B E X O N D

your
boundaries

REGIONAL
STUDY GUIDE

University of South Australia
Welcome

The University of South Australia is a young institution with an agile, innovative approach to educating tomorrow’s professionals and solving today’s challenges. As a university of enterprise, our efforts are focused on providing economic and social benefits to local communities, the nation and the world.

While our focus is global, we are also very local. We have a deep and lasting commitment to the regions of South Australia because being the University of South Australia means being the university for all of South Australia.

We know that being close to home means a lot and so we have been making some major improvements to our regional campuses so that you get the same education as your fellow students at our city campuses.

We’re building a new $12.5 million learning centre at Mount Gambier that will revolutionise your learning experience. The new building, which is scheduled to open in early 2016, will have space for up to four times as many students and open up opportunities for more UniSA programs to be offered.

We have also installed high-speed fibre optic cables to Mount Gambier and Whyalla. You should be getting internet speeds 1000 times the rate you’re used to — from 10 megabits per second to 10 gigabits per second. This not only makes you the best connected students in any regional city in Australia but brings our digital learning strategy which blends online and face-to-face teaching, so you get access to the same curriculum, the same resources and the same academics as those in the city.

And our reputation for excellence continues to grow. We are ranked in the world’s top 50 universities under 50 years old by both Times Higher Education (THE) and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) global rankings. The 2014 Good Universities Guide ranks us as Number One in South Australia for the employment rate of our graduates and Number One for overall student satisfaction.

At the University of South Australia, you will discover a vibrant on-campus culture and join an active and diverse student population. This blend enriches the intellectual and social life of our academic community, providing both an enhanced student experience as well as the ideal teaching and learning environment for cultivating tomorrow’s leaders and innovators.

I hope that you will consider joining us and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Professor David G. Lloyd
Vice Chancellor and President

Acknowledgement of Country

UniSA respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Barngarla peoples’ spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal peoples, past and present.

Find out more about the University’s commitment to reconciliation at unisa.edu.au/RAP
Using this guide

Deciding to further your education is a big step, and it can make a big difference to your future.

Research indicates that one in two adults will be expected to have a university degree by the year 2025*, and that many of those people will have more than one degree qualification. Here at the University of South Australia we understand that it can be a daunting, but also exciting decision to further your education, and we invite you to join us.

This guide is for future students of UniSA. You might be living in a regional location and want to study with UniSA at either the Mount Gambier or Whyalla campus. You may be considering an externally delivered university program so you can study from home. Or you might be thinking about moving to Adelaide to study at one of UniSA’s metropolitan campuses.

Whatever your situation, this guide outlines all the key information you will need to decide how, and where, you will study with us.

*2015 Industry Employment Projections Report, Australian Government

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UniSA’s commitment to regional education

Distance is never an obstacle. We aim to deliver quality education opportunities to all students – whether in a regional community or capital city.

As Australia’s university of enterprise we’re committed to making big changes. As a student you’ll gain an education that cultivates a spirit of creativity and innovation, and equips you to be a leader of tomorrow. By creating an environment for students to bring their ideas to life, engaging with industry and conducting meaningful research, together we develop solutions that benefit the community and the world.

Community engagement

As the university for all South Australians, UniSA welcomes regional students. Forming partnerships in regional health, education, and engineering industries, UniSA also supports events and social services initiatives which give back to the local community. We focus strongly on developing our connections with regional Australia, and the cities of Whyalla and Mount Gambier.

One key partnership is the Department of Rural Health (DRH) based at the Whyalla campus. This multidisciplinary school of health science conducts research to improve the health of rural South Australians, and provides placement opportunities for UniSA health students.

Developing facilities and partnerships

We have invested around one billion dollars into our built environment, recently breaking ground on our new $12.5 million learning centre at Mount Gambier that will revolutionise the student learning experience.

With the support of OneSteel Arrium Mining in Whyalla we have helped create a new Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre (ETLC), which will provide high-standard facilities to our regional students. Find out more about this exciting new space at page 10.

