New Year 12 Student and Parent Information 2015-2016

Careers Things You NEED to Know!!

Careers Adviser Contact Details

Linda Drenkhahn

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email: Linda.Drenkhahn@det.nsw.edu.au

mobile: 0429884246.

Role of Careers Adviser: is to discuss curriculum choice, post HSC options and offer advice, suggestions, provide information and starting points for individual research for students. Ultimately the responsibility for research and confirming all details with TAFE, Uni etc. lies with the student.

Communication

Personal Access: Students and parents are able to access me during school hours – in class time by negotiation with their teacher, during study breaks, recess and lunch times, and before and after school by appointment.

Email: students and parents are welcome to contact me by email any time and I will respond. I also email information regularly to their student DEC (school) email accounts. These can be accessed at school and at home through the DEC Portal. Students may miss very important information and messages if they fail to read their emails regularly.

Tuesday Assemblies: I speak on assemblies at 8:40am almost every week. These messages are brief but important. Students MUST not only attend, but LISTEN!!

Student Daily Notices: I often have brief messages on the daily notices which are read out in class by the period one teacher or made available for students to read for themselves.

SMS: I have the ability to send SMS to student’s mobile phones. This will happen only a couple of times a term when a particularly important message has to go out such as interviews or UAC book arrival.

Mail-Outs: Information is posted home that is particularly important to all students. Please ensure your postal address (and phone number) is up to date at the front office, and you take the time to read this information when it comes home.

Facebook: if you are registered with Facebook – search Great Lakes College Careers. Click ‘like’ and you will receive occasional ‘newsfeeds’ or reminders from Linda. Privacy is protected by your personal account settings.

Excursions: various opportunities to visit universities, TAFE, Careers expos etc. are available during the year. Make the most of them!! The best way to find out about something is go there and have a look and get a feel for the place.
**Guest Speakers:** various opportunities throughout the year will arise for students and parents to attend presentations by guest speakers such as TAFE, University, Centrelink, Apprenticeships, UAC etc. This is an ideal opportunity to get the information from ‘experts’ in their various fields.

### Useful Websites:

- Please see the Senior Campus **Careers Website** as a ‘one stop shop’ with links to just about everything you need to know about TAFE, University, HSC information, Defence Forces, Private Colleges etc.

Links such as scholarships, and job vacancies are updated as they are made available.

[www.greatlakescollegecareers.com](http://www.greatlakescollegecareers.com)

Click on the links on the left to access further information and links to other useful websites.

- An excellent website to visit if you are going to university is:


  It outlines information about HECS /Fees, Youth Allowance, courses available, entry requirements etc.

### Open Days

All universities, most TAFE campuses and Private Colleges have an Open Day – usually in August / September. I highly recommend students and parents go along to these and have a look around, meet lecturers / teachers, talk to current students and find out as much about a course, accommodation, scholarships etc as you can. There is no better way to decide on what you want to do and where you want to go to study!

### University ‘Bonus Point and ‘Early Entry / Principal’s Recommendation Schemes

Regional Universities – Newcastle, Charles Sturt, Southern Cross and New England all offer ‘bonus ATAR’ points to our students based on where they attend school. These ‘bonus points’ are automatically calculated by the universities at the time of making offers. Newcastle – 4points, others 5 bonus points. Sometimes this allows students to be made an offer into a course for which they did not quite achieve the published ATAR cut off rank.

In addition, some universities, including Newcastle, UNSW and Sydney offer ‘bonus points’ for students who achieved a certain mark or band (usually Band 6) in a particular HSC subject that is relevant to the degree at university they wish to study. Eg: Band 6 in 2U maths might earn additional 2 ATAR points at UNSW for a Science degree. **Students MUST check individual university websites for this information. Some calculate this automatically, others may have an application process.**

Several universities offer us ‘early entry’ schemes students may wish to apply for during Term 3 2016 including UNE, SCU, Notre Dame, Wollongong, USYD, UTS, ANU, La Trobe, Macquarie. These have various application procedures and eligibility criteria, and may change from one year to the next. Effectively, ‘early entry’ generally means a guaranteed offer into a university course before results are available, and is regardless of ATAR achieved.
**ATAR Cut-Off**

The ATAR cut-off’s published by UAC on their website and in the UAC book refer to the ATAR achieved by the last person who was offered a place in that course. All other people in that course got a higher ATAR. The ATAR varies slightly from one year to the next, and is linked directly to demand for the course and the number of places available. It has nothing to do with the difficulty of the course or quality of the course / university. For detailed information see: [http://www.uac.edu.au/atar/index.shtml](http://www.uac.edu.au/atar/index.shtml)

