



Information for Parents and Guardians



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Australian First Nations peoples' long-standing tradition of sustaining their communities and environments for many tens of thousands of years of occupation in Australia.

They are the first educators and first innovators. They are the holders of knowledge that makes an important contribution to the improvement of our local, national, and global communities.

We extend our respect to Elders – past, present, and emerging – and to all First Nations people.

Why choose CDU?

Charles Darwin University is the Territory's university, bringing people together to gain and use knowledge to shape a better future.

CDU is innovative, industry-relevant and student-centered, offering courses from Certificate I to PhD and everything in between. Our courses will prepare your student for the real world of work, so they'll graduate confident and job-ready. CDU is a leading Australian university for undergraduate employment outcomes.

At CDU, they'll learn from lecturers and practitioners who are experts in their field. They'll learn in industry-standard facilities and, depending on their course, they'll have the chance to complete practical placements, internships and work on real projects in their chosen industry.



**5 Star
University**
for graduate
employment
outcomes

**Largest
training
provider
in the NT**

**Flexible &
Supportive**
learning
environment

*2024 Good Universities Guide.

Education that changes lives

CDU is a leading university for students who are the first in their family to go to university. We value individual journeys and experiences and offer flexible study options to make sure that our students have the best chance of success.

We understand that starting university or TAFE study can be a daunting time for students and their families. We have lots of support services available, from scholarships to counselling and academic support, we're here to help.

Top 5
in Australia for
first-in-family
study



A land of opportunity

The Northern Territory presents abundant job opportunities and potential for career advancement. Studying at CDU can provide unique learning experiences such as fieldwork and placements in remote regions and communities.

By choosing to study at the Territory's university, students receive a high-quality education while remaining close to their support network and enjoying the NT's unique lifestyle. They will graduate in a place filled with opportunities to fast-track their careers, equipped with industry connections and real-world experience.

CDU grads
earn at least

8%
more[^]

[^]than the average Australian university graduate. 2022 Graduate Outcomes Survey.

Support your student to succeed

The most important thing you can do to help your student is to continue to be their biggest supporter.

Choosing what to study can be a big decision.

- > Talk to your student about their wishes for their future profession. Workshop different career options and help them research what qualifications would help them achieve that. Explore their strengths and weaknesses and research careers they're interested in.
- > Perhaps you have friends or contacts working in their field of interest. Help to set up the opportunities to discuss the pros and cons with them, and what their working day looks like.
- > Discuss the benefits of getting a qualification.
- > Assure them that there are always different pathways to achieve their goals. Many students change their course or majors after the first year of study.
- > Come with your student to one of our Open Days.

Offering support through study challenges.

- > Starting university can be a big deal! Different people will come across different challenges. Some students can find the social aspect of meeting new people and starting something new daunting. Encourage your student to get involved. University can be a great place to meet people. CDU has lots of clubs and groups that offer support and help in building a social network.
- > For others, academic challenges will be the biggest concern. Encourage your student to ask lots of questions and access the academic support services available.
- > Be prepared for the rollercoaster of highs and lows, from the stresses of assignments, exams and looming deadlines to the celebrations of achieving great results.
- > One of the biggest struggles for university students is finding the balance with study/work/life. Be understanding of their study commitments and be flexible if family commitments need to be rescheduled to fit outside of busy study times.

Support and encourage them on their journey – including when things get tough, but know that at CDU we also have dedicated teams to support each student from orientation to graduation.



"As a parent who works for a university, I advise fellow parents to be very patient and acknowledge the significant stress the new students experience with new studies, deadlines, financing themselves and perhaps grieving the loss of friendships they once had in school.

"It's really important to have regular catch ups with the kids to check in about their current loads of assessment, their work, social activities, physical exercise, mental health, and encourage them to vent to you to figure out ways to continue with less worry. If they are still at home feed them and let their room be a 'floordrobe' – this too shall pass!

"They are doing their best to get through some of the toughest times of their lives and sometimes they just need to be listened to, have their washing hung out, and not be quizzed."

Amanda Brain, parent of CDU students.



University life

Making the leap from high school to university is like going between two different worlds!

