

# UNIVERSITY OFFERS 2012

MAIN ROUND > OCTOBER > NOVEMBER > DECEMBER > EARLY JANUARY

## Options open to stay the course

Tertiary applications might seem daunting but there are many paths forward. By **Jen Rosenberg.**

**I**f you can't be a doctor, why not become a pastry chef? These are the choices Henrietta Longmuir is facing when she finds out if she has been accepted into her preferred university course.

Crowded around a computer at choir camp, Longmuir and a group of other former year 12 students were logging in to the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) website last night to find out if they would be offered a place. UAC published its main round of offers at 9 o'clock last night, with news of 58,988 places offered to 84,991 students.

Some universities make offers in January in an early round but the bulk of offers are made in the main round and there are two late rounds for students who are still hopeful of getting into a course but missed the cut yesterday.

Longmuir is confident her ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) will be sufficient to get in to one of the science degrees she has applied for at the University of Sydney and the University of NSW in the hope of then transferring to medicine. "I think my chances are OK, because the cutoff last year was 95 and, with an ATAR of 98, I think I'll be fine," she said.

Entry scores for a bachelor of science have increased this year in line with demand, the dean of

science at the University of NSW, Merlin Crossley, said.

The university has been able to offer more places this year, as previous limits on places have been lifted. The government has removed caps on student numbers in a bid to boost the number of graduates in the 25-34 age bracket to 40 per cent by 2020.

Professor Crossley said the increase in demand was "gratifying because Australia will benefit from having more scientifically trained citizens who will materially improve and enrich the quality of our lives".

"The scope of science is wide so we will see contributions from the provision of clean energy and fresh water to cheaper and more effective therapies for health problems," he said.

Applicants may list up to nine preferences on their UAC forms, and are advised to put the ones with the highest entry score first to avoid disappointment as the offers are made.

Longmuir originally had medicine as her first choice but when she realised her ATAR was not enough she changed her preferences. She strongly considered the pastry chef option but said she knew she would gravitate back to science and realised it would only extend her study.

Catherine Gamble, her friend and classmate from Ravenswood, listed six law degrees at



Know your options ... (from left) Catherine Gamble and Henrietta Longmuir cast a wide net to raise their chances of securing a university place. Photo: Janie Barrett

various universities across the state, hoping her 98.7 would qualify her for one of them.

"I don't think it's enough for Sydney University but I will be able to do another law course," Catherine said. If she misses out, she will choose another course, try to maintain a high academic record and then apply to transfer at the end of the year.

Once students have an offer, they should accept it, a spokeswoman for UAC, Kim Paino, said. Then if they wish to try for a different course, they need to apply again to UAC to change their preferences. Those will be dependent on what vacancies remain in courses not yet filled so the most

'For some people, they've missed out on an offer because they weren't smart with their preferences.' **Kim Paino, Universities Admissions Centre**

popular courses and those with the highest cutoff rate are not likely to remain open. Sometimes able students miss out through lack of planning and understanding the importance of listing preferences with the highest cutoffs at the top and working down.

"For some people, they've missed out on an offer because they weren't smart with their preferences," Paino said.

"For other people, they might have not had a wide enough range in their preference list, so they are bound to miss out on everything."

Paino said many people found the system difficult to navigate but that UAC spent a lot of time with schools and careers counsellors to help students understand how to make their choices. "We're very aware that for many

people the system can be confronting and, in spite of our best efforts, there are going to be some who don't understand ... There are pretty high stakes getting that course list in the order you want."

Ultimately, some will still miss out but they have other options. Open Universities Australia is linked with 20 tertiary institutions offering distance education without the same entry requirements. Applications close in early February.

TAFE offers an increasingly popular pathway to university. Applications for some TAFE courses have already closed so check with individual institutions on the TAFE NSW website.

### A GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY OFFERS

How to find your way around this guide, published by the *Herald* in conjunction with the Universities Admissions Centre:

#### CUT-OFFS

List of courses, indicating the institution and course code, shows the required cut-off for Commonwealth-supported courses. **Page 2**

#### MAIN ROUND OFFERS LIST

The full A-to-Z list of students offered university places. Find your name among more than 56,000 offers at universities in NSW and the ACT. **Starts Page 3**

#### OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OFFERS

These lists contain more than 5000 offers to students who received earlier offers to study at university. **Starts Page 21**

#### EARLY JANUARY OFFERS

Lists more than 4000 offers. **Starts Page 23**

#### KEY DATES

- ▶ UAC late-round applications close midnight, January 25.
- ▶ Results published 9pm, February 1. UAC final-round applications close February 2. Results published 9am, February 8
- ▶ Open Universities Australia applications close February 12
- ▶ TAFE: Check individual institutions

#### KEY WEBSITES

- ▶ [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au)
- ▶ [www.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.tafensw.edu.au)
- ▶ [www.open.edu.au](http://www.open.edu.au)
- ▶ [www.whatdegreewhichuniversity.com](http://www.whatdegreewhichuniversity.com)

#### LATE CANCELLATIONS

- ▶ The following courses have been cancelled: University of Western Sydney 729030 B Education (Primary) AREP mode; 720015 B Natural Science (Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security). Contact relevant institution for further information.

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Courses and Cut-offs for Main round offers - 2012 admissions

Table with columns: Course name, Institution code, Cut-off, Vacancies. Lists various university courses and their respective cut-off marks and available spots.

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\*2012 applications for Medicine are now closed

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