

Student Experience:

I enjoy university overall, but there are a number of things I believe should be changed-with one such being the entry system to universities.

My first-preferred design course (Bachelor of Design in Visual Communications) at University of Technology Sydney is competitive to get in, and although I gained a UAI (in the 90's) which I thought would be enough to get in for a Commonwealth-supported place ( after looking at the UAI entry scores for previous years), I missed out.

I was very disappointed at not getting my first preference. This was especially when, I found out that students who were willing to pay for domestic-fee paying places, were allowed into the course with UAIs 10 POINTS LOWER than Commonwealth-supported entry scores. This makes me ask the question: What is the point of the UAI system?

I don't think it is right that just because a student is financially better-off than another, they can secure themselves a course place at a university. And as my case shows, this is not just a few points difference in admission, but a significant 10 POINTS sometimes.

With universities being so short of funds, they have probably been forced into the position of offering domestic-fee paying places with more generous UAI cut-offs. In my opinion Australian universities NEED to be given more funding, and have the domestic-fee paying places system completely abolished. This will give better access to tertiary education to ALL Australians regardless of financial status.

Regarding class sizes-I enjoy all my subjects but I feel there are not enough tutors for some of my classes. It is often difficult trying to get assistance from my tutors, when there are so many others needing attention also.

On a positive note, I think it is excellent how my university offers so many computers throughout the campus for student use. It's very convenient and assists significantly in my studies, as does the extensive collection of resources in the library.

Thank you