Teaching and learning

We have reviewed what you learn, providing a curriculum which is industry-influenced, sculpted by the partnerships UniSA has with regional groups and key South Australian organisations. A partnership with the James Morrison Academy of Music in Mount Gambier has defined the new home of jazz music education in Australia.

Improved connections

As part of UniSA’s Digital Learning Strategy, we have access to high-speed fibre optic cables at Mount Gambier and Whyalla. Expect internet speeds 1000 times the rate of regular connections, allowing you to engage in a high quality learning experience with resources as you need them.

Student experience

Support and scholarships are available for high achieving students, students in need, regional students or those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; some delivered through a partnership with Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF).

We aim to deliver a quality student experience, with regional-specific transition programs, access to UniSA’s student association (USASA), and extensive support and employment services to help get your career started.

unisa.edu.au/regional
Tess Clark, Bachelor of Nursing student at Mount Gambier, will benefit from the new nursing facilities being built at the new learning centre, including patient bedrooms, treatment rooms and a birthing suite.
Study local, stay local

If you plan on working in regional South Australia, it makes sense to study there too. UniSA’s commitment to flexible program delivery, support services and partnerships with local industry means you can.

Flexible study experience

Our 24/7 online support, flexible study options and blend of part-time and off-campus delivery modes will help you study in a way that suits you. A number of degrees including Foundation Studies, education streams, nursing and social work are offered on-campus at Whyalla and Mount Gambier. More than half of UniSA’s programs have courses available for external study so you could study online for some of your courses and attend on-campus courses at a convenient time for you.

Stay close to home

One benefit of studying externally or through a regional campus is you can live at home. Or, you can relocate closer to home. Whyalla has the advantage of student accommodation on campus, which makes it easier to relocate from anywhere. Nestled halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne, Mount Gambier is a popular choice for regional students in the south eastern states. Accommodation can be cheaper in regional towns than capital cities, and it has the benefit of a more relaxed lifestyle.
Small class sizes, high-level teaching

With fewer students on campus, class sizes are smaller. There is more one-on-one time available with your tutors and lecturers. Teaching staff in the regional centres are attuned to the needs and challenges of students in a regional setting, and support staff are on hand to help students manage blended study modes. Academic staff often work in research and industry and develop curriculum content based on the knowledge gained through real-world projects.

Quality facilities for learning

New facilities in Whyalla and Mount Gambier are funded by a commitment to improving learning facilities for regional students. Infrastructure including the Mount Gambier New Learning Centre is built specifically to improve on the student experience — both for learning and engaging with the community.

These facilities and our improved digital connections mean our students experience the best standards of support and accessibility in Australia and the same as city students.

Practical learning opportunities

You can choose to undertake a range of practical learning activities with a regional focus during your time at UniSA. Examples include professional placements in teaching, experiential learning activities in nursing, field education in social work, and volunteer opportunities and internships through Career Services. UniSA’s strong ties to the community foster these local practical opportunities, through partnerships with industry.

Support for the whole family, and you

Often the choice to further your education is a whole-of-family decision. It can impact on your work, finances and social life, and often your family and friends.

UniSA offers guidance from enrolment, course planning and study habits, through to personal support services and counselling. Information is also available for parents, partners, family and friends to help support your transition into tertiary study. Download our Guide for Parents, Partners and Friends for more information.

unisa.edu.au/parents
Where you can study...

