications and Offers reports and data at

<https://www.education.gov.au/undergraduate-applications-offers-and-acceptances-publications>

Prior to 2022, data for the University Applications and Offers collection were collated in the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS). The collection of these data in HEIMS was halted in 2022 as the Department transitioned its collections to the Tertiary Collection of Student Information (TCSI). The process was completed in late 2023 and as a result, no data were available for release pertaining to 2022 and 2023 during this period.

In 2024, applications and offers data were collected in TCSI for the current year as well as retrospectively for the 2022 and 2023 years.

Most of the applications and offers data collected through TCSI are consistent with the data previously collected via HEIMS. However, there are some differences (e.g. under TCSI CHESSN is not collected, Basis for Admission has different outcomes) which means that caution should be taken in the interpretation of time series data due to the series break in the collection system.

Acknowledgements

The department would like to thank all officers of TACs and universities for their submission of applications and offers data for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 academic years.

Highlights

Application numbers

- The number of individuals applying either through a TAC or directly for a university place in 2024 was 302,254, an increase of 1 per cent on the previous year. This follows a decrease of 5 per cent from 2022 to 2023.
- Applicants who apply directly to universities comprised 40 per cent of all applicants in 2024 (it was 38% in 2022 and 2023).

Offer numbers

- There were 256,226 offers to unique applicants in 2024, an increase of 2 per cent on the previous year. This follows a decrease of 5 per cent from 2022 to 2023.
- Direct offers accounted for 39 per cent of total offers in 2024 (it was 37% in 2022 and 2023).

Offer rate

- The offer rate measures the way in which universities choose to respond to student demand.
- In 2024, the offer rate was 85 per cent (up from 84% in 2023 and 83% in 2022), the highest since 2010.

Table 1: Growth in applicants, offers and offer rate, 2010-2024, Australia

Year	Applicants	Change in applicants on previous year	Offers	Change in offers on previous year	Offer rate
2010	292,854		234,999		80%
2011	302,472	3%	244,431	4%	81%
2012	309,639	2%	256,472	5%	83%
2013	316,607	2%	267,244	4%	84%
2014	324,877	3%	272,155	2%	84%
2015*	333,514	4%	280,672	3%	84%
2016	341,421	2%	285,846	2%	84%
2017***	346,800	2%	286,216	0.1%	83%
2018	335,100	-3%	280,733	-2%	84%
2019	330,608	-1%	276,489	-2%	84%
2020**	327,332	1%	273,504	1%	83%
2021	341,983	2%	280,662	1%	82%
2022	317,190	-7%	263,555	-6%	83%
2023	300,111	-5%	250,551	-5%	84%
2024	302,254	1%	256,226	2%	85%

In 2015 * and 2020 ** applications and offers data were affected by the school year progression in Western Australia and Queensland, respectively. Hence, percentage changes are calculated: in 2014, 2015 and 2016 excluding WA TISC data and in 2019, 2020 and 2021 excluding Queensland TAC data. University of Notre Dame (UND) excluded medical applications from 2018, hence percentage change is calculated excluding medical applications in 2017 ***. Please note, the number of applicants has not been adjusted in this table, just the percentage changes.

Breakdown by key factors

Year 12 and non-year 12 applicants

- Nationally, Year 12 applicants represented 41 per cent of total applications in 2024. In 2023 and 2022, Year 12 applicants represented around 40 percent.
- Nationally, Year 12 offers represented 44 per cent of total offers in 2024.
- The offer rate for Year 12 applicants in 2024 was 91 per cent, which was higher than the offer rate of 81 per cent for non-Year 12 applicants. The same pattern was seen in 2022 and 2023. Further details are available in Appendices, Table A2.

