

ADMISSIONS POLICY

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| Approving Authority | Academic Board |
| Purpose | This policy sets out the basis for making direct offers of admission for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Ozford Institute of Higher Education. |
| Responsible Officer | Academic Dean |
| Next Scheduled | February 2025 |
| Document Location | http://www.ozford.edu.au/higher-education/policies-and-procedures/ Credit Transfer and Articulation Policy Credit Transfer and Articulation Procedure Refund Policy Refund Procedure Transfer between Registered Providers Policy Transfer between Registered Providers Procedure Younger Student Policy Younger Student Procedure Admissions Procedure |

1. PRINCIPLES

The Ozford Institute of Higher Education (henceforth “the Institute”) Admissions Policy and Procedure ensure the Institute has open, fair and transparent policies and procedures for making decisions about the admission and selection of students. The Institute admits students from a wide range of backgrounds, from Australia and overseas, who meet the entry requirements included in this policy.

The Institute is committed to having a robust application assessment process with appropriate admissions criteria.

The Institute will admit students who have been assessed as having a high probability of successfully completing the course for which they have applied. Admissions assessments are made following the standards and requirements set by the Academic Board (AB). Assessments are also consistent with the standards in the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act), the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021*.

The Institute welcomes applications for admission from prospective students of all backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and is dedicated to providing equal educational opportunities to all students regardless of race, disability, gender or socio-economic or educational disadvantage. A range of student and transition support services are available at the Institute to assist all students to strive for educational and personal success.

All admissions decisions are made based on merit, taking into account the personal circumstances, academic history and language and vocational skills of the applicant, in accordance with the admissions criteria approved by the AB and contained in this policy.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to applications for admission to all undergraduate and postgraduate courses offered by the Institute and applies to all staff involved in making admission decisions.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Responsibility for admissions

The responsibility for admissions decisions ultimately rests with the AB. The AB has delegated this responsibility to the Academic Dean, who fulfils this responsibility with the assistance of other senior officers, including the Heads of Department and/or the Head of Student Services and Administration (HOSSA).

3.2 International students and domestic students

Domestic students are those students, or applicants to become students, who are Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents who have the right to study in Australia without the requirement to hold a student visa. Asylum seekers on Bridging Visa A or E, a Temporary Protection Visa or a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa may have the right to study in Australia as domestic students.

International students are those students, or applicants to become students, who have been issued with a valid and current student visa for the purposes of studying in Australia.

4. POLICY

All admissions decisions are made based on merit, taking into account the personal circumstances, academic history and language and vocational skills of the applicant, following the admissions criteria approved by the AB and contained in this policy.

Entry requirements

Domestic students

4.1 A domestic applicant must meet the academic requirements for admission to an undergraduate course in the following ways:

- i. satisfactory completion of a current or previously approved Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Higher School Certificate (HSE) or equivalent
 - OR
 - ii. satisfactory completion of the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma), including English
 - OR
 - iii. satisfactory completion of an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard to an approved Australian Year 12 qualification, including English
 - OR
 - iv. satisfactory completion of one year of an AQF- accredited award at the level of Certificate IV or above
 - OR
 - v. satisfactory completion of one year of study at Level 7 of the AQF or equivalent at an Australian or overseas higher education provider. This includes applicants who have completed or partially completed a degree or Higher Education Diploma (HE Diploma)
 - OR
 - vi. mature age entry for applicants over the age of twenty-one who can demonstrate a capacity for successful study at the undergraduate level through work and life experience as assessed by the Academic Dean
- AND
- fulfil all course-specific entry requirements approved by the Academic Board and published at the Institute's website.

4.2 A domestic applicant must meet the academic requirements for admission to a Graduate Certificate course in the following ways:

- i. completion of an Australian Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- OR
- ii. a minimum of three years equivalent full-time relevant managerial or professional experience
- OR
- iii. a minimum of five years equivalent full-time relevant work experience
- AND
- fulfil all course-specific entry requirements approved by the Academic Board and published at the Institute's website.