**UAC Preferences**

Generally, students must place in rank order up to 9 preferences on the UAC application for universities in NSW / ACT and Griffith Uni on the Gold Coast. Separate additional applications can be made in each State in Australia. Preferences should be listed in order of what you most want to do. For example:

1. **Dream course** – what you would REALLY like to do even if you don’t think you will get the ATAR
2. **Ideal course** – what you would be happy with if you did not get your 1st preference and might be able to use to transfer into preferred option the following year
3. **Realistic course** - what you would willing to do if you did not get your higher preferences and might be able to use to transfer into a preferred option the following year
4. **Foot in the door course** – a ‘lower ATAR’ course you would do just to get into uni. Do well and try to transfer into a preferred course the following year based on academic record at uni.

However: if you are applying for Early Entry as a BACKUP plan, one of these courses must be listed 1st to secure an early round offer in December. The early round offer should be accepted, then the order of preferences can be changed before the main round on January. **CHECK UAC BOOK FOR CUT OFF DATES.**

**Educational Access Schemes**

Each University has a scheme to give additional consideration to students who have suffered some sort of disadvantage during their HSC – disability, illness, death of immediate family member, homelessness, abuse, criminal proceedings etc. See Linda in Term 3 for an EAS form or download one from the UAC website. **It is important that you check such details with each university you apply for** – they are all different and some have additional forms you need to complete.

**Aboriginal Students and Elite Athletes**

Most universities have alternative selection criteria for Aboriginal students and athletes who have competed at a very high level. Students MUST consult with individual universities to access these programs.

**UMAT – STAT tests**

Some universities require an additional exam/s to be completed during Yr 12 for admission into certain degrees such as Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry and Vet Science.

See: [www.umatweb.acer.edu.au](http://www.umatweb.acer.edu.au) – for details on UMAT exam (some health sciences at some unis) and [http://www.acer.edu.au/stat](http://www.acer.edu.au/stat) for the STAT test (Vet. Science etc)

*It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they register and pay for these exams in April and sit the exams from July.*
Additional Selection Criteria

Some courses at University, TAFE and Private Colleges require applicants to sit additional selection tests, present a portfolio of work, submit a questionnaire, write an essay, attend an interview and / or audition etc. It is the student’s responsibility to check all course application requirements and follow all directions to ensure they maximise their chances of securing a place in their chosen course.

Tertiary Preparation / Pathways Courses

Many Universities have tertiary preparation courses for students who do not meet the academic requirements to be offered a place in a course after the HSC. Eg: Newcastle – Newstep, Southern Cross – Preparing for Success, UNE - Pathways Enabling Program, UWS – UniTrack etc.

Alternatively, TAFE qualifications at a minimum Certificate IV level will be considered by most universities for entry. Diploma level courses may also attract significant RPL depending on the course / uni applied for.

Bridging Courses

These are available, usually in January at a cost for students who need additional skills in subjects such as maths and sciences prior to entering a university course. See individual university entries in UAC book for details.

Education Degrees

It is a NSW DEC and Institute of Teachers directive that graduates from teaching degrees must now demonstrate adequate English and Maths skills. For full details see: http://nswteachers.nsw.edu.au/future-returning-teachers/become-a-teacher/raising-university-entry-standards/

Job Hunting

For an easy, basic resume use the resume link on the College Careers Website. Go to the Student Secure Area, register, then login and you can access the online template. Complete by adding your own details, save, print and regularly update.

Positions can be competitive so get in early – leaving it until February may make securing a position more difficult. A cover letter may also be required (see template on College Careers website in Student Secure Area) addressing the specific criteria in an advertisement. An example will be in the Resource Book handed out during Year 12 Interviews in Term 2.

TAFE

Some TAFE courses require a State Wide Application. These are usually for high demand, competitive courses. Applications usually close at the end of October each year. Students MUST check the TAFENSW website to confirm the exact closing date and application requirements for the course you are applying for. Some will also require a portfolio, essay interview and/ or test etc.
A School Reference will be created only for those students who complete the ‘Reference Request Form’ on time. This will be handed out during Yr 12 Interviews in May.