Field of education

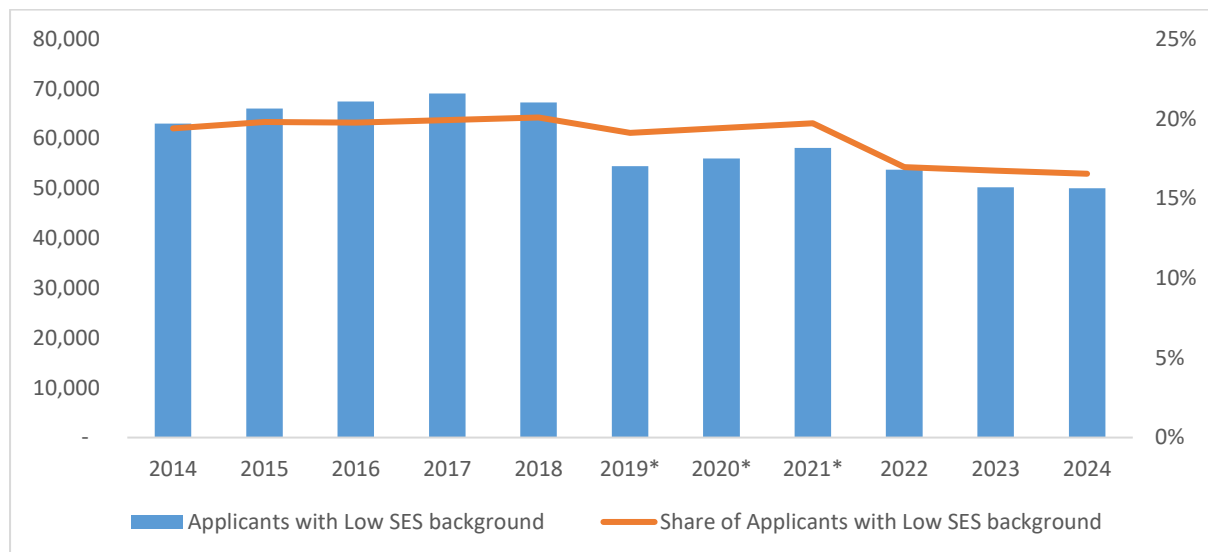
- Data on applications and offers by field of education reflect first preference applications and most recent offers received. A prospective student may be made more than one offer and may not accept their most recent offer. As a result, these data may not reflect subsequent enrolment trends by field of education.
- In addition, it is important to note that second semester and postgraduate level enrolments may be influential on enrolment data, particularly in relation to field of education. These are outside the scope of this collection.
 - For example, in recent years, postgraduate students have made up around a quarter of all domestic student enrolments, but around 35% within the Education field.
- Nationally, the most popular broad field of education for highest preference applications in 2024 was Health (81,376 applicants or 27% of all applicants). This was followed by Society and Culture (62,682 applicants or 21%) and Management and Commerce (33,161 applicants or 11%).
- Fields of education that recorded the strongest growth in applications in 2024 (compared to 2023) were Engineering and Related Technologies (9%), followed by Management and Commerce (4%), and Architecture and Building (4%).
- The above-mentioned fields of education also saw the strongest growth in offers, with Engineering and Related Technologies showing a 12% increase, followed by Architecture and Building (6%) and Management and Commerce (5%).
- Undergraduate offers for Education, Creative Arts and Society and Culture courses were essentially stable between 2023 and 2024, although there were small percentage declines in highest preference applications for these fields of education.
- Further details on broad fields of education are available in Appendices, Table A 4.1 and 4.2.

Underrepresented groups

- The number of applicants from low SES background peaked in 2017 and then declined in most recent years (except in 2021) (Figure 1). The share of applications from low SES background decreased from 19.1% in 2019 (19.7% in 2021) to 16.5% in 2024.
- In 2024, the number of applicants from a low SES background decreased marginally (0.4%) compared to 2023. However, the number of applicants from high (3%) and medium (1%) SES backgrounds recorded growth during the same period.

- In 2024, the number of offers to applicants from a high SES background increased by 4%, followed by those from a medium SES background (2%) and low SES background (2%).
- Applicants from a low SES background were less likely to receive an offer. Their offer rate was 82 per cent compared with 85 per cent for applicants from a medium SES background and 87 per cent for applicants from a high SES background in 2024.
- In 2024, applications from metropolitan residents increased by 1 per cent while applications from non-metropolitan residents decreased by 0.8 per cent. In 2023, applications from both metropolitan and non-metropolitan residents decreased by 6 per cent from 2022 levels.
- Applications from non-metropolitan residents were more likely to result in an offer compared with applications from metropolitan residents, with the offer rate for 2024 at 87 and 85 per cent, respectively.
- Nationally, there were 7,372 applicants from a First Nations background in 2024, an increase of 2 per cent compared with 2023 and representing 2 per cent of all applications.
- 82 per cent of applicants from a First Nations background were made an offer in 2024. This is an increase of 2.5 percentage points compared with the same period in 2023. The offer rate for non-Indigenous applicants was 85 per cent in 2024, an increase of 1 percentage point over 2023.
- Further details are available in Appendices, Tables A5, A6 and A7 and A9.1 and A9.2.

