COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTED PLACE (CSP)
IN UNIVERSITY ACCESS PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS A COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTED PLACE (CSP)?

A Commonwealth Supported Place is a place for which the Australian Government makes a contribution towards the cost of the course. CSPs are allocated on an equity and merit basis.

2. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A CSP?

You are eligible to apply for a CSP if you are—

- An Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen or the holder of a permanent visa, and
- You fit into one or more of the following equity criteria:
  - You are from a low socio-economic background
  - You are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
  - You live in a rural and isolated area i.e. outside the metropolitan area
  - You have a disability
  - You are a woman studying in a non-traditional area e.g. Science, Engineering, Informatics
  - You are from a non-English speaking background

The University’s priority equity group for 2013 is students from a low-socio economic background. All applications are assessed primarily on the basis of financial hardship, however other equity criteria and circumstances may be taken into consideration.
3. **HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE THAT I MEET THE LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS?**

You must demonstrate financial hardship either:

- Through receiving a Centrelink (or other Commonwealth) means-tested income support payment (such as Austudy, Abstudy, Youth Allowance, Disability Support Pension, Family Assistance Payments, Carer Payments, Exceptional Circumstances Certificate) OR
- By providing comprehensive information demonstrating exceptional financial hardship.

4. **WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MUST I INCLUDE WITH MY APPLICATION?**

You must attach up-to-date financial documentation including:

- Your most recent Centrelink statement
- If you have been receiving income from paid employment, your income tax assessment from the last twelve months
- If you have a partner, your partner’s Centrelink statement
- If your partner has been receiving income from paid employment, your partner’s tax assessment from the last twelve months
- A copy of your health care card, if you have one
- If you have dependent children, documentary evidence of their ages (e.g. Centrelink statement)

**Important to note:** Your application cannot be assessed if financial information is out-of-date, incomplete or not provided with your application.

5. **HOW MANY CSP PLACES ARE AVAILABLE?**

The number of places is limited and varies according to the session you are enrolling in i.e. Autumn, Spring or Summer.

6. **IF I AM RECEIVING CENTRELINK DOES THIS GUARANTEE ME A CSP?**

Not necessarily. Often there are more applications than there are places available and, although you are eligible for a CSP, it is a competitive process and there
may be other applicants ranked above you according to financial disadvantage and/or other circumstances.

7. WHERE DO I FIND A CSP APPLICATION FORM?
You can download an application form from the college website—http://www.uowcollege.edu.au/fees#domestic_students or pick one up from the college (Building 30).

8. WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY CSP APPLICATION FORM & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS?
You submit your application and documents to WCA (Building 30). For information on the closing dates please contact the college.

9. WILL LATE APPLICATIONS BE CONSIDERED?
Late applications may not be considered.

10. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CSP APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL?
The college will advise you of the outcome of your application by email.

11. CAN I DEFER MY CSP OFFER?
No, you cannot defer your Commonwealth Supported Place offer. The CSP offer is only valid for the UAP session you have originally applied for. If you wish to defer your UAP session offer you must re-apply for a CSP.

12. IF MY CSP APPLICATION IS NOT SUCCESSFUL CAN I APPEAL THE DECISION?
Appeals can only be lodged where due process has not been adhered to or new or additional substantive information is now available. Appeals should be lodged within 5 working days of the census day for the session you are enrolled in. Late appeals will not be considered. Appeals are to be lodged with the college who will forward your appeal on to UOW for assessment.

13. IF MY CSP APPLICATION IS NOT SUCCESSFUL WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

If you are an Australian citizen or holder of a permanent humanitarian visa residing in Australia you can apply for FEE-HELP to assist with payment of your tuition fees. New Zealand citizens and other permanent visa holders are not eligible for FEE-HELP. You must apply for FEE-HELP before the DEST Census dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
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