

Pathways to University



UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE



Every path welcome, every student celebrated.

Come study at a university ranked in the top 1% in the world¹ and among the 10 best for climate action². Here, you can prepare yourself for a great career and find your people in our 100+ clubs, societies and sports teams. Join over 39,000 students from 98 countries on our welcoming and inclusive campuses.

There's a place for you.

The University of Newcastle offers many pathways and entry options to give you the best chance of getting in. That's why over 70,000 students have enrolled in our pathway programs in the last 50 years. You will be supported and inspired by passionate teachers to set you up for success in your university career.



PATHWAYS

We are the largest provider of alternate entry programs in Australia³



TOP 1%

university in the world¹



TOP REGIONAL UNIVERSITY

One of the top regional universities in Australia⁴



#1 UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enrolments⁵



The University of Newcastle acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands within our footprint areas: Awabakal, Darkinjung, Biripai, Worimi, Wonnarua, Gomerioi, and Eora Nations. We pay respect to the wisdom of our Elders past and present. We extend our acknowledgement and respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations from which our students, staff and community are drawn.

Our pathways

If you are looking for a career change or didn't get the marks for your dream degree, we have a number of pathway programs to get you started.

Our pathway programs are often free and will help you to develop the skills you need, not only to gain entry, but to find success at university and beyond.

newcastle.edu.au/pathways

Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre

We want to make sure you have all the support you need, both in and out of the classroom. The Pathways and Academic Learning Support (PALS) team has been offering flexible and supportive pathways for over 50 years. Their mission is to provide top-notch teaching and learning, helping students transition into university with a solid foundation and plenty of support.

When you join a pathway program at the University of Newcastle, you'll get access to the pathways precinct—a student space with PCs, Wi-Fi and a student kitchen. It's a study space designed with you in mind.

Our pathway programs

Open Foundation

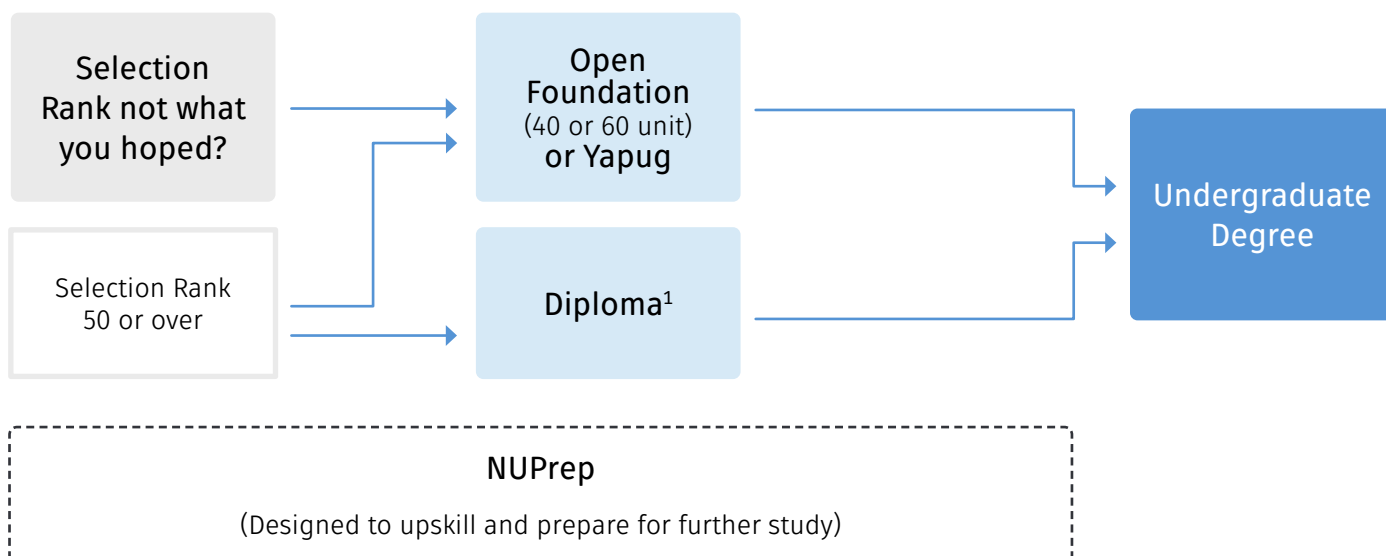
A free pathway program offered at the University of Newcastle for people who do not have the preparation or qualifications required for direct entry into their desired undergraduate degree.

