

### **Q. Do I need a Bachelor's degree to study a Masters?**

A: If you have sufficient experience, we can often accept this in lieu of a Bachelor's qualification. Read more about gaining a postgraduate degree without a Bachelor's [here](#).

### **Q. Can I fast track the course to one year?**

A: The course cannot be fast tracked more so than what it already has been, but after an assessment of potential advance standing, we can determine your actual completion date.

### **Q. How are SCU's study periods structured?**

A: Rather than enrolling into two semesters per year, SCU Online students can study at any six times throughout the year, and complete up to six units in a year.

### **Q. Can I study multiple units at a time and finish faster?**

A: No, our study periods run in seven-week cycles. Therefore, to effectively consolidate what you have learnt from each unit, you should only study one unit at a time. Having said that, you can study up to six units in a year, which means you can graduate faster than if you were studying on-campus.

### **Q. Am I required to sit through scheduled lectures?**

A: There are no pre-defined lectures that you must sit through, however, each unit of study has required readings, videos and recordings. It is up to the student to organise their own time to be keep up-to-date with the weekly content and to then prepare for the following week's content.

### **Q. What kind of support will I receive during my study at SCU?**

A: All SCU Online students have access to a dedicated Student Success Advisor throughout the course, to help motivate you and navigate through the online experience. Your unit assessors and tutors are also available to provide academic-related assistance.

### **Q. How do I network with other students?**

A: You can contact your peers via our online learning platform, Blackboard. There are various student discussion boards that you can use to connect with other students as well as academics. You can tag other students in a chat if you wish them to receive a notification. There will be a general discussion board, as well as boards created specifically for assignments (created and facilitated by the course tutor).

### **Q. How can I contact my tutor?**

A: Your tutor is contactable via the online learning platform, Blackboard. You will be given their direct email and a note of his/her office hours. You can also contact or tag your tutor in the student discussion boards. Some discussion boards will be created and facilitated by your tutor and these will relate specifically to learning topics or assignments.

### **Q. Do you offer any face-to-face classes or workshops?**

A: No, all courses are 100% online, although there may be some live online sessions with your tutor via [Blackboard Collaborate](#). These sessions are recorded and made accessible at a later date.

### **Q. What should I do when I encounter errors during the online application process?**

A: Southern Cross University recommends using Internet Explorer when uploading application documentation. If you continue to encounter issues while you are working through the process, please call one of our friendly Student Enrolment Advisors on 1300 589 882.

### **Q. What qualification will I have upon completion of the course?**

A: Depending on what type of course you study, you will be awarded either a Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma (AQF Level 8) or a Master's degree (AQF Level 9) qualification. Check out the definitions on [the AQF website](#).

### **Q. Will there be any mention of 'online' on my transcript?**

A: No, your transcript will not mention 'online' – you will obtain the same qualification you would receive if you were studying that course on-campus.

### **Q. What's the difference between FEE-HELP & HECS? Which one can I use to pay for the course?**

A: FEE-HELP is the Government loan that full-fee paying postgraduate students use when they wish to defer their payment. This is the equivalent of HECS, which is used for undergraduate study. Go to the [StudyAssist website](#) to learn more.

### **Q. Am I eligible for FEE-HELP?**

A: You will be eligible for FEE-HELP if you meet the citizenship and residency requirements laid out by the Australian Government. To determine whether you are eligible, visit the [StudyAssist FEE-HELP page](#).

### **Q. Do any of SCU Online's courses offer Commonwealth-supported places?**

A: No, but students have access to FEE-HELP Government loans should they meet the requirements outlined above.

### **Q. What is the international fee for the course?**

A: The fee for international students varies by course. Speak to a Student Enrolment Advisor to understand costing for your course. As an international student, it is unlikely that you will qualify for FEE-HELP.

### **Q. How does SCU rank in comparison to other universities?**

A: Southern Cross University is in the top 150 universities in the world under 50 years old ([Times Higher Education Young University Rankings, 2017](#)). The University has also been named in the Top 50 of Generation Y universities. These rankings are based on the THE World University Rankings - teaching, research, citations, international outlook and industry income.

### **Q. How long has Southern Cross University been around?**

A: Southern Cross University (SCU) had its beginnings in the 1970s operating as a teacher's college and in 1994, it was established as a university. It prides itself as a pioneer in distance education. Learn more about Southern Cross University [here](#).