

PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF STUDENTS

1. Selection of students where course quotas exist

Any Member Institution may impose a quota in a unit that it teaches on its own campus towards a SCD course, or in a course that is taught exclusively on that campus (e.g. MA (Pastoral Care and Counselling) at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.) Such a need, when it arises, would be due to restricted resources: e.g. classroom space, staff workload, avenues for field placement, etc. In such cases selection into the unit or course at a particular Member Institution would be determined on the basis of academic merit (University Admission Index, Tertiary Entrance Rank, Grade Point Average from previous studies, etc). However, students who do not gain entry to a particular Member Institution, would be advised by the Registrar of similar units of study or courses that were available at other SCD Member Institutions where quotas did not apply.

2 Reference in selection procedure to 'Special Entry'

Special Entry

A student may be admitted to a course on the basis of Special Entry. Such students might be:

- (a) persons who have not yet reached mature age and who did not do the HSC or failed to meet the UAI level. For example, a person under 21 years of age who did not do the HSC but has completed a trade certificate or equivalent;
- (b) persons who have been educationally disadvantaged due to:
 - (i) socio-economic reasons such as low-family income or poor living conditions;
 - (ii) language difficulties;
 - (iii) learning difficulties;
 - (iv) disrupted schooling;
 - (v) physical disability;
 - (vi) serious family illness;
 - (vii) excessive family responsibility;
 - (viii) geographical isolation of home and/or school and lack of support, time or facilities for study at home or school.
- (c) persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who have not followed the normal HSC entry path;
- (d) persons who were home schooled and show evidence of being able to manage tertiary study;
- (e) students awaiting an IELTS result;
- (f) persons who have completed a prescribed program of non-award study (4 subject units) with an overall GPA of 1.8 or better.

All Special Entry admissions are provisional.

Admission Procedures for Provisional Entry

Admission to any College undergraduate course on the basis of Mature Age or Special Entry is a provisional admission, and requires special procedures:

- (a) Students with provisional status shall be required to complete a 'Qualifying Period', whilst being permitted to enrol provisionally for the award.
- (b) The 'Qualifying Period' may be undertaken full or part-time and the number of years spent in completing it shall be counted towards the maximum term for completion of the Bachelor of Theology degree.
- (c) The 'Qualifying Period' shall consist of 8 subject units (each of 9 cr. pts.) amounting to 72 credit points.
- (d) The maximum time allowed for the completion of the 'Qualifying Period' shall be three years.
- (e) Upon the completion of 72 credit points, the provisional status of enrolment will be lifted.

3 Reference in selection procedure to 'Restrictions on Admission'

There are no quotas placed on entry into Postgraduate Research Degree candidature. However, students are only permitted to enrol formally once a thesis topic has been approved and appropriate Supervisors have been found. The pool of SCD academic staff approved to supervise higher degree research work stands at about forty. Only if the SCD did not have the expertise in a particular field, would enrolment be declined and a candidate referred to another provider.

The SCD is firmly committed to a strong research culture for both its staff and for its students. Currently there are 6 research awards – BTh(Hons), MTh(Hons), MA(Hons), ThD, DMin and PhD.