Regional

**Whyalla**
- UniSA College Foundation Studies
- Education (Early Childhood and Primary specialisations)
- Engineering*
- Nursing
- Social Work
* limited courses see page 10 for more information

**Mount Gambier**
- UniSA College Foundation Studies
- Education (Early Childhood and Primary specialisations)
- Music through James Morrison Academy of Music
- Nursing
- Social Work

For more information about studying in Whyalla see page 9

For more information about studying in Mount Gambier see page 12
Bringing education to you

For some students, it just isn’t possible to attend a campus to study. This is why over 60 per cent of the programs at UniSA offer external or partially-external courses. You can access the same curriculum in these external programs as you would if you were attending a class in person.

unisa.edu.au/external
Moving to a region

The lifestyle you experience in a regional town is quite different from being in a capital city. Smaller towns have a sense of community that can mean you make easier connections with your peers and enjoy a more inclusive environment. Students at UniSA’s regional campuses experience the same flexible learning and quality teaching as students at city campuses, with the benefit of the relaxed lifestyle, strong community engagement, relevant practical opportunities, small class sizes and tailored support services.

Considering the benefits, students who want to work in a regional setting can best prepare for their career by studying in a regional community. Whether you are from regional South Australia, or somewhere else in Australia, you will be welcomed at any UniSA campus.

A study seachange

Kemal Brkic, Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Kemal Brkic has already had one career he was passionate about, working for Victoria Police at the Dog Squad. After 13 years, Kemal decided to pursue a career as a primary school teacher. Kemal’s wife also wanted to study social work, so as a family they moved back to their home town to study full time at UniSA.

“We love being back with family, it’s quiet here, peaceful, no distractions, I live one kilometre from uni. I can certainly see a future staying and teaching here, who knows one day I may be a principal.”

“I feel much more prepared now at 40 than I was at 18-19 years old, at that age all I wanted to do is see and experience the world, I know so much more now. It’s not going to be easy, full-time study is like having a full-time job, hard work for four years; however I know the rewards will come. Not too many people could say they have had two careers in their life time.”

Kemal’s advice for new students, “Chip away every day. You need to do a little bit every day, no matter how much or little you do. I’m sitting at the kitchen table studying and my wife is in my son’s room studying, we both make each other cups of tea. Four years pain for long term gain!”
Whyalla: education where the outback meets the sea

Study at the state’s largest regional university campus, in the dynamic coastal town of Whyalla on the Eyre Peninsula.

UniSA’s Whyalla campus is a significant part of the Whyalla community. The town prides itself on the wide variety of sporting pursuits on offer with local football and netball teams, through to fishing, diving with cuttle fish and kite surfing. Situated between the rugged West Coast of SA and the beauty of the Flinders Ranges, camping and road trips are easy.

Boasting excellent teaching and student facilities, the campus is based in the heart of Whyalla’s education and cultural precinct close to shopping, child care facilities and a busy main street.

“UniSA’s Whyalla campus is extremely significant in regional South Australia. We believe it is important to have an authentic connection with students and to encourage them to become work-ready graduates. Studying locally leads to a greater likelihood that students will endeavour to become leaders in our regional community.”

Paul Havelberg, Regional Manager, Whyalla

Students from Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and other smaller towns nearby often choose to study in Whyalla to take advantage of the close proximity to existing work commitments and families.

You will have access to university resources such as Campus Central for all student administration, an extensive library, computer pools, student representatives and more.
Solid foundation for teaching

Kirsty Connor, Bachelor of Education (Primary), Foundation Studies

University was always part of the career plan for Kirsty Connor, but after high school, circumstances lead her straight into a full-time work opportunity. After 10 years, Kirsty decided it was time to start her university study, but felt she needed help with this new phase of her life.

“I chose to study Foundations Studies because I had not studied in a very long time and I was concerned about studying at a university level and all the aspects of academic writing. I wanted to enter a degree program with the confidence and understanding of university expectations. I wanted to understand my capabilities, strengths, weaknesses and develop critical thinking, researching, referencing and essay writing skills. I completed Foundation Studies and feel it gave me the confidence I needed and prepared me for an undergraduate degree.”

Now studying the Bachelor of Education (Primary) on campus at Whyalla, Kirsty enjoying the smaller class sizes, close community feeling at UniSA, and calm lifestyle the town affords. She hopes to work in a school with students from more disadvantaged backgrounds, and empower students to further their education.