4.3 A domestic applicant must meet the academic requirements for admission to a Graduate Diploma or a Master course in the following ways:

- i. completion of an Australian Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- OR
- ii. completion of an Australian Graduate Diploma or equivalent
- OR
- iii. completion of an Australian Graduate Certificate or equivalent
- AND
- fulfil all course-specific entry requirements approved by the Academic Board and published at the Institute's website.

International Students

4.4 An international applicant must meet the academic requirements for admission to an undergraduate course in the following ways:

- i. satisfactory completion of a current or previously approved VCE, HSC or equivalent
- OR
- ii. satisfactory completion of the IB Diploma, including English
- OR
- iii. satisfactory completion of an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard to an approved Australian Year 12 qualification
- OR
- iv. satisfactory completion of one year of an AQF-accredited award at the level of Certificate IV or above
- OR
- v. satisfactory completion of one year of study at Level 7 of the AQF or equivalent at an Australian or overseas higher education provider. This includes applicants who have completed or partially completed a degree or HE Diploma
- AND
- demonstrate that the applicant meets the minimum level of English language proficiency.

4.5 An international applicant must meet the academic requirements for admission to a Graduate Certificate course in the following ways:

- i. completion of an Australian Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- OR
- ii. a minimum of three years equivalent full-time relevant managerial or professional experience
- OR
- iii. a minimum of five years equivalent full-time relevant work experience
- AND
- fulfil all course-specific entry requirements approved by the Academic Board and published at the Institute's website
- AND
- demonstrate that the applicant meets the minimum level of English language proficiency.

4.6 An international applicant must meet the academic requirements for admission to a Graduate Diploma or a Master course in the following ways:

- i. completion of an Australian Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- OR
- ii. completion of an Australian Graduate Diploma or equivalent
- OR
- iii. completion of an Australian Graduate Certificate or equivalent
- AND
- fulfil all course-specific entry requirements approved by the Academic Board and published at the Institute's website
- AND
- demonstrate that the applicant meets the minimum level of English language proficiency.

4.7 International applicants for an undergraduate course are required to provide evidence of sufficient English language skill to enable them to successfully complete the course unless the applicant can demonstrate:

- i. The applicant has the equivalent of an Australian Year 12 or AQF Level 5 qualification or higher that was studied in Australia in English within the past two years
- OR
- ii. The applicant has completed secondary education or higher in English.

4.8 To demonstrate that they have met the English language requirements for admission to an undergraduate course, the applicant must show evidence of:

- i. an International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) score of 5.5 with no band less than 5.0 or equivalent from an approved English language test provider to enter a HE Diploma
- OR
- ii. an IELTS score of 6.0 with no band less than 5.5 or equivalent from an approved English language test provider to enter a Bachelor degree

OR

- iii. an Australian Certificate IV English as an Additional Language (EAL) qualification or another Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)- listed English language qualification studied in Australia with outcomes equivalent to IELTS 5.5 or above to enter a HE Diploma or 6.0 or above to enter a Bachelor degree

OR

- iv. evidence of successful completion of the 10-week English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at Ozford English Language Centre or other English language centres endorsed by the National English Language Teaching Accreditation Scheme (NEAS) quality assurance, which will meet the IELTS equivalent of 6.0 for direct articulation into the HE Diploma or Bachelor degree.

4.9 International applicants for a postgraduate course are required to provide evidence of sufficient English language skill to enable them to successfully complete the course unless the applicant can demonstrate:

- i. The applicant has completed an AQF Level 7 (or higher) qualification that was studied in Australia in English within the past two years.

OR

- ii. The applicant has completed a higher education qualification in English Language awarded by a recognised university in which English is the primary language.

4.10 To demonstrate that they have met the English language requirements for admission to a postgraduate course, the applicant must show evidence of:

- i. an International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) score of 6.0 with no band less than 6.0 or equivalent from an approved English language test provider to enter a Graduate Certificate or a Graduate Diploma

OR

- ii. an IELTS score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 or equivalent from an approved English language test provider to enter a Master degree

OR

- iii. evidence of successful completion of the 10-week English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at Ozford English Language Centre or other English language centres endorsed by the National English Language Teaching Accreditation Scheme (NEAS) quality assurance, which will meet the IELTS equivalent of 6.0 for direct articulation into the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma

OR

- iv. evidence of successful completion of the 20-week English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at Ozford English Language Centre or other English language centres endorsed by the National English Language Teaching Accreditation Scheme (NEAS) quality assurance, which will meet the IELTS equivalent of 6.5 for direct articulation into the Master degree.