- > Your child will be responsible for their own success, allocating their time, and most importantly getting the balance right between study and life!
- > They will be free to come and go from campus at any time.
- > Lecturers and tutors are open-minded and helpful, but they don't check up on each student if aren't following the course readings.
- > This gives your student lots of independence, but it might also be the biggest adjustment they need to make to succeed.
- > For higher education, we recommend students allocate 10-12 hours per week per subject.
- > Remember most study takes place outside of the classroom.

CDU welcomes all students to engage in a variety of clubs, sporting and social activities, and provides a community-orientated environment that fosters lasting friendships and strong connections.



A safe and supportive learning environment

CDU is committed to giving students the support they need to help them stay happy, healthy and achieve their study goals.

We believe in diversity as a strength and welcome differences in culture, race, religion, gender identity, ability and sexuality.

We are proud of the diversity of the CDU community and we are working together to create a fair, safe and inclusive university where everyone can thrive.

At CDU we also offer study, language and First Nations tutorial support along with personal support through counselling, advocacy, wellbeing support and careers and financial assistance.

At CDU students will benefit from smaller class sizes. Domestic students can choose to study online or on campus with most courses offered both full-time or part-time, giving the flexibility they need to balance study, work and family.

You should feel comfortable that your child will be supported in their studies.



A woman and a man are in a workshop. The woman, in the foreground, is wearing a black welding mask, safety glasses, and yellow gloves. She is holding a metal tool. The man, behind her, is also wearing safety glasses and a black headlamp. Both are wearing orange work shirts. The background is a dimly lit industrial space with various equipment.

Pathways to University

You may think that your child should go straight from high school to university. While this study pathway is one option, it's not the only option.

At CDU there are many pathways for entry. If they hold an ATAR score of at least 60 (after adjustment factors), they can apply directly to most undergraduate degrees at CDU.

But perhaps they didn't ace year 12, decided to start their career with a trade, or parked further study to go travelling – at CDU we welcome and celebrate unique paths like these. We offer a range of non-traditional, flexible entry requirements:

Enabling and pathways programs

Pathway programs are designed to prepare you for university studies and help you meet entry requirements for undergraduate degrees.

There are a few options at CDU:

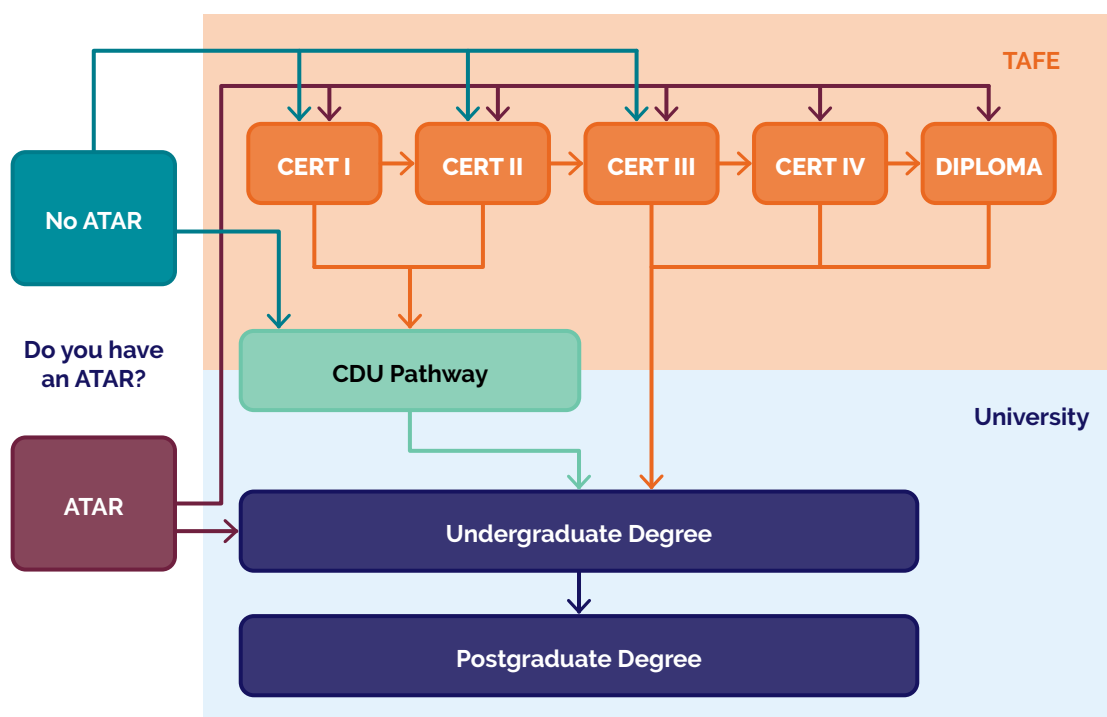
- > A free, 16-week Tertiary Enabling Program (TEP) that's offered online or on campus. The program will work on building the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed at university.
- > One of the introductory or pathway programs that CDU offer for First Nations students, including study and mentoring assistance.
- > An Undergraduate Certificate is a university-level qualification that you complete in as little as 6 months to help you meet entry requirements for an undergraduate degree.