What you can study

Programs offered at Whyalla reflect the needs and priorities of the regional community:

> UniSA Foundation Studies
> Education (Early Childhood and Primary specialisations)
> Nursing
> Social Work
> Engineering* (not all courses available at Whyalla, see below for more detail)

Whyalla campus can also support learning in other partially and fully-external programs offered at metropolitan campuses, including business, marketing, commerce, and information technology.

* For engineering students: some attendance for practical sessions at Mawson Lakes campus will be required, generally twice a year, with sessions arranged in blocks of a few days. Online study makes use of high quality learning materials which are equivalent to on-campus studies, and students have the option to transfer to Mawson Lakes if preferred.

On-campus accommodation

Whyalla is the only regional university campus that offers affordable on-campus accommodation at its Student Residential Village. The village has ground floor units for students to have their own room, shared bathrooms, common living areas and car parking. A short walk to lecture and tutorial rooms, and BBQ and volleyball courts mean it’s a fun and balanced student lifestyle.

Improving student experience

Almost $400k in funding through Health Workforce Australia has been invested in upgrading Whyalla’s health laboratories providing advanced simulation facilities that optimise students’ clinical training experience.

OneSteelArrium Mining and UniSA funding has been used to create the new Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre, (ETLC) housing a general purpose engineering laboratory, a 3D design studio, a workshop and learning centre. The facility allows the delivery of synchronous teaching via virtual classrooms.

A new simulated classroom, the first of its kind for UniSA, is available for Bachelor of Education students to practise in-class activities like displaying student work and using smart boards.
New connections

As part of the $22m federally funded UniSA Regional Connections project, the Whyalla information and communications technology capacity has been upgraded and is now connected to the Australia’s national research and education network via AARNet.

The upgrade has delivered one of the fastest network systems in Australia today and ensures regional and rural students have access to the same resources available at metropolitan campuses.

Community engagement

UniSA engages with the regional community in Whyalla in a number of ways. One significant ongoing partnership is the Department of Rural Health (DRH) is also based at the Whyalla campus. The DRH provides rural health research opportunities and placement opportunities for health students, and is supported by the Australian Government’s Department of Health and Ageing.

UniSA College’s Connect Team runs a range of programs in the new ETLC to bring secondary educators, university teaching expertise and students together in an engaging and dynamic environment.

Visit us

Come to the Whyalla campus to explore facilities and speak to current students and academic staff at Open Day. It’s a great chance to ask questions about programs, student life and support services.

Whyalla Open Day
Sunday, 30 August 2015
111 Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla
unisa.edu.au/infosessions
Mount Gambier: a thriving learning hub

Study on the picturesque Limestone Coast, in the state’s largest regional city.

“UniSA’s Mount Gambier campus is expanding and will include fabulous new facilities to improve learning opportunities and allow more students to stay regional.”

Associate Professor Judy Nagy, A/Dean Teaching & Learning Regions and Regional Manager Mount Gambier

What you can study

Programs offered at Mount Gambier reflect the needs and priorities of the regional community:

> UniSA Foundation Studies
> Education (Early Childhood and Primary specialisations)
> Music through James Morrison Academy of Music
> Nursing
> Social Work

In addition to the on-campus degrees offered at Mount Gambier, UniSA also supports external learning in other partially and fully-external programs offered at metropolitan campuses, including mechanical engineering, business, marketing, commerce, and information technology.
Finding your place

Eerin Wilson, Bachelor of Social Work and Foundation Studies

An avid traveller, with a varied job history, Eerin Wilson was living in Kalgoorlie, WA when she decided it was time to follow her dream career in social work. After moving back to her home town of Mount Gambier, Eerin spoke to a careers advisor at UniSA who suggested she start with the Foundation Studies program for a more supported transition back to study. Eerin transferred into the Bachelor of Social Work, and is enjoying being immersed in a positive student community.

Eerin shares some advice about studying, “Don’t wait! If you are passionate and really want to begin your career, UniSA Mount Gambier is a great place to start. We have small classes which gives you so much more specialised contact with both the lecturers and tutors. Every person on campus, whether its staff or other students are here to help in any way to make your experience as amazing as possible. It was the best decision of my life, and would not have done it any other way.”

