A13.0 Admission to Coursework Programs Policy

Policy Category
Academic

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Related Documents
Credit Transfer Policy
English Language Proficiency Requirements
Entry Requirements for Admission
Program Requirements
Student Grievance Management Policy

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1. Context

Torrens University Australia aims to distinguish itself as a global university in its course offerings, its staffing and its student diversity. The University has a commitment to excellence in academic standards as well as equity objectives for a diverse and representative student population. Core to the University’s philosophy is that all students with the capacity to succeed in university study should have the opportunity to do so, regardless of social or educational disadvantage. Torrens University Australia’s Admission to Coursework Programs Policy reflects these aims. Student selection is competitive and based on the principles of academic merit and access and equity. Selection processes are applied fairly and openly, and recognise that formal qualifications are not the only measure of the capacity to succeed.

2. Definitions

Domestic applicant: a prospective student who is an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, or a holder of an Australian permanent visa.

Formal learning: is the learning that takes place through a structured program of learning that leads to the full or partial achievement of an officially accredited qualification.

Informal learning: is learning gained through work, social, family, hobby and leisure activities and experiences. Unlike formal and informal learning, it is not organised or externally structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support.

International applicant: a prospective full-fee paying student applying to study in Australia on a student visa as defined by the ESOS Regulations 2001.

Non-formal learning: refers to learning that takes place through a structured program of learning but does not lead to an officially accredited qualification.
3. Scope

This policy applies to all domestic and international applicants for admission to the University’s undergraduate and postgraduate coursework programs.

4. Principles

Selection and admission to coursework programs at Torrens University Australia are based on processes that:

- are fair, equitable and transparent;
- are merit based;
- identify students with capacity to succeed in tertiary study;
- encourage diverse and representative access to the University’s programs and take into account possible educational or social disadvantage, and
- recognise formal, non-formal and informal prior learning.

5. Entry requirements for undergraduate programs

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the minimum Entry Requirements for Admission to Torrens University Australia and any Program Requirements or prerequisites. Entry requirements are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they remain consistent with the mission and objectives of the University.

Entry requirements for undergraduate programs may include, but are not limited to:

- formal academic qualifications at the secondary, vocational education and training, or tertiary levels;
- aptitude or specific knowledge tests, interviews, portfolios, work experience, referees reports, informal and non-formal learning, or a combination of these; or
- the satisfaction of criteria for Special Entry Schemes offered by the University. Special entry schemes are designed to broaden access to the University, address perceived disadvantage or encourage studies in particular disciplines.

5.1 Quotas

Quotas may apply to some programs. The number of places available in a particular program will be determined by University, legislative and government requirements. The University may also set subquotas for different eligibility categories.

Where demand exceeds the number of available places, applicants who meet minimum entry requirements will be ranked on merit and offered a place in order of rank. Ranking may occur in sub-quotas as well as quotas.

5.2 Equivalence

The University undertakes to assess all applicants through processes that are fair and equitable. It is entirely at the discretion of the University, however, to make judgements
about equivalence of qualifications and other eligibility criteria for the purposes of ranking applicants.

6. **Entry requirements for postgraduate coursework programs**

Entry to a postgraduate coursework degree program is based on a demonstrated capacity to undertake postgraduate studies in the proposed field. Entry requirements are program specific and may include formal qualifications at the AQF 7 or above, a combination of formal qualifications and relevant professional experience, or extensive high-level relevant professional experience.

All applications for postgraduate coursework programs are assessed on an individual basis.

7. **English language proficiency**

Entry to all programs at the University assumes proficiency in English. International applicants and domestic applicants who have not studied at the secondary level in English must demonstrate that they meet the University’s minimum level of [English Language Proficiency Requirements](#).

8. **Application process**

To facilitate assessment of their application, prospective students must follow the University’s ‘how to apply’ instructions and timelines which can be found on the University’s website.

9. **Appeals**

Applicants can appeal a decision not to admit them to the University or to their preferred program by following the [Academic Grievance Procedures](#) of the University’s [Student Grievance Management Policy](#).

10. **References**

Higher Education Support Act 2003, 19-35

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