

PARENT INFORMATION

INFORMATION FOR YOUR
CHILD'S SUCCESSFUL
TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY





Starting university is an exciting time for students and their families. It's a time to be proud of everything your child has achieved so far, as you look forward to watching them flourish further and become independent young adults.

At Charles Sturt University (CSU), we understand navigating the higher education system can be a complicated experience for parents and students alike.

This guide gives you the information you need to help your child understand the process of starting university – from choosing a degree and gaining admission, to finding the right place to live. If there's anything else you'd like to know, you can find more detail on our Future Students website, call our friendly advisers for a chat on 1800 334 733 or visit:

**[futurestudents.csu.edu.au/
school-leaver/preparing/parents](https://futurestudents.csu.edu.au/school-leaver/preparing/parents)**

WELCOME




**HIGHEST
GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT RATE
IN THE COUNTRY.**



WHY CSU?

Choosing a university is an important decision. You need to be confident that your child has chosen somewhere that's a good fit personally, and that offers a course that will help them achieve their goals, along with any support they may need along the way. At CSU, we offer all that and more.

- 1. Our graduates get jobs** – CSU graduates have a great reputation in a range of fields for having the knowledge and skills that make them job-ready. In fact, CSU has the highest graduate employment rate in the country!
- 2. Hands-on learning** – Our students gain experience working in laboratories, clinics and studios while they study, often from the very start of their degree, then apply that during workplace learning experiences in industry. They graduate with plenty of practical experience, not just the theory.
- 3. Student support** – It's reassuring to know there's support close by if your child needs it. At CSU we offer alternative pathways and help getting into university, academic support, financial assistance and scholarships, and people to talk to if personal difficulties arise. There's always a friendly face ready to offer some help.
- 4. Social life** – A big part of the university experience is making new friends and meeting people from all walks of life. CSU's social calendar includes events like live bands, themed parties, sporting activities and cultural days. There's a wide range of clubs and societies on offer to cater to lots of hobbies and interests too, helping your child make the most of their university experience.
- 5. Sense of community** – CSU's main campuses are in some of the fastest-growing regional centres in Australia, with great restaurants, shops, sporting competitions and entertainment. But they're still small enough to have that famous country sense of community. They're also more affordable places to live and study than capital cities. It doesn't take long for new students to feel at home.



CSU offers
on campus courses in
Albury-Wodonga,
Bathurst, Canberra,
Dubbo, Goulburn, Orange,
Parramatta,
Port Macquarie and
Wagga Wagga.



Our study locations are great places to live with friendly, welcoming communities, plenty of opportunities for sporting or cultural pursuits, and a lower cost of living than metropolitan areas.

Each campus offers different courses, so the course your child would like to study will be a big factor in which campus they should attend. Our campus cities are connected to metropolitan centres via planes, trains, buses and major highways.

Students can also enrol in CSU degrees through TAFE partners across Australia, study at a CSU Study Centre in Sydney or Melbourne, or access facilities at Regional University Study Centres in Griffith, Parkes and Wangaratta.

To find out more about each study location, visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/campuses

WHERE ARE WE?



OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



CSUGLOBAL

CSU Global offers opportunities to complete short-term programs or longer exchanges that can count towards CSU degrees.

These international opportunities give students something unique to add to their CV, and could include volunteering with health services, visiting local schools, learning more about international business or spending one or two sessions on exchange at one of CSU's partner universities. There are also travel grants available to help with costs. Explore the opportunities at:

www.csu.edu.au/csuglobal





Facilities

At CSU students learn using facilities on campus that replicate settings and equipment found in industry. Our campuses have the space for a wide range of laboratories, clinics and open areas, so depending on their course, students could have access to:

- an advertising agency
- campus farm
- allied health, dental and oral health clinics open to the public
- computer laboratories with professional standard software
- drama and television studios and gallery spaces
- exercise testing and biomechanics facilities
- simulated nursing facilities
- equine centre, veterinary clinical centre, teaching hospital and diagnostic laboratory
- wetlands

Our campuses also provide tennis courts and playing fields, religious facilities, and bike and walking tracks. The Learning Commons provides secure swipe card access to computer, printing and group learning spaces, in some cases 24 hours a day.

To see more of what's available on each campus, visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/campuses

Clubs and sport

CSU offers a great range of clubs and sporting opportunities for students. Clubs are open to students studying on campus or online, and can be course-related or based on social activities, hobbies or religious and cultural groups. There are also sporting clubs that play socially, or as part of competitions in the local communities – as well as providing opportunities to compete at the Uni Games! A Club Day at the start of Session 1 will showcase the clubs on offer at your child's campus so they can sign up. Find out more at: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/social



When it comes to applying for university, there's a lot of focus on getting a particular ATAR. At CSU, we recognise our students come from all kinds of backgrounds, have a variety of life experiences, and there's more to them than a final number at the end of Year 12. We have a range of pathways to help students get into their chosen degree.

ATAR

The ATAR is one way students can get into their chosen course. Many courses have an ATAR cut-off, and admission is based on student results in Year 12. Indicative ATARs published for each course provide an idea of the marks needed, based on the cut-off for this year's admissions, but these can change each year.