**Yr 12 2016 Careers Events @14/10/2015**

### Term 1

- **Early February**: University of Wollongong Schools Visit day (overnight excursion - EOIS already taken.)
- **Early April**: UMAT exam registrations open online - [http://umat.acer.edu.au](http://umat.acer.edu.au) for students looking at Medicine etc. See Linda or website for more info. Test is usually late July. Go to [www.umatweb.acer.edu.au](http://umatweb.acer.edu.au) for details.
- **Week 5/6**: Mid-Course exams

### Term 2

- **May**: UNE Open Day, Armidale – overnight excursion for interested Yr 12
- **Week 4/5**: Yr 12 Interviews – Compulsory for students wanting an ATAR. The purpose of this brief interview is to discuss mid-course results, plans for post HSC, suggestions for research / planning etc. A more lengthy follow up individual interview will be recommended for most students.
- **Late May**: School Reference Request due back in to Linda. *Late applications may not be processed.*
- **Mid June**: UMAT exam registrations close for students looking at Medicine etc. See me for more info - date to be confirmed.
- **July**: Yr 12 Interviews – Compulsory for students not wanting an ATAR.
- **University of Newcastle Schools Open Day** – Interested Yr 12 (possibly week 1 Term 3 – TBC)

### Term 3

- **Week 1**: UAC books for 2017 should be here to collect from Linda. If students plan to apply for a place in university for 2017 (or defer a place to go in 2018), they MUST get their FREE copy of the UAC book. **Most university applications are on-line** applications through the relevant state admissions centre. UAC – NSW, QTAC – Queensland, SATAC – South Australia, VTAC – Victoria etc. Applications close **End September**. I will assist students with their applications – they just need to ask.
- **29 July**: Taree Future Option / Careers Expo – Chatham HS – excursion for Yr 11 / 12 interested students, parents welcome
Late July  
**UMAT exam** in Newcastle for those applying for Medicine etc...

**August**

Usually first week – **University applications open online** – go to [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) - click on ‘undergraduate’ then ‘apply’. Students will need their Board of Studies number and UAC PIN which was posted to them early August. Call 1300275822 for lost PIN.

**Mid September**

**ALL EARLY ENTRY / PRINCIPALS RECOMMENDATION SCHEME APPLICATIONS** details to be confirmed and published in Term 3.

To secure an early entry offer, the course applied for MUST BE LISTED FIRST ON THE UAC PREFERENCES. Early Offers are made by UAC in November / December. The UAC preference order can be changed at a later date (after HSC and ATAR results are released) to be considered for a different course / uni in the Main Round of Offers in mid-January. If you are unsure – PLEASE ASK. All details / dates are printed in the UAC book.

**End September**

**UAC on-line applications due in for university 2017** – date to be confirmed, usually 30th September each year. Application fee is approx $30. Late applications incur a VERY LARGE LATE FEE.

**End September**

**Independent Universities such as Notre Dame, Avondale and BOND – applications close.** These applications go DIRECTLY to the university, not through UAC.

**End September**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE** – many scholarship applications are due at the end of September. **HOWEVER** they vary greatly between the universities. **It is your responsibility (and very important) that students and parents go to individual university scholarship web pages to see what is available, what you are eligible to apply for, and when applications close.**

**End September**

**ON CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION APPLICATIONS DUE** – many universities offer on-campus accommodation. Applications are often due at the end of September. **HOWEVER** they vary greatly between the universities/ colleges. **It is your responsibility (and very important) that students and parents go to individual university accommodation web pages to see what is available, and when applications close. Often an application fee applies.**

**During Term 3**

**UAC will post home a PIN** to access the on-line application for university. DO NOT LOSE THIS!! It takes ages on the phone to get it again! I suggest you put it into your mobile phone when you get it, as well as your BOS PIN (see below).

**Register with BOSTES** - each student needs to access their personalised HSC exam timetable, HSC results and loads of other resources and study tip on-line. Results can also be sent to mobile phones via SMS. Students need to set this up themselves – see BOSTES website in Term 3.

Term 4

HSC EXAMS  
*mid* October 2016 - date to be confirmed

End October  
*TAFE applications* for high demand courses usually close – check website to confirm exact date for the course you are applying for.

Mid December  
*HSC RESULTS* – by internet and SMS (need BOS PIN needed for this – will be sent to school and distributed approx Term 3)

Mid December  
*ATAR results available* on-line (UAC PIN needed for this – will be sent in the mail approx Term 3)

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December and January  
I am available at school during Term, or by email or mobile as indicated on first page. Feel free to contact me if you need help.

February 2016  
I will phone each student to check on how they are going after completing Yr 12 and to find out what their plans are for 2016. Often these change in the New Year!

*Students MUST attend Tuesday assemblies, listen to notices, and check school email accounts regularly or they WILL MISS OUT ON VERY IMPORTANT CAREERS INFORMATION.*

All information is provided in good faith. It is the individual’s responsibility to clarify all details with individual institutions for themselves.

*Linda Drenkhahn*

GLCSC Careers Adviser

October 2015.