Prioritising the region

UniSA is dedicating $12 million in funding from the Federal Government to expand our physical footprint in Mount Gambier as part of the $22 million UniSA Regional Connections project.

Student learning spaces

Part of expanding facilities, the Mount Gambier New Learning Centre is being built in 2015 for local UniSA students. Specialist teaching facilities for health and social work students will include treatment rooms modelled on Royal Adelaide Hospital and Mount Gambier Hospital, to enable students to learn in real-world scenarios.

Access to new high-speed fibre optic infrastructure, will give you the same UniSA curriculum, resources and academics, as students in the city. Collaborative learning spaces and modern teaching facilities will be linked through a central piazza where students can relax and interact.

All that jazz

New to the University is a partnership with James Morrison Academy of Music, situated in the Old Town Hall building in the heart of the city. Students can enrol through UniSA to study diploma and associate degrees from 2015, and the Bachelor of Music from 2016. Courses are taught by internationally-renowned jazz musicians from both Australia and around the world.

Visit us

Come to Mount Gambier and explore facilities, speak to current students and meet academic staff at Open Day. It’s a great chance to ask questions about programs, student life and support services.

Mount Gambier Open Day

Thursday, 20 August 2015

Wireless Road West, Mount Gambier

unisa.edu.au/infosessions

We focus on quality teaching and learning, and are committed to producing graduates who can make a difference to the vibrant Mount Gambier community.

Located close to the vines of the Coonawarra wine region, the ancient majesty of the Naracoorte Caves and the coastal village of Robe on the Southern Ocean, the town itself offers a rich arts and cultural scene and a range of sporting activities.

Situated an equal distance between Adelaide and Melbourne, the campus is often a choice for rural and regional students in South Australia and Victoria.

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Situated an equal distance between Adelaide and Melbourne, the campus is often a choice for rural and regional students in South Australia and Victoria.
Study away: in Adelaide

As a regional student, you can also choose to relocate and study at one of the city campuses, and UniSA is here to help with the transition.

The change from a smaller community to a larger capital city brings with it a number of new experiences. UniSA understands that this change is a big deal. Be prepared to seek help and ask questions as you go along so that you settle in to uni life as smoothly as possible.

Helpful hints for relocating to Adelaide

Before you arrive

**Explore your study options**

Visit our website to find out more about your study options at UniSA including what you will study, entry requirements, such as prerequisites and career outcomes, and more.

unisa.edu.au/future

**Research scholarship opportunities**

UniSA offers a wide range of scholarships including rural and regional specific grants, like the UniSA Rural Connect Scholarship which assists students to fund their relocation costs. Research options early so you can apply for assistance.

unisa.edu.au/scholarships

**Look into accommodation options**

If you’re considering living in a residential college it is important to start the application process early. Our websites details your accommodation options and provides details about our accommodation service to assist you to find the right living situation.

Once you have worked out the basics like where to live, how much you want to spend, and what type of dwelling, we have advisors and a rental database to help you search for a new home. Additional costs related to your accommodation and living situation are also to be expected.

unisa.edu.au/accommodation

Once you’ve made the move

**Access the support services available**

For any challenges you face from administration to accommodation issues, personal health to essay writing support, UniSA has support services for you. Campus Central on each campus, or online services, can help direct your question.

unisa.edu.au/studentservices

**Find your way to uni**

It is important to plan how you will get to uni. You can make the most of Adelaide being a smaller capital city and drive, cycle or catch public transport to your campus. Parking at the suburban campuses is very cheap, and bike storage and showers are available at all campuses. A Campus Connector bus service also runs between Magill and Mawson Lakes campuses.