Figure 1: Number of applicants from a low SES background and their proportional share, 2014-2024



*Excludes Queensland TAC due to the Year 12 cohort effect.

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

- The average ATAR of applicants with ATARs who received an offer decreased marginally from 78.8 in 2023 to 78.4 in 2024.

Table 2: Average ATAR for those receiving an offer, 2015- 2024

Average ATAR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All Courses	76.5	76.4	76.6	76.5	77.4	76.8	77.2	77.8	78.8	78.4

- In 2024, offers to applicants who achieved an ATAR above 90 accounted for 11 per cent of all offers. Further details are available in Appendices, Tables A8.1 and A8.2.
- In 2024, fields of education with an above average share of offers for applicants in the ATAR band 90.05 or more were Engineering and Related Technologies (24%), Natural and Physical Sciences (20%), Management and Commerce (13%) and Society and Culture (11%).
- The share of offers for applicants with no ATAR or who were non-Year 12 applicants was 60 per cent in 2024, which is broadly consistent across 2022 and 2023.

University groups

- In 2024, Group of Eight (Go8) universities accounted for 25 per cent of applications, followed by Australian Technology Network (ATN) (24%), Innovative Research Universities (IRU) (14%) and Regional Universities Network (RUN) (14%). A similar pattern was observed in 2022 and 2023.
- In terms of the distribution of offers, the ATN (24%) accounted for the highest proportion, followed by Go8 (22%), IRU (15%) and RUN (14%). Further detail is available in Appendices, Tables A11.