- 4.11 If an applicant does not have formal evidence of English proficiency or other vocational or higher education qualifications, but there is reasonable evidence to suggest that the applicant has adequate English, the applicant may be allowed to sit an approved English Competency Test at the discretion of the Academic Dean. Depending on the outcome of this test, the applicant may be enrolled directly into the course or required to undertake a specified period of English language study.
- 4.12 In general, applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age before commencing a course at the Institute. Applicants who are 17 years or above upon commencement may apply directly to the Academic Dean for consideration on a case by case basis and must satisfy younger student welfare arrangement conditions, as described in the Younger Student Policy, before admission can be considered. The parent or guardian of the student under 18 must accept the offer on the student's behalf.
- 4.13 Applicants who are assessed as meeting both the Academic and English Entry Requirements will be eligible to receive a Letter of Offer for the chosen courses.
- 4.14 Offers can be conditional on the applicant providing proof that they have met entry requirements or on other conditions detailed in the offer. Conditional offers might be issued to applicants who have not fully met the entry requirements at the time of application if:
- the applicant is enrolled in a packaged offer including other courses offered by the Institute or other affiliated entities
 - the applicant is enrolled in a packaged offer with any of the Institute's articulation partners
 - the applicant can provide evidence of the outstanding documents to demonstrate eligibility before the course commencement date.
- 4.15 Applicants with conditional offers are required to provide evidence to demonstrate they have met the conditions as stated in the conditional Letter of Offer before the course commencement date for enrolment to proceed.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE

To ensure that the policy is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of the HESF Threshold Standards (2021), the policy will be:

- 5.1 internally endorsed by the Executive Management Team on development or review, before approval by Governing Board (GB), AB or other delegated authority
- 5.2 externally reviewed as part of any independent review of the HESF Threshold Standards (2021) approved by the GB
- 5.3 internally reviewed by the Responsible Officer every three years from the date of approval (if not earlier)
- 5.4 referenced to the applicable HESF threshold standard and other relevant legislation and regulations.

6. FEEDBACK

Feedback and comments on this policy are welcomed by the listed Responsible Officers of the Institute.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This policy was developed with reference to the following institutions' policies:

Central Queensland University, *Admission to CQUniversity Coursework Courses Policy and Procedure*, April 2018

Griffith University, *Undergraduate Programs Admission Policy*, July 2021

8. VERSION CONTROL

| Version | Date Approved | Description | Approved By |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.0 | December 2013 | Initial issue | AB |
| 2.0 | December 2015 | Aligning with new HESF | AB |
| 3.0 | June 2017 | Minor changes due to LTQC recommendation | AB |
| 4.0 | October 2017 | Minor changes due to internal restructuring of positions | AB |
| 5.0 | June 2018 | Developing Policies and Procedures as separate documents as per TEQSA requirement. | AB |
| 6.0 | February 2019 | Incorporating admissions criteria for domestic students. | AB |
| 7.0 | July 2019 | Further amendment for domestic students | AB |
| 8.0 | October 2019 | Internal review | AB |
| 9.0 | November 2020 | Inclusion of assessment requirement and use of conditional offer | AB |
| 10.0 | December 2020 | Change of admission age requirement | AB |
| 11.0 | April 2021 | Internal review for admission of student under 18 | AB |
| 12.0 | November 2021 | Incorporating admission criteria for international students. | AB |
| 13.0 | February 2022 | Updating admission criteria for Graduate Diploma and Master courses. | AB |
| Related legislation/ regulation/ standard | HESF Threshold Standards (2021) 1.1 & 1.2 (Admission) | | |

Note. LTQC = Learning and Teaching Quality Committee; TEQSA = Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency; AB = Academic Board.