unisa.edu.au/campusfacilities

**Connect with Career Services**

Part-time or full-time work can assist with financial obligations but can also provide opportunities to develop skills and gain experience in the work force. Our Career Services Team can assist you to find paid work or unpaid volunteer and internship opportunities that will help you get experience in your chosen field. Towards the end of your studies or when you graduate, services like CareerShop can help you find your first professional job, so start using them early.

unisa.edu.au/careers

**Consider a student exchange**

Get more than just a university education while you’re at UniSA and consider a student exchange, global volunteer program, field placement, or leadership program overseas. Travel grants are available, and links to international institutions can lead to further study or even employment opportunities in another country.

unisa.edu.au/globalopportunities
Jess McMullen chose to study her first year of a double degree in property and management at UniSA externally from Whyalla, while working in the office of her family’s construction business. “Studying externally taught me great time management skills and required high levels of self-motivation. It was a great foundation for the rest of my degree,” Jess explains.

Jess chose to move to Adelaide for her second year to study with other business students on campus, “I love being on campus at UniSA, getting involved in events and other social groups.”

Certainly thriving after the move, Jess was named 2015 Student Ambassador for Property and also chosen as a board member of the Commerce Student Association. “Studying internally has also allowed me to make invaluable key-industry contacts.”

“After graduation I see myself working in the property industry in either commercial/industrial sales or valuation. I believe UniSA has provided me a great environment to develop excellence by both theory and practical learning and I aim to maintain this level of quality in my future career,” Jess says.
Start your journey with UniSA

At UniSA we’ve got all the tools to help you shape your career direction.

Research careers and stay in touch

Sign up to receive regular emails reminding you about events, work experience opportunities, and updates on career and industry news specific to your area of study – let us do the hard work for you. Visit the UniSA website for an overview of key information events, useful links, and brochures to download to help you start planning for university.

unisa.edu.au/mycareer

Attend our career events

**UniSA Open Day**
Sunday, 16 August 2015
City West and City East campuses, Adelaide
unisa.edu.au/openday

**Mount Gambier Open Day**
Thursday, 20 August 2015
Wireless Road West, Mount Gambier

**Whyalla Open Day**
Sunday, 30 August 2015
111 Nicolson Avenue, Whyalla
unisa.edu.au/infosessions

Apply through SATAC

For most undergraduate and postgraduate programs you need to apply through the SATAC website. All the detail you need about application requirements, deadlines and available UniSA programs is available online.
unisa.edu.au/apply

For any further questions on studying with UniSA, speak to Future Student Enquiries by calling 08 8302 2376 or submit an enquiry:
unisa.edu.au/enquiry
Your life at UniSA

Student life is not just lectures, tutorials, assignments and formal learning; there are many other activities to add to the list:

1. **Student experience:** tap into a range of social activities, clubs, volunteering opportunities, cheap breakfast on campus and even free movies – and your own student association.

2. **UniSA Sport:** be part of a team at uni, challenge yourself, meet new people and take part in sporting events like the Australian University Games or Team UniSA Bay to City.

3. **Global opportunities:** add a global perspective to your university time with a student exchange, study tour, or short-term program at one of our international partner institutions.

4. **Volunteering:** give back to your community and use your developing skills by volunteering in a local organisation. Boost your resume and meet new people while making a difference.

5. **Student Services:** there is always a solution to your study-related or personal challenges. Advice and support is available on campus or online at UniSA to get you back on track.

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Tips for successful students

We asked current students about what makes a successful student, and here are some hints:

- **Develop self-study habits:** learn how to motivate yourself to start and finish your readings, exercises, essays and exam study – doing the work is the key to university study.

- **Set up space and time to study:** have a dedicated space with a desk, away from housemates, siblings, children and social media, so you can form good study habits.

- **Stay positive:** you may receive a poor grade or get overwhelmed by work, study and life commitments, but there is always a solution. Seek help from support services early.

- **Talk about your study:** share your successes and failures with your support networks at home and at university, so you can learn from each experience.

- **Manage your work/life balance:** avoid over-committing to work and study loads, and better manage your deadlines, with the help of on-campus and online support resources.