

Choosing the Right Subjects

- Subjects are listed in order of the code and subject area
- Scroll to look at subjects, then click on subject code to see the description for that particular subject
- Make sure that you satisfy the prerequisites to take the unit
- Be sure the unit is offered in the semester you are attending:
 - Semester 1 (February) is indicated by a D1, E1 or DE1
 - Semester 2 (July) is indicated by a D2, E2 or DE2

If the semester is not listed, you can put it on your plan, and your coordinator will confirm if it is available once Macquarie confirms.

Prerequisites and Course Approval

Some subjects may indicate prerequisites; Macquarie University will review your transcripts to ensure that you have met these prerequisites with equivalent classes. They will not, in most cases, require that you have taken their exact class. For example, if the prerequisite is History 101 - Australian History, you will need to have taken an introductory history class, not necessarily about Australia. Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to AustralLearn so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated.

Based on availability and prerequisites, Macquarie University will either approve or not approve the subject for you to take. If a subject is not approved based on prerequisites, you can approach the professor once you arrive and attempt to obtain approval in person.

Course Scheduling and Enrollment

Timetables at most universities are not published until just before the semester begins. However, you will be pre-enrolled into a fulltime load prior to your arrival. Therefore, you will not actually finalize your enrollment in your subjects until after you arrive. The majority of classes do not have quotas, so you shouldn't have to worry about space filling up. You will choose your classes from your list of subjects approved by both the Australian National University and your US University, according to how they fit into your schedule. If you choose to enroll in any subjects that were not pre-approved by your US University, you should contact your university from Australia in order to obtain the necessary approval. Be sure to bring your advisor's fax number with you. We will be sending you more information about approvals once we receive your subject choices.

Academic Differences between Australia and the U.S./Canada

In general, Australians complete their Bachelor's degrees in 3 years. They do not have to fulfill core requirements in a variety of disciplines, so they start taking classes towards their major during their first semester. Therefore, 1st year classes in Australia are generally equivalent to 2nd year classes in the US; 2nd year Australian classes are equivalent to 3rd year US classes; and 3rd year Australian classes are equivalent to 4th year US classes. There are always exceptions to this, however, and it is up to your university to decide the credit and level they will award.

Often times it is expected that students spend a lot of time outside of the classroom doing their own research/study/reading. Every university varies somewhat, but in general, you should be prepared for some differences between the overseas and the U.S./Canadian academic systems and be aware that you may experience a period of adjustment.

- Continue to next page for grading conversion guide -

Grading Conversion Guide: Macquarie University

The following information is provided from *Australia: Education and Training – An Update of the 1990 World Education Series Volume* (2004) by Edward Devlin. This is a special report that describes new certification and grading practices at the post-secondary level in each state or territory. The report is published by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

Australian Qualification	U.S. Grade
High Distinction (HD)	A+
Distinction (D)	A
Credit (Cr)	B
Pass (P)	C
Conceded Pass (PC)	C- (*See below)
Fail (F)	F

Recommended Credit

9-12 credit points per semester = 12 -16 US semester credit hours
3 credit points at Macquarie U. = 4 semester credits in the U.S.
4 credit points at Macquarie U. = 5 semester credits in the U.S.

Full time students at Macquarie University average between 10-12 credit points per semester.
The minimum full-time load per semester is 9 Macquarie University credit points.

Examples of full time course load options:

3 x 4 cr. pt. classes = 12 cr. pts. at Macquarie U. or 15 U.S. semester credits
4 x 3 cr. pt. classes = 12 cr. pts. at Macquarie U. or 16 U.S. semester credits
2 x 3 plus 1 X 4 cr. pt. classes = 10 cr. pts. at Macquarie U. or 13 U.S. semester credits
2 x 4 plus 1 x 3 cr. pt. classes = 11 cr. pts. at Macquarie U. or 14 U.S. semester credits

- There is not equivalent to the US grade "D".
- * "PC is a clear passing grade, allowing students to proceed to units at a higher level except where the prerequisite for the higher level unit is a C grade pass or higher. The grade "CQ" is given to students whose pass was marginal. They have completed all the work required, but the PC acts as a warning that works at the next level will have to improve for a student to gain a pass at that level.
- In each year approximately 12% of students in a unit receive HD and D grades, about 24% C grades, about 43% P grades and about 6% PC grades, though there are variations from unit to unit and from level to level.

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