



## Capability Statement

# Vocational education

Education and training at UOW College Australia (UOWCA) underpins economic growth and meets the needs of industry, employers and students. UOWCA is one of Australia's longest operating university pathway providers.

Since 1988, more than 29,000 students from 70 different countries have graduated from UOWCA.

The College provides a supportive learning environment where students build skills and knowledge through the delivery of quality academic pathway programs and vocational courses. School leavers and mature-aged students are provided guaranteed University of Wollongong (UOW) offers at the successful completion of their pathway program.

UOWCA delivers its pathway programs at multiple locations, including UOW's Wollongong, South Western Sydney and regional campuses. Vocational education (VET) courses are delivered at the Wollongong Campus.

In 2019, UOWCA enrolled 405 new international academic students – 86 per cent of enrolments were from the four nationalities of China, India, Pakistan and Vietnam. In total, there were 3,036 students at UOWCA in 2019, studying 38 programs including the Diploma of Engineering (accredited by TEQSA); and the Diploma of Nursing (approved by Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia). A new Diploma of Science and Diploma of Arts was approved by TESQA for delivery from 2020.

Committed to growing the economy, creating jobs and reinvigorating its communities, UOWCA is evolving with the nature of work and the New South Wales economy in its provision of vocational education and training.

The College recognises that VET is valuable in teaching students the skills required in the workplace and helping industry improve capacity to succeed in a rapidly changing global marketplace. VET is also an important reskilling mechanism in a changing workplace. A workforce filled with lifelong learners will build a broader set of skills for the future.

As the VET sector is sensitive to policy changes, UOWCA is highly dynamic in its program delivery. Programs are focused on lifelong learning and industry integration to

accommodate future needs. VET provides benefits beyond enabling people to be the best they can be. Amid the social and economic benefits, it helps build the workforce of tomorrow.

This education and training underpins economic growth and meets the needs of industry, employers and students, and promotes social mobility through education.

### CAREER-READY STUDIES

UOWCA addresses specific issues faced by students transitioning from school to VET. School leavers often struggle to engage with post-school education and need assistance to transition successfully from school to work or to further study options.

From 2017, the College has offered selected VET courses to secondary school students while at school to provide them with the opportunity to complete their secondary education, gain work skills and obtain a VET qualification at the same time.

The External Delivery of VET Courses for Secondary Students (eVET) program supports students to become career ready by allowing them to experience a variety of professions through work placement.

eVET also provides students with an alternative pathway to further tertiary study.

### SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

Today's school leavers are expected to have 17 jobs across five careers in their lifetime as traditional jobs are being replaced by technology and automation. This means students will need to be lifelong learners who are comfortable with change.

UOWCA is committed to ensuring that students have access to skilling pathways that enhance employability and social wellbeing.

Initiatives that support lifelong learning and programs such as eVET provide a unique opportunity to introduce students to the UOW experience. They open doors to employment options and further study at the College and the University.

College courses are designed to ensure that students are prepared for the workforce of the future. Qualifications can be gained in as little as seven months through a certificate-level course.

UOWCA is producing graduates with the skills that industry needs, with sectors looking at harnessing the job-ready skills VET students offer.

### LEARNING AND RESKILLING

Vocational education is vital for fostering innovation and the programs available at UOWCA help students unleash their potential and become the innovators of tomorrow.

Students benefit through the combination of quality courses, small class sizes and a caring culture. Programs are delivered in the areas of Arts, Business, ICT, Engineering, Nursing, Science, Social Science, and Fitness.

UOWCA is a Registered Training Organisation with Australian Skills Quality Authority, with its current registration renewed to 2024. An approved VET Student Loans provider, the College is registered with TEQSA and ASQA to deliver courses to international students studying on Australian student visas and is listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students.

### INDUSTRY INTEGRATION

UOWCA provides a bridge between the world of work and study to connect students with jobs.

Strong partnerships with government, VET institutions, industry bodies and communities enable the College to be responsive and to generate relevant programs. UOWCA works with organisations to deliver specialised, targeted training to develop staff capability to meet their strategic goals.

As VET courses take less time to complete than a general bachelor degree, they are more dynamic in getting people into the workforce. Courses include work placement (arranged by the College) to provide practical, real-life training and facilitate seamless entry into employment.

The College's students that go on to study at UOW benefit from work-integrated learning. This includes internships, professional placements and work experience. UOW's Work-integrated Learning Enabling Plan (WIL) provides access to networks which is critical to career success, especially for first-in-family and overseas students.

### SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

UOWCA offers a broad range of support services available for students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds as well as academic support services to help all students succeed.

The University Access Program (UAP) is designed to prepare mature-age students for tertiary study. The flexible design of the course allows students to continue their professional and family lives while undertaking study. Some Commonwealth Supported Places are available.

The Special Tertiary Entrance Program (STEP to UOW Program) is a preparation program designed for students who have experienced a disadvantage during their secondary school education. Successful completion of STEP to UOW provides guaranteed entry to most UOW undergraduate degrees.

UOW creates mutually beneficial partnerships with schools, pathway providers and broader communities to enable students to be the best they can be. Our regional campuses are demonstrating best practice in developing sustainable outreach and transition collaborations that support students to success.

College courses are designed to ensure that students are prepared for the workforce of the future.

**UOW COLLEGE AUSTRALIA WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL OUTCOMES**

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