Yapug

Designed to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to gain skills for entry into university while immersing them in Indigenous knowledge, history and culture.

Diplomas

A pathway program with a qualification attached. Designed to offer you a more supported start to your undergraduate studies. Our Diplomas offer the opportunity to gain up to 80 units of credit, with entry into the second year of related degree programs. For other degree pathways, guaranteed entry is available, though credit may vary based on your chosen degree.



¹ Please note that diplomas require a minimum rank of 50 without adjustment factors.

Open Foundation

Open Foundation provides you with a taste of what university is like. It is free and flexible. This program is offered both face-to-face (at our Newcastle and Central Coast campuses) and in a flexible online format to suit your lifestyle. Upon completion, you'll receive guaranteed entry into over 70 undergraduate degrees.

newcastle.edu.au/openfoundation



Open Foundation is designed for people 17+ who wish to gain the knowledge and skills for successful entry into an undergraduate degree.

Open Foundation not only helps people gain entry to university, it helps them to develop the skills needed for successful study at a university level regardless of their background or previous level of education.

You can choose to study either 4 or 6 courses (40 or 60 units), you'll explore different study areas and build on your skills as you prepare for your undergraduate degree.

Entry requirements



an Australian citizen
or permanent resident
currently living in Australia

17+

or older prior to
submitting an
application

What you will study

There are many courses to choose from, so it is important to consider the undergraduate degree you'd like to study upon the completion of Open Foundation, as the courses you choose help to prepare you for that area of study. To successfully complete Open Foundation, you're required to complete 40-60 units of courses.

Cost

FREE! There are no tuition fees associated with Open Foundation. However, there are some basic costs associated with studying at university such as textbooks and parking.

How to apply

Apply directly for free on our Open Foundation webpage or via UAC for a fee.

Have further questions?

Check out our Open Foundation webpage for more information, email enabling@newcastle.edu.au or call our friendly team on **1800 353 775**.

Excellence through Equity (EtE) pathway

The Excellence through Equity (EtE) Pathway to Medicine offers selected students who have completed the Open Foundation program the opportunity to study Medicine through the Joint Medical Program (JMP). It opens opportunities for students who have experienced diversity, including educational disadvantage, social inequities and more.

This pathway sets aside up to 6 places for admission into the JMP for Open Foundation students if the eligibility criteria is satisfied*.

*Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee you an offer into the Joint Medical Program (JMP). Eligible applicants will be assessed via a competitive selection process which includes an assessment of personal qualities (Multiple Skills Assessment) and offers will be made based on these assessments.



COMPETITIVE ENTRY

into all degrees upon completion and access to our Guaranteed Admissions Scheme



FLEXIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

Full-time or part-time.¹
In person or online and flexible



STUDY ON-CAMPUS

in Newcastle or the Central Coast



ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

from a dedicated Student Liaison Officer

“For me, Open Foundation was a perfect step towards education, especially after having such a big break. It gave me the tools to understand what does uni life look like, what does education feel like as an adult, how do you write an essay as a 28-year-old, how do you structure study time? They [teachers] were really good at stepping me through that process.”