TAFE Qualifications

Once you successfully complete a TAFE Certificate III (or higher), you can use this to gain entry to most undergraduate degrees at CDU.

Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test

The STAT - short for Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test - is an exam you can sit to determine your readiness for university. If you achieve a score of 140 or above, your student will be eligible to apply for most undergraduate degrees at CDU.



Find out more at
cdu.edu.au/study/essentials/study-pathways

Finding a course that fits

CDU is one of Australia's first dual sector universities, offering both degree level courses along with TAFE qualifications. Explore the courses available at cdu.edu.au/study

Study areas at CDU:



Accounting



Arts



Business



Communications and Design



Community Services and Social Work



Creative and Performing Arts



Culinary Arts



Education



Engineering



Exercise and Sport Science



Hair and Beauty Services



Health



Humanitarian, Emergency and Disaster Management



Humanities and Social Sciences



Indigenous Knowledges



IT and Network Engineering



Languages and Linguistics



Law and Legal Studies



Nursing and Midwifery



Primary Industries



Psychology



Public Health



Science, Environmental Science and Management



Tourism and Hospitality



Trades

Application process

Degree Education

Explore course information: Visit the CDU website to get information on a selected course, such as course codes and study options. W: cdu.edu.au/study

Register with SATAC: Most higher education applications for CDU go through the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC), so the next step to get an application under way is to visit the SATAC website, click on either 'Undergraduate' or 'Postgraduate', and then click on 'Apply' to register. Once their registration is complete, SATAC will send them an email with a link to access their online application. W: satac.edu.au

Complete application: Your child should follow the link in the email from SATAC to complete their application. Here they can list up to six course preferences. They can change the order of their

preferences or add new courses by a certain date. SATAC can access most of their study records, but if not they might request further information. To be considered in the main offer round there are key dates they should be aware of. These are available on the SATAC website.

Accept and enrol: If your child's application is successful, they'll receive an offer via email from CDU. This will include instructions on how to enrol in their units.

TAFE courses

1. Find your CDU course at cdu.edu.au/study
2. Register your interest online, via email or by phone
3. Complete your application. CDU will then be in touch to finalise your enrolment and let you know the start dates.

Costs of study

Tuition fees can vary depending on the course type, the units studied, and whether the student is domestic or international.

Tuition fees cover the basic cost of a CDU course. If students are enrolled in a [Commonwealth supported place \(CSP\)](#), tuition fees will be subsidised by the Government (and won't have to be paid back). The remainder of fees are referred to as the student contribution.

Most students use a [HECS-HELP loan](#) to pay for this.

Find out more about the costs of studying cdu.edu.au/current-students/student-admin/fees-payments.

Scholarships

CDU is committed to providing opportunities to students through our scholarship program. Scholarships are sponsored by individuals, businesses, government, community groups and the university to assist students with the

financial burden of studying. Encourage your child to apply for all scholarships they may be eligible for. Students can be awarded and hold two CDU scholarships at a time. Find out more at cdu.edu.au/scholarships

Accommodation options

Choosing to study at CDU may mean your child can stay at home and benefit from having their support network close by. However, if needed, CDU offers a range of accommodation options. Living on campus will give students the chance to meet new people from all over the world and to get involved in campus life while having easy access to campus facilities.



On campus: International House Darwin at the Casuarina Campus

Alice Springs Student
Accommodation on the Alice
Springs Campus

Katherine Student
Accommodation at the Katherine
Rural Campus

Off Campus: UniLodge is a short bus ride from Casuarina Campus

CDU's Accommodation Services
can help find students find
off campus accommodation
options.





Student Central

Freecall: 1800 061 963

E: student.central@cdu.edu.au

**You
make
CDU**



cdu.edu.au