Additional selection criteria

Some courses at CSU have extra selection criteria in addition to the ATAR. Applicants can showcase their passion for a particular career path or industry by attending an interview, performing at an audition or telling us more about themselves. Your child could be offered entry based on their talent and enthusiasm, not just their marks.

Prerequisites and assumed knowledge

Some universities have prerequisites for particular courses, which are subjects students must complete at school to be eligible to apply. No CSU courses have prerequisites, but some do have assumed knowledge. Check the course information for recommended studies or assumed knowledge, but remember students can still apply for courses if they haven't studied those subjects.

Regional Bonus Points

Students who attended school in a regional or remote area will receive five bonus points to boost their ATAR. Check online to see if your child is eligible.

TAFE

Many students come to CSU after completing some study at TAFE. We offer credit packages to students who have already studied at TAFE, and have partnerships with institutes across Australia to offer programs that combine TAFE and CSU study. This can provide a great head-start for students who aren't ready for university straight away, or people looking to gain formal qualifications or change careers.

Early entry

CSU participates in UAC's Schools Recommendation Schemes (SRS). Students can apply for SRS online with their UAC application, and could be made an offer based on a recommendation from their school principal or careers adviser. Offers through SRS can be made before Year 12 results have been released!

Access schemes

If things don't go to plan while your child is preparing for university, they could be eligible to apply for special consideration. This takes their circumstances into account.

Diploma of General Studies

If your child doesn't receive high enough marks for entry to a Bachelor degree at CSU, the Diploma of General Studies can provide an alternative pathway. This one-year course at selected TAFEs combines four CSU subjects with the TAFE Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation, and provides guaranteed entry to a range of CSU Bachelor degrees.

Visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/study-options/pathways



HOW TO APPLY

UAC: Applications to study undergraduate degrees on campus are usually made through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC). Applicants can list up to nine courses in order of preference. When Year 12 results are released, students can reorder their preferences or add new courses. Offers are also issued through UAC. Visit: www.uac.edu.au

VTAC: Students who are completing Year 12 in Victoria can apply for courses at CSU's Albury-Wodonga Campus, or the Bachelor of Oral Health (Therapy and Hygiene) at Holmesglen through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC), following a similar process to UAC applications. Visit: www.vtac.edu.au

Direct applications: In some cases, students can apply direct to CSU. Usually TAFE articulated programs, where students have already studied at TAFE, or integrated programs, where students need to enrol at TAFE and CSU at the same time, will accept direct applications.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for first-year students is guaranteed at CSU, and we have more than 3,000 rooms across our campuses at Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange and Wagga Wagga. CSU's safe and supportive environment means the choice is easy when your child is finding somewhere to live when they move away to university.

On campus accommodation includes a single bedroom, shared lounge and kitchen areas, and shared bathroom facilities, although some newer accommodation also offers ensuite rooms. Bedrooms are furnished with a bed, desk, lamp, cupboards and shelving, and shared kitchens have a lockable cupboard for each student.

Types of accommodation

Each campus has slightly different styles of accommodation, so there is something to suit almost everyone. Accommodation buildings are mixed gender, but each student will have their own private bedroom, including cupboards and study space.

Accommodation on campus could include:

New residences: new residences at Orange and Wagga Wagga campuses were completed in 2014, and provide a modern environment for living and learning. Bedrooms have ensembles, and there are shared kitchen, living and laundry facilities. Some rooms are similar to studio apartments, but generally new students are encouraged to use shared facilities to get to know other students. New residences include rooms designed for students with disabilities.

Villages: village accommodation provides one or two-storey buildings with shared kitchen, lounge, dining and bathroom spaces in a contemporary and comfortable setting. Some campuses offer ensuite rooms or rooms for students with disabilities.

Traditional residences: Bathurst, Orange and Wagga Wagga campuses provide accommodation that offers the traditional dorm experience. Kitchen facilities are limited, but all students have a fully catered meal package so they can gather to share meals in central dining halls.

Cottages: more like a share house, CSU's cottage accommodation has a sense of homeliness with six to eight bedrooms, and shared kitchen, lounge, dining and bathroom facilities. Students are encouraged to mingle with housemates and build new friendships.

Visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/accommodation



Meals

When it comes to mealtime, there is plenty of flexibility for students living on campus. Many accommodation types have shared kitchen facilities where students can prepare their own meals, and cook their favourite foods on their schedule.

Other residences have only basic kitchenette facilities, and students will have their meals provided in a central dining area.

All students can choose to purchase some meals, using Meal Credits or Flexi Points:

- **Meal Credits** can be purchased to access combo meals from outlets on campus, providing food and a drink at set meal times.
- **Flexi Points** can be loaded onto students' CSU Cards. One point is the equivalent of one dollar, and they can be redeemed on campus for anything from a coffee or snack to a full meal.

“

The best thing about University is living on campus! Because I lived on campus, I made friends with people in different courses and had the opportunity to boost my confidence and independence.