Seb

Completed Open Foundation and now studying a Bachelor of Medical Science / Doctor of Medicine (JMP)

Yapug

If you're an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and aged 17+ years, Yapug is your key to university. Yapug is designed to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gain skills for entry into undergraduate degrees at the University of Newcastle.

newcastle.edu.au/yapug

Yapug will help you develop the academic skills and self-discipline required for success in undergraduate study. This specialty pathway program is specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders wanting to:

- Gain admission to an undergraduate degree at the University of Newcastle;
- Develop the academic skills necessary to succeed at university level;
- Become familiar with the University of Newcastle and its environment; and
- Develop different learning methods and skills, including problem-based learning, whilst enjoying a supportive learning environment (culturally, personally and academically).

Yapug offers flexible study options. You can choose to study:

- Full-time over one year (two semesters)
- Part-time over two years (three or four semesters)

Entry requirements



an Australian citizen or permanent resident currently living in Australia

17+

or older when you commence study



Establish Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status

What you will study

There are core Aboriginal studies courses to support your cultural education, plus a range of courses to prepare you for the degree you want to study.

To successfully complete Yapug, you're required to complete 80 units of courses.

Cost

FREE! There are no tuition fees associated with Yapug. However, there are some basic costs associated with studying at university such as textbooks and parking.

How to apply

Apply for free directly on our Yapug webpage.

Have further questions?

Check out our Yapug webpage for more information, email wollotuka@newcastle.edu.au or call our friendly team on **1800 353 775**.

“Doing Yapug was the best decision I ever made, I ended up figuring out exactly what I wanted to do and finding my calling.”

Millie

Completed the Yapug pathway program and now studying a Bachelor of Education (Primary)



When you embark on the Yapug pathway program at the University of Newcastle you will benefit from a range of support services offered by the Wollotuka Institute. Some of the key services offered by the Wollotuka Institute include counselling, tutorial assistance, a well-equipped resource centre, audio and visual materials on Indigenous topics and issues, health support and cultural programs.

NUPrep

Our FREE short courses have been designed to help you prepare for university or provide you a taste of university-style study.

newcastle.edu.au/nuprep

Whether you are looking to brush up on your academic skills, hoping to get a head start in your university studies or just looking to learn something new, there is a short course for you. Our courses can introduce you to learning and assessment styles you will encounter in our undergraduate and pathway programs.

Courses are delivered flexibly at different points throughout the year, to provide support and access to university experts both before and during your study.

Our courses also cover a range of subject areas, from university specific discipline preparation to enhancing academic survival skills.

We recommend you take between 1 and 3 courses in a NUPrep term, that align to your current or future studies.

“I saw NUPrep being advertised as a free head start to prepare for my studies. At the start of the year, I was unsure about how well I would handle the step up into university, by the end of the year, I ended up achieving a High Distinction in 7 of the 8 courses I took. It was certainly a confidence booster and NUPrep was great to prepare me.”

Noah

Undertook NUPrep courses and is now studying a Bachelor of Mathematics



TAUGHT BY EXPERTS

Courses taught by discipline experts



PROVEN RESULTS*

NUPrep students achieve a higher success rate



AWARD ON TRANSCRIPT

Courses shown on academic transcript

*On average, students who completed NUPrep passed 90.6% of their courses in the first year of their bachelor degree. Source: University of Newcastle NUSar data 2024.

Diplomas

Our diplomas prepare you with the introductory skills required to go onto further study or into the workforce. Diplomas offer guaranteed entry into over 70 degrees and you can gain credit with entry into a second year of a related degree.

newcastle.edu.au/diplomas

Our diplomas are designed to provide you with a supported study experience and a qualification upon completion. These credit-based pathways combine first year degree courses with free selected supported pathway courses to help you build essential skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and innovation.

Taken over one year full-time or up to four years part-time, a diploma will allow you to upskill while you work. You will also gain up to 80 units of credit and receive guaranteed entry into over 70 degrees, if further study is your goal.

While there are entry requirements for these diplomas, if you don't have an ATAR you could still gain entry based on other criteria like past study, work or vocational experience. You'll be supported through your study by the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre including access to academic learning support, counselling and peer support.

What you will study

Our diplomas cover key study areas. You'll study a combination of first-year degree courses alongside free supported pathways courses that help with the transition to university studies. These courses will teach you vital skills that set you up for success and prepare you for studying at university.