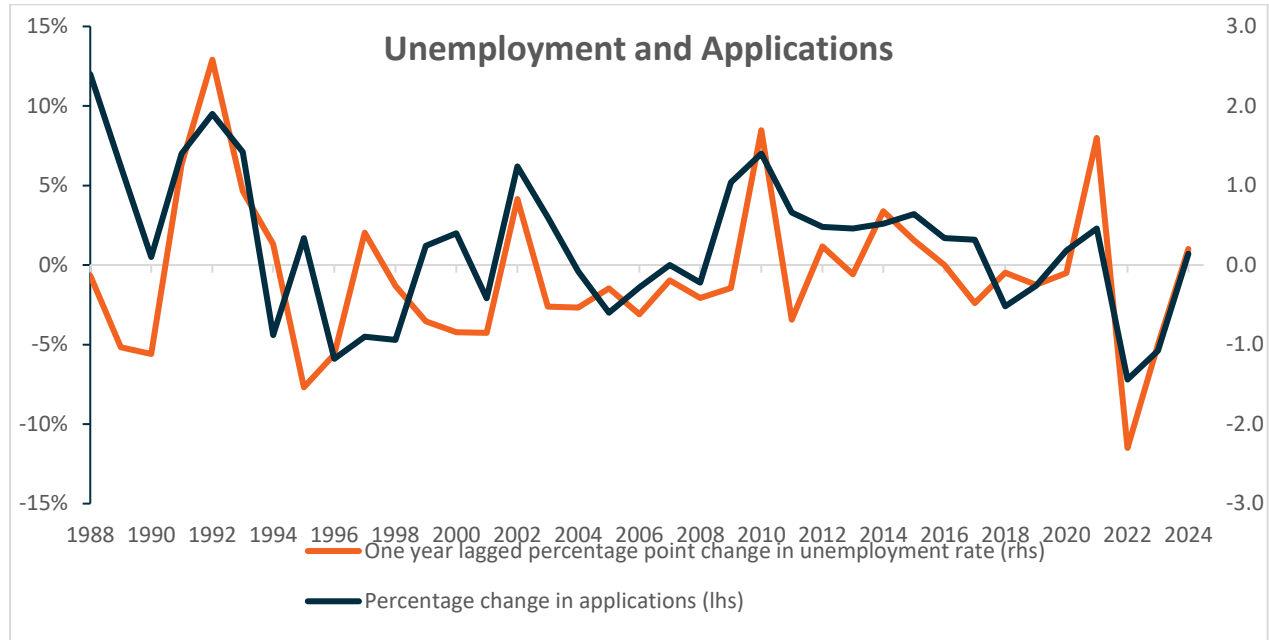
State and territory

- In 2024, Tasmania (6%) recorded the largest growth in applications, followed by Victoria (3 %), Australian Capital Territory (ACT) (2%) and New South Wales (NSW) (1%).
- Tasmania recorded the largest growth in offers (10%), followed by NSW (3%), Queensland (3%) and Victoria (2%). All states and territories recorded a decrease in offers in 2023 compared with 2022. For further details see Appendices, Table A1.

Some key analytical findings from the 2022-2024 report

1. Applications are closely related to the economic cycle

Figure 2. Change in applications and unemployment, 1988-2024



- There are many factors that influence demand for higher education, including basic population demographics such as the number of students completing their final year of school education.
- However, historically there has been a close relationship between changes in labour market conditions and changes in applications, as shown by the figure above (Figure 2). As unemployment increases, the opportunity cost of participation in higher education falls and the demand for higher education, as measured by applications, increases.
- In the lead up to the 2024 academic year when students were making their decision to apply to university, the unemployment rate increased marginally by 0.2 percentage points to 3.7 per cent over the year to August 2023.
- In response to the softening labour market, applications marginally increased by 0.7 per cent in the 2024 academic year.
- Broader economic conditions are also likely to be influencing decisions about higher education study. The increase in applications in 2024 may have been tempered by rising costs of living, particularly for applicants from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

2. Early offers

- Early offers are defined as offers issued to school students before September in the preceding year. On 23 February 2024, Education Ministers (through the Education Ministers Meeting) agreed that early at-school offers for students commencing university in 2025 and 2026 should not be issued before September in the preceding year. Prior to this decision, many universities could make early offers to school students before the completion of their senior secondary studies. While early offer schemes are not new, they became prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic due to learning disruptions.

- Table 3 shows the proportion of applicants receiving early offers was around 5 per cent in 2022 and 2023 and dropped to 4.5 per cent in 2024. The majority of offers were made during December to February, coinciding with when ATARs are released.

Table 3. Early offers by Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs) and universities

Early offers for 2022	Count	Share	Early offers for 2023	Count	Share	Early offers for 2024	Count	Share
August 2021 and prior	13,659	5.2%	August 2022 and prior	14,619	5.8%	August 2023 and prior	11,485	4.5%
Sep-21	10,177	3.9%	Sep-22	9,921	4.0%	Sep-23	19,015	7.4%
Oct-21	15,862	6.0%	Oct-22	12,979	5.2%	Oct-23	16,493	6.4%
Nov-21	29,577	11.2%	Nov-22	28,912	11.5%	Nov-23	26,931	10.5%
Dec-21	51,941	19.7%	Dec-22	84,347	33.7%	Dec-23	84,286	32.9%
Jan-22	92,424	35.1%	Jan-23	64,587	25.8%	Jan-24	68,670	26.8%
Feb-22	41,533	15.8%	Feb-23	29,065	11.6%	Feb-24	25,090	9.8%
March 2022 and after	8,377	3.2%	March 2023 and after	6,120	2.4%	March 2024 and after	4,254	1.7%
	263,550	100.0%		250,550	100.0%		256,224	100.0%

Explanatory Notes

The data referred to in this report relate to applications and offers for first semester domestic undergraduate Commonwealth Supported university places through Tertiary Admission Centres (TACs) and Table A universities as of 15 May in all three reference years. The data collection contains no information on applications and offers for postgraduate level study and no information in relation to international students. It contains no information on second (or third) semester undergraduate study and so does not capture the full cohort of prospective students for each academic year.

