University of Southern Queensland

2027 Head Start Guidelines

unisq.edu.au/headstart

1. Eligibility

Students Attending a State or Non-State Secondary School

Students must supply their most recent graded report card issued by their state regulatory body (e.g., Education Queensland)[1]. The report card must feature a minimum of three (3) senior school subjects and students must have maintained a minimum B average (or 70% or higher).

Please see the Grade Average Calculator to assist in determining a B average. We assess the top five (5) subjects on the report card.

Year 10, Trimester Two applicants are asked to show evidence of their year 10 progress through a Term report and additional letter of support. This may include an overview of your progression in your Year 10 subjects, teacher observations, or anything that demonstrates your readiness and suitability to undertake Head Start as part of your workload in Year 10, and how the school will provide support to you during your Head Start study.

If the school does not issue graded report cards for the Term or Semester, or if they report card is not graded A-E, please include the student's progress in a letter of support.

Students will become ineligible for entry in subsequent study periods where fail grades are received in two (2) Head Start courses.

Home School & ACE Schools

Students who are not able to supply an official report card from the state regulatory body (e.g., Education Queensland) must submit a completed SAT test which is the recommended test for school age students. While not the preferred testing option, results from a completed STAT test may also be considered.

Minimum requirements for entry via SAT or STAT test:

- SAT test: 70th percentile or above
- STAT test: Score of 155 points or more

2. Eligible Trimesters by Year Level

- Year 10: Trimester Two and Three [2]
- Year 11 & 12: Trimester One, Two and Three

3. Additional Application Requirements

Each school must nominate a coordinator for the student/s studying the Head Start program each study period via the Application Approval Form. This must be a staff member at the school for students enrolled at a high school or a parent/guardian if home schooled. **Please use the type format where possible.**

This coordinator will provide care and support for their student/s enrolled in the program and will monitor their progress. The coordinator is the only contact that UniSQ can provide with student information in line with the UniSQ Student Authority to Act Schedule.

If the nominated coordinator needs to change a new approval form will need to be completed by the student and new school coordinator.

4. International Students

International students who are enrolled with an Australian-based school are eligible to apply for the UniSQ Head Start program. International students can complete the online application form and normal entry requirements apply (see guidelines 1 and 2). International students should choose a Permanent Resident/other citizenship selection in the drop-down field and provide a note in the 'free-text' field of the application, indicating their accurate citizenship. They should also provide their current VEVO/Visa and provide both onshore and offshore addresses.

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Grade Average Calculator

Convert the grades from the top five (5) subjects into points. A student has a B grade average if they average at least four (4) points on the below table

Grade	Point equivalence
A	5
B	4
C	3
D	2
E	1

How to use this tool:

Each grade has a corresponding point value. Convert the grades into points (for example: if the subject grades are: A,B,C the points are worked out as follows: 5,4,3 = 12)

To work out the average score, divide the total points by the number of subjects (in the example above: 12/3 = 4)

Bonus Points of 0.25 can be received for each of the following (maximum of 1.0 points)

- A successfully completed Head Start course
- A completed Certificate III or higher
- Students studying one of the following subjects:

  - ✓ A Language other than English
  - ✓ Chemistry

5. Course Limits

Students can only enrol in a maximum of one (1) course per study period.

The maximum number of courses that a student can complete under the Head Start program while at school is seven (7) courses.

For each subsequent Head Start course, a new full application must be completed online by the application closing date for each Trimester. We recommend seeking our advice on suitable subsequent courses.

6. Tuition Fees

Students will be enrolled as 'non-award students' and will not be charged any tuition fees for their first Head Start course. Students will be expected to meet the costs normally incurred with the course, including textbooks, residential school costs, etc.

If students have requested to withdraw from their course in writing before the advertised last day to drop a course without a fee (Census Date), they will be eligible for another free course in a later trimesters. If students did not withdraw prior to census, the below costs will be incurred in following trimesters.

Students undertaking additional Head Start courses in later trimesters will be charged $400[3] per course. In addition, students will be required to pay a Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) which is currently $48.25[4]. These fees will need to be paid in full to UniSQ by the fee payment due date for the respective trimester as published on the UniSQ Academic Calendar.

7. Residential Schools

Several Head Start courses in the Science, Health and Medical Sciences and Nursing study areas have a Residential School component. This is an on-campus requirement where students need to attend a block of days to be eligible to complete all course requirements.

Residential schools give external students the opportunity to attend face-to-face lectures and tutorials, use the facilities and meet our staff and other students. These are held in a block of approximately 3 days where students need to commit to coming onto a UniSQ campus to complete. Residential School dates are available well in advance to review and allow students the opportunity to ensure they can commit.

Please check the 2027 course list to determine which courses have a Residential School.

UniSQ Admissions enrol students into their course, including their Residential School block. Our team does their best to match students to the most appropriate available block however, if students need to request a change, they can do so via an email to headstart@unisq.edu.au.

