



Charles Sturt
University

A photograph of two female scientists in a laboratory setting. They are both wearing white lab coats, safety glasses, and gloves. The scientist on the left is wearing blue gloves and is smiling while holding a small white object. The scientist on the right is wearing purple gloves and is looking down at the same object. In the background, there are laboratory equipment and a window.

Charles Sturt Direct Entry Program

2025 participant booklet



What to expect

Throughout the program, you'll engage in workshops, tutorials, testing, information sessions and interviews. If you are attending our on-campus five-day intensive, you'll receive a detailed timetable when you sign in on the first day and should expect to be engaged in guided and independent activities from 9am–5pm each day. Online students will receive a timetable of group learning sessions ahead of their event, and options for booking learning support appointments.

During the program, you'll need to participate in all sessions and complete the following:

- literacy and numeracy testing
- two assessment tasks – a writing task and an oral presentation based on a design thinking problem-solving activity
- an interview with the course director of your chosen degree.

Participating in these sessions is crucial to meeting the conditions of your offer. If you complete the program and your results do not meet the conditions of your offer, we will work with you to identify an alternative pathway to meet your study and career goals. This may mean studying a different degree or studying one of our enabling pathway courses or Study Link subjects to build your skills before commencing your degree.

We're here to help! Our dedicated study support advisers will help you build your skills and there will be adequate time to complete workshops and independent study that will help you prepare for the program requirements.

Literacy and numeracy testing

Our literacy and numeracy testing is conducted utilising the Basic and Key Skills Builder (BKSB) – which is a collection of online assessments and learning resources that will help you develop your literacy and numeracy skills.

You'll complete the BKSB twice – once at the beginning of the program to identify your strengths and areas in which you could improve, and once at the end of the program to assess whether your skills now meet the requirements of your chosen degree.

The BKSB test results will provide the program staff and the course director in your chosen degree an understanding of your capabilities. To be offered your desired degree, you must meet the benchmark that has been set for that course.

To prepare for the BKSB, we've got heaps of resources for learning support on the student portal. You could also take a Study Link subject to really shore up your uni skills to learn visit csu.edu.au/studylink.

Assessment tasks

You'll participate in a design thinking experience focusing on future solutions to societal issues. You'll propose a solution, deliver a short oral presentation and reflect on your experience. Creative thinking, empathy and confidence are essential for success.

Design thinking experience

You'll develop a solution proposal following the design thinking process. Topics will be provided at your intensive program for you to choose from. This may be a group or individual task, depending on class size.

Your solution should include:

- understanding of stakeholder needs
- clear problem definition
- brainstormed ideas.

There will be time to research and develop your proposal, and you'll receive support throughout the process.

Presentation

You'll prepare and deliver a short oral presentation of your solution to peers and judges. Aim to inform, engage and persuade your audience while showcasing your personality. Time for preparation and practice will be given, along with presentation guidance.

Writing task

You'll write a 500-word individual reflection on the design process experience. This piece should showcase your ability to think critically about your experience and demonstrate reflective learning.

In your reflection, explore how this project relates to your field of study and the impact you hope to make in your future career. Consider how the skills and insights you've gained might shape your approach to professional challenges.

Your reflection might address:

- key insights from the process or solution
- critical moments in the design process
- your individual contribution (if group work was undertaken) and key learnings
- connection between this project and your academic or career goals.

We'll be looking for clear, concise and thoughtful written communication. Be honest in your reflection, balancing descriptions of what happened with analysis of why it happened and what you've learned from it. Show how this experience contributes to your ongoing development as a learner and problem-solver.

Interviews

A vital component of the program is an individual interview with the course director from your chosen degree. They'll seek to understand your motivation for applying for the course, your understanding of course and study commitments, and ensure you are well prepared for success. You'll receive support to prepare for your interview.

Your course director will use your BKSB results, assessment tasks and interview evidence to suggest an entry pathway to study at Charles Sturt.

Tips

- Think about why you want to do this course and what interests you about this career.
- Does this course match your desired career path?
- Is the course offered in the mode you wish to study and in the location you may want to study (if studying on campus)?
- Do you have any questions about the course or university?
- Have you got a support network to help you manage the demands of study? What does this look like and what other support might you need?

Check out the details of your chosen course by visiting study.csu.edu.au/courses.



Program outcome

At the end of the program, the results of your testing, assessments and interview will be reviewed by the program staff and the course director of your chosen course. They will determine which study option is best for you and might include some further study before your commencement date. Possible study pathways include:

- direct entry into your chosen course
- entry into an alternative degree
- an enabling course (Access Charles Sturt Entry and/or Undergraduate Certificate in University Preparation, see below for more info).
- completion of Study Link subjects to build your skills before commencing your degree.

Regardless of the outcome, at the end of this program you'll be a valued member of the Charles Sturt student community and on your way to reaching your study and career goals – we can't wait to see what you achieve!

Enabling courses

At Charles Sturt, we have two enabling courses to get you ready to study an undergraduate degree. Everyone's path to university is different, and these courses are designed to help you start your journey, no matter your background. Learn the essentials to help you maximise your success!

Access Charles Sturt Entry

This six-month, open-access course is a great first step to preparing for study skills. The Access Charles Sturt Entry course will get you up to speed, ensuring you have all the skills you need to successfully complete your first year of undergraduate study.

Be supported while you develop your confidence in approaches to study, academic writing, foundational maths and critical thinking. This could be the perfect first step towards your dream qualification, offering you guaranteed entry into the Undergraduate Certificate in University Preparation, which gives you credit into your future course.

Undergraduate Certificate in University Preparation

The Undergraduate Certificate in University Preparation will ensure you're familiar with the expectations of university learning. It will give you important foundational skills and support as you transition into university.

Develop academic skills and choose from a range of subjects in science, history, writing and maths to match your future study goals. This course could be the perfect first step toward your dream qualification, offering you guaranteed entry into most of our undergraduate degrees.

Perhaps you didn't quite get the ATAR you needed. You may instead have relevant life experience or a TAFE certificate (III or IV) or have been in the workplace. If any of these sound like you, or you have completed the Access Charles Sturt Entry enabling course, then the Undergraduate Certificate in University Preparation is a great option.

What to bring

If you are attending a five-day intensive on campus, you'll just need to bring a few things:

- A laptop if you have one. If you don't, we have computers for you to use.
- Clothing and personal items (bedding and towels are provided in your accommodation).
- Your Charles Sturt Student Card (you can collect this from Student Central when you arrive).

Travel to and from the event is included. Any travel off campus that is not included in the scheduled program activities will be at your own expense.

All meals are covered within the program. There are also cafés and food outlets close to campus for you to buy any snacks or extras you might need.

If you are attending an online program, you'll need your own device with a camera and microphone, and a reliable internet connection.



Find out how to get to your
Charles Sturt campus

→ info.csu.edu.au/getting-to-campus

Want to learn more?

Get the low-down on career paths,
courses and uni life on our blog.

→ insight.csu.edu.au



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