- Applications for undergraduate university courses are processed by TACs and can also be made directly to universities. The TAC administrative processes include preferences for courses information whereas direct admission processes through universities are generally more straightforward: the majority of direct applicants apply for a single course. Applicants who apply directly to universities are less likely to be school leavers and hence are more likely to be older than applicants who apply through TACs.
- Applicants may receive more than one offer for an undergraduate university course place.
- In this report, data are presented on a unique applicant basis. However, it should be borne in mind that individuals can apply through multiple TACs or directly through multiple universities and in other combinations of these. The report does not include statistics on the number of applications a unique applicant made or the number of unique offers an individual applicant may receive.
- The following process has been used to report data on a unique applicant basis:
 - Application type -TAC
 - If an applicant has multiple applications via TAC, the highest preference for each TAC is chosen. If the applicant has applied to multiple TACs, only home state TAC is selected.
 - Application Type - Direct
 - If an applicant has made multiple applications directly to universities, the application to the home state university is chosen. If multiple applications are made to universities in same state, the first application ordered by field of education is selected. The count however for this scenario is very small.
 - Multiple TAC and Direct applications
 - If an applicant applies through both TAC and directly to universities, the direct application is given precedent. Therefore, each applicant is counted only once and the data are a headcount.
 - Offers
 - One offer per applicant is derived using the same process to derive one record per applicant. If an applicant receives multiple offers, the most recent offer is taken. In general, applications reflect highest preferences but offers may result from lower order preferences.
- All references to “2024” in this report relate to the 2024 submission through TACs and the data submission on applications made directly to universities as of 15 May for the first semester of the 2024 academic year. The same applies for the years 2022 and 2023.

- All references to “Year 12” applicants in this report relate to applicants who attempted an Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities (ACACA) Year 12 program or the International Baccalaureate in the year of application.
- While completing Year 12 and gaining a tertiary entrance score is the most common way to gain entry to university, TACs and universities take a number of other qualifications into consideration, particularly for adults applying who have not recently completed Year 12.
- One university recorded a sharp increase in direct applications and offers in 2024 due to a newly introduced business process. Hence, caution is warranted when comparing 2024 applications and offers data with data from 2023 and 2022.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Australasian Curriculum Assessment Certification Authorities (ACACA) Year 12 programs	<p>Each State and territory has its own approved Year 12 program. ACACA is the national body responsible for monitoring senior secondary curricula and certification in Australia and New Zealand. ACACA Year 12 programs may be undertaken in schools, VET institutions or higher education providers. Current programs by state are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Higher School Certificate • Victorian Certificate of Education, • Queensland Certificate of Education • Queensland Senior Certificate • Western Australian Certificate of Education • South Australian Certificate of Education • Tasmanian Certificate of Education • ACT Year 12 Certificate • Northern Territory Certificate of Education.
Current Year 12 applicant	An applicant who attempted an ACACA Year 12 program or the International Baccalaureate in the year of application.
Offer rate	The offer rate is a percentage calculated as the number of valid offers made to applicants with at least one valid preference divided by the number of applicants with at least one valid preference.
University Groups	
Australian Technology Network (ATN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin University of Technology • Deakin University • RMIT University • University of South Australia • University of Technology, Sydney • University of Newcastle¹

¹ University of Newcastle joined the Australian Technology Network universities in November 2021.

Term	Definition
Group of Eight (Go8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monash University • The Australian National University • The University of Adelaide • The University of Melbourne • The University of New South Wales • The University of Queensland • The University of Sydney • The University of Western Australia
Innovative Research Universities (IRU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Canberra² • Flinders University of South Australia • Griffith University • James Cook University • La Trobe University • Murdoch University • Western Sydney University
Regional Universities Network (RUN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Sturt University • Central Queensland University • Southern Cross University • Federation University of Australia • University of New England • University of Southern Queensland • University of Sunshine Coast
Non-aligned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Catholic University • Edith Cowan University • Macquarie University • Swinburne University of Technology • Queensland University of Technology • Charles Darwin University • The University of Notre Dame • University of Tasmania • University of Wollongong • Victoria University

² University of Canberra joined the Innovative Research Universities (IRU) in September 2021.