Freya Morton

”

Affordability

Accommodation prices at CSU are competitive and can be paid upfront, or spread out and direct debited across 36 weeks.

Two accommodation packages are available:

- **Package One** provides accommodation from the first week of Session 1 through to the final exam period at the end of Session 2
- **Package Two** provides accommodation during academic sessions only. Students move out during holidays and session breaks, which saves paying for accommodation while they are travelling or returning home for the holidays.

A big advantage of living on campus is avoiding all the set-up costs of a private rental. There's no need to pay a bond, buy furniture or appliances, or arrange for utilities to be connected. The accommodation fee includes utility costs and residences are connected to the CSU computer network.

Visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/accommodation

Living off campus

CSU has an off campus housing register to help students find a private rental or a room in a share house in town.






Visit: csu.studystays.com



RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT

Our residential support services ensure new students make a comfortable transition to living away from home. The Residence Life team can help students successfully balance study and social activities, and provide opportunities to build independence and leadership skills. Residential Advisers are senior students and a great first point of contact for any questions about life on campus. Our Residential Advisers are supported by CSU staff to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Rooms available on each campus

| | | |
|---|-------|----------------|
|  | 246 | ALBURY-WODONGA |
|  | 1,141 | BATHURST |
|  | 62 | DUBBO |
|  | 355 | ORANGE |
|  | 1,179 | WAGGA WAGGA |

SUPPORT



What I love most about CSU is the amount of support and resources available to enrich students' learning. Everything about CSU so far has been amazing!

Stephanie Bussey



CSU OUTREACH
CALLED MORE THAN
7,000 STUDENTS
TO WELCOME THEM TO
CSU IN 2015

Starting at university can provide the best of both worlds – students develop independence and enjoy new experiences, but you can rest assured they've also got the safety net of excellent support if they need it at CSU.

Many support services are available face-to-face, but there are online and phone options too, and our Outreach Team travel to connect with online students.

There are many different types of support available for CSU students. Services include:

- study skills and academic support
- equity support
- disability support
- religious support
- careers services
- personal support, including health and counselling.

Cost of study


Australian students and some New Zealand students completing undergraduate degrees at CSU have Commonwealth supported places. These are subsidised by the government, and students will pay a student contribution towards each subject. Commonwealth supported students can defer their tuition through a scheme called HECS-HELP, where a debt is recorded against their tax file number. Once students are working and their income reaches a set threshold (\$54,126 in the 2015-16 income year), they will start repaying the debt through the taxation system. Tuition fees vary depending on the discipline your child is studying.

Scholarships

Scholarships can provide financial assistance to help students focus on getting their degree. We offer scholarships based on criteria such as academic performance, financial need, particular course or campus, if you are a TAFE student and more. There are some scholarships and grants for specific purposes, like accommodation, textbooks or professional placements, and others that provide a lump sum payment that can be used any way that helps students best.

Visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/help-with-costs/scholarships

THERE IS MORE THAN
\$4 MILLION 
IN **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**
AVAILABLE TO CSU STUDENTS



**Don't think you
can fit study
into your life?**

Think *again*

CSUOnline

Moving away from home isn't always possible – or perhaps all this talk of studying is inspiring you to think about getting a degree too!

Studying online with CSU can be a great option. CSU is Australia's most experienced provider of distance and online university education, and CSU offers the flexibility to study anywhere, anytime.

More than 300 undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees are available online through CSU, providing a huge range of options to study without being locked into a class schedule. Normally online students study part-time, completing one or two subjects each session, but it may also be possible to study full-time.

Part-time study offers the flexibility to keep working or balance family commitments and lifestyle while getting a degree.

As a CSU online student, study materials are provided through our online learning management system, assignments can be submitted electronically, and exams can be completed at an examination centre closest to you.

Our online students are also welcome to use facilities on campus, like the CSU Library or sporting facilities, and stay connected through our online communication tools.

Find out more at: csuonline.edu.au

There are plenty of ways you can stay up-to-date with the latest CSU news:

Little Bird: stay in the know by registering for our 'Little Bird' newsletter for parents. You'll be kept up to speed with important news and key dates throughout the year.

Parent evenings: join us for one of our parent information evenings. These events cover a range of topics, including preparing for university and what to expect. You can have all your questions answered in a relaxed atmosphere.

Parent MyDay events: MyDay events are held throughout the year for various courses and career areas to give students insights into what it's like to study at CSU.

Some of these events include special Parent MyDay sessions where you can find out for yourself what your child can expect at CSU, and see some of our facilities while you're on campus.

Campus tours: bring the family and come on campus for a personalised tour with a current CSU student. You can book a tour any working day of the year by phoning 1800 334 733 or visit: futurestudents.csu.edu.au/unilife/campuses

Any questions? Get in touch today by phoning 1800 334 733 or make an online enquiry at: www.csu.edu.au/contacts/enquiry

FIND OUT MORE





Register for Little Bird at:

[futurestudents.csu.edu.au/
school-leaver/preparing/parents](http://futurestudents.csu.edu.au/school-leaver/preparing/parents)



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(free call within Australia)
+61 2 6338 6077 (callers
outside Australia)



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