8. Early Entry

Students who successfully complete a Head Start course are eligible for a UniSQ Early Entry based purely on the completion of a Head Start course*.

Students may receive a conditional offer as early as September, depending on when they submit their early entry application. Students still need to meet all other program pre-requisites (e.g., completion of Year 12 and a minimum C grade in Units 3 & 4 in school subjects required as pre-requisites).

Students should check the UniSQ Handbook to determine program prerequisites. Students still need to apply via QTAC and must place a UniSQ program as their first (1st) preference to be considered for an Early Entry.

* Early Entry is not available for the below quota-managed programs:

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)
- Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours)
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)
- Bachelor of Medical Science (Medicine Pathway)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours)

9. QCE Points

Students who successfully complete a Head Start course will receive two (2) points towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) for every course, up to the maximum allowable limit (8 points) set by the

Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA) ^. Results will be uploaded to the QCAA portal within four (4) weeks of UniSQ results being released.

Please note that we require a student's 10-digit Learner Unique Identifier or LUI number to complete this upload. If a student does not have a LUI number, please contact QCAA or advise on your application.

^ Students in Year 12 studying in Trimester Three do not receive QCE points as results release is after completion of Year 12.
^ Students outside of Queensland are not eligible to receive QCE Points. Head Start does not contribute points towards other state senior certificates.

10. Adjustment Factors

Students who complete a Head Start course will receive one (1) Tertiary Entrance Rank point towards their QTAC rank if applying to UniSQ. UniSQ limits applicable adjustment factors to a maximum of ten (10) Tertiary Entrance Ranks, which includes adjustments based on subjects, location and other eligible adjustments.

Please note that Bachelor of Medical Science (Medicine Pathway) applicants (other than First Nations applicants) may be eligible to receive other admission considerations for successfully completing specific Year 12 subjects or university-level study while at school. Note that a maximum of five (5) adjustment points can be applied to an applicant's ATAR.

- **Two (2) ATAR/rank adjustments** for achieving a grade of C or higher in Units 3 and 4 of an approved language other than English subject (or an equivalent subject from another approved senior program);
- **Two (2) ATAR/rank adjustments** for achieving a grade of C or higher in Units 3 and 4 of Queensland Specialist Mathematics (or equivalent);
- **One (1) ATAR/rank adjustment point** for successfully completing a UniSQ BIO-coded Head Start course.

11. UniSQ Subject Pre-Requisites

The below Head Start courses are eligible to meet the listed subject pre-requisites upon successful completion within UniSQ programs.

Course	Subject pre-requisite
SCI1001 Succeeding in Science	Science subject pre-requisite
STA1003 Fundamental Statistics	General Mathematics subject pre-requisite (excluding Engineering/Construction)
PSY1010 Foundation Psychology A	PSY1010 + PSY1020 = Science subject pre-requisite
PSY1020 Foundation Psychology B	

12. Course Completion

Students will be provided with a certificate upon successful completion of each course via their school coordinator or via post after grades are released.

An unofficial transcript can be downloaded from UConnect at the completion of the course. Students can obtain an 'official' academic transcript upon request and payment of the associated fee.

Should a student be admitted into a UniSQ program, credit can be applied for each completed Head Start course, subject to the rules pertaining to that particular program (e.g. program structure). Further information on this can be found here.

13. UniSQ Student Support & Policies

Students will be issued with a student number and will have access to the University support services, Library, and to the University IT services, including UConnect. Students will be subject to the provisions of the University's statutes and regulations during their enrolment.

Each Head Start application must be signed by parents/guardians, thereby giving consent to UniSQ to provide full internet access to the student for the purpose of their studies and educational activities, and incidental to such in accordance with UniSQ's ICT policies. UniSQ will not be responsible for the content that may be viewed on the Internet.

By refusing consent or later withdrawing consent by written notice to UniSQ, the student's enrolment or Internet access, as applicable, will be cancelled by UniSQ, which may impact their study results. Parents/guardians and the nominated school coordinator are eligible to be granted access to information regarding the enrolment of their student/s during the trimester.

Parents/guardians and High School Head Start coordinators are required to support students to access all required IT requirements for the purpose of their UniSQ studies. We encourage students to have access to personal devices to minimise firewall issues.

14. Safer Communities

At UniSQ, we are committed to creating a safer community for everyone. Through Safer Communities we provide a range of services and responses to support student safety and address concerning experiences. If it matters to you, it matters to UniSQ. We encourage students to share any concerns with us through our Reporting or sharing a concern platform. UniSQ also has a range of training, guides and self-help resources to support you through a range of issues.

1 The Toowoomba Christian College Report Card will also be accepted.

2 Check the individual course eligibility on our Head Start Courses Webpage. Eg; NUR1100 is only available to year 11&12 students.

3 Course fees are based on 2027 prices and are subject to change.

4 SAF are based on 2027 prices and are subject to change. See the current fee schedule here.