By studying a diploma, you can gain up to 80 units of credit and receive guaranteed entry into over 70 degree programs.

Cost

There are program and course fees associated with studying a diploma. To learn more about fees, visit the fees and scholarships page on our webpage.

How to apply

Apply for free through our Early Entry Program or apply via UAC for a fee. Visit our Diplomas webpage to learn more.

Have further questions?

Check out our Diplomas webpages for more information, email enabling@newcastle.edu.au or call our friendly team on **1800 353 775**.

Diplomas				
Program name	2025 SR	Intake	Location	Duration
Diploma in Arts and Social Science	50.00	S1, S2	N, CC	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Built Environment	50.00	S1, S2	N, O	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Business	50.00	S1, S2	NC, CC	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Data Analytics	50.00	S1, S2	N	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Education Studies	50.00	S1, S2	N, CC	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Engineering	50.00	S1	N	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Environmental Science	50.00	S1	N, CC	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Exercise and Sport Science	50.00	S1	N	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Information Technology	50.00	S1, S2	N	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Media and Visual Communication	50.00	S1, S2	NC	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT
Diploma in Science	50.00	S1	N, CC	1 yr FT / 4 yrs PT



GUARANTEED ENTRY

into over 70 degrees



CREDIT

toward an undergraduate degree



QUALIFIED

You will receive a level 5
diploma qualification

“The course outline really drew me in, I knew sociology, how communities work, understanding injustices and colonisation would be instrumental to my career path. Social Science has the promise of evoking real change, and that really appealed to me. I also was enticed by the flexibility, of gaining a qualification at the end of the year of study.”

Gabi

Completed a Diploma in Arts and Social Science
and now studying a Bachelor of Social Science

Support services

We provide lots of support throughout your studies, setting you up for success.

newcastle.edu.au/support

Academic Learning Support

While a rounded education extends beyond the classroom, your studies will play a central role in your time at university and we want to ensure you perform to your potential.

Academic Learning Support is your first stop if you want help with your workload, to dive deeper into the content or think your marks could improve. Our Student Progress Advisors are experts in connecting you to support services, including 24/7 support via Studiosity and our dedicated Learning Advisors.

newcastle.edu.au/als

AccessAbility

We're committed to providing an equitable learning environment for all future and current students – including those with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect their participation, engagement or learning opportunities. Our AccessAbility service aims to support students to reach their full academic potential and create an environment that promotes independence and success.

newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support/personal/accessability

Careers Support

Our Career Advisers will help prepare you for success after uni. From gaining part time work while you study, clarifying your longer-term goals, or connecting with industry, we have a service or resource to fit your current needs and help you achieve your career goals.

newcastle.edu.au/careers

Counselling

We provide a range of free services, including consultations with a Wellbeing Advisor within a day or two, face-to-face and online counselling appointments, after-hours phone support, and a range of resources to help students to improve their wellbeing and reach their academic potential.

newcastle.edu.au/counselling

Financial assistance

Whatever your background and financial status, we have support systems available to help with the costs involved in studying, including scholarships and emergency loans. You also might be eligible for Australian Government assistance with HECS-HELP loans and income support depending on your pathway program.

newcastle.edu.au/financial-assistance

Peer Mentors

Our Peer Mentors will help keep you motivated and guide you through your university experience. Starting university is an exciting and new time. It can be great as a new student to have someone show you the ropes and give a student perspective to ease the transition into study. Whether you need assistance with your course, are having trouble finding your feet on campus, or just feel as though a helping hand and a friendly face would make your life a little easier, a mentor is a great way to ease into your time at the University.

newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support/peer-mentoring

Student Liaison Officers

If you are studying Open Foundation, Yapug or a Diploma you have the support of a dedicated Student Liaison Officer.

Your Student Liaison Officer at the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre is here to help you make the most of your experience in your pathways program and can guide you through all aspects of your studies. From enrolment and course selection to exams, they'll be able to provide personalised advice and connect you with support services, should you need them. Towards the end of your time in the program, they'll be on hand to assist you with your application for your undergraduate degree.

Student life

While your education should be the primary focus during your time at the University of Newcastle, finding the right study/life balance is also important.

newcastle.edu.au/uni-life

Activities and events

No matter which campus you study at, there's plenty of ways to get involved in uni life. Take part in study workshops, get involved in health and fitness programs, attend presentations from international scholars, or simply kick back and enjoy watching a movie by moonlight. Our campuses are buzzing with social events throughout the year. Enjoy Welcome Week, Autonomy Day, band competitions, live music, 'stress less' activities, or snag yourself a sausage at free weekly lunches.

Clubs and societies

University of Newcastle Students' Association (UNSA) is home to more than 100 clubs, societies and social groups. From cheerleading to arm wrestling, chess, sporting clubs and plenty more – there's something for everyone.

Cafes and live music

Whether you're looking for a good coffee to kick-start your day, a bite to eat at lunch or a place to relax in between classes, we've got you covered with a wide range of cafés, food outlets and bars across our campuses. Plus, you don't have to venture too far to catch some of the world's biggest musicians and bands. Chances are you'll find a gig at Callaghan's Bar on the Hill, one of the many venues close to the Newcastle City campus or further down the coast at The Beery in Terrigal.

Staying active

NUSport, University (Callaghan), and Harbourside (Newcastle City) offer state-of-the-art health and fitness facilities. You'll find the Hunter Region's premier 50m indoor heated swimming pool, extensive group fitness options and a range of strength and cardio equipment. Indoor courts cater for casual hoops and structured social sport competitions all year. Join one of many sporting clubs or compete in the representative inter-university competition or UniSport Nationals. Also located at NUSport, University (Callaghan) is a café and physiotherapy clinic. NUSport At The Forum (Ourimbah) Pop Up Gym offers fitness equipment and small group fitness programs.

nusport.org.au

Getting around



Access via train is available for both Callaghan (Warabrook station) and Central Coast (Ourimbah or Gosford station) campuses and if you're studying at our Newcastle City campus, the Newcastle Light Rail's Civic stop is right at our doorstep.



Beautiful bike paths make riding around campus fun, and our bike hubs at Callaghan and Newcastle City campuses offer showers and secure storage.



A free shuttle bus loops around Callaghan campus to get you to and from class and runs between our Callaghan and Newcastle City campuses every 30 minutes during semester. A shuttle bus runs in the morning and afternoon between Ourimbah and Gosford campus.



An after hours, on-call security shuttle is also available at Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses. The shuttle can take you back to your car, to Warabrook or Ourimbah train stations and surrounding suburbs near Callaghan.





newcastle.edu.au/signup



1800 353 775



Q University of Newcastle



Newcastle Campus

Callaghan

University Drive,
Callaghan NSW 2308

Newcastle City Campuses

NUspace

Corner Hunter and Auckland Streets,
Newcastle NSW 2300

Q Building

Corner of Honeysuckle Drive
and Worth Place,
Newcastle NSW 2300

Conservatorium of Music

Corner of Auckland and Laman Streets,
Newcastle NSW 2300

Central Coast Campuses

Ourimbah

Chittaway Road,
Ourimbah NSW 2258

Central Coast Clinical School

Holden Street,
Gosford NSW 2250

Gosford

305 Mann Street,
Gosford NSW 2250

Open Days

Each year we invite you to spend the day with us at our annual Open Days. These events give you the chance to explore our campuses and experience a taste of life at university. You can chat to current students and staff about student support services as well as pathways, degree and study options.

Newcastle – 16 August 2025

Central Coast – 30 August 2025



DISCOVER
OPEN DAYS



Ask a Student

Curious about life on campus? You can 'Ask a Student' to get firsthand insights into student life, study options and more.



Key dates

Keep up to date on important key dates throughout the year

