



Curtin/Curtin-OUA Equivalence Conventions

OVERVIEW

Open Universities Australia is a broker and provider of educational products and services owned by seven universities, including Curtin University. OUA facilitates the online delivery of University courses from over 20 universities, including Curtin University.

Courses and components (majors, minors, streams and units) offered at both Curtin (in an internal and/or external mode) and online through Open Universities Australia (OUA) will meet the *Curtin-OUA Equivalence Conventions* as specified in this document. Equivalence refers to courses and components attributes/text that is required to be identical or comparable and where attributes/text may be different between the two offerings.

Changes proposed for the non-OUA courses and components will apply to the Curtin-OUA equivalent courses and components (unless otherwise justified) and vice versa.

Where equivalence cannot be met (due to, but not limited to, any of the following factors including differences between the OUA and Curtin approval timeframes or operating systems, requirements from external regulatory authorities and/or because the change is considered inappropriate) an academic defence will be required for approval in accordance with the *Course Approval and Quality Manual: Consolidated Policies and Procedures*.

Refer to the *Study Package Text Guide* for further information on specific details/text identified in this document.

COURSE EQUIVALENCE REQUIREMENTS

Identical Requirements	Comparable Requirements	Possible Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Learning Outcomes (OUA Course Objectives) • Award Pathways Text • Credit for Recognised Learning Text (OUA Recognition of Prior Learning/Credit) • Course Title • Award Title(s) • Field of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course overview (OUA Introduction) • Award Details text • Entry requirements (if the course is restricted) • Course structure • Duration and Availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Accreditation & Professional Recognition text • Award Features Text • Career Outcomes text • Entry requirements (if the course is not restricted) • Course Organisation text • Further Information text • Additional course expenses • Course Entry/ Completion note • Practicum placements • Recommended study pattern • Open enrolment units • ESOS compliance

Identical Course Requirements

- Course Title is the same with the exception that (OpenUnis) or (OpenUnis CSP) is included in brackets after the title to distinguish the Curtin-OUA course from the non-OUA course.
- Award Title(s) - despite having a different course title on Student One, the Curtin-OUA course must have the same award title(s) as Curtin. If majors, honours streams or specialisations are not offered through OUA, the award titles that relate to these majors and streams are not included in the list of approved awards.

Comparable Course Requirements

- Course Overview Text - the Course Overview (Generic) text makes reference to the course type, which may differ if honours is offered at Curtin. The course overview (specific) text must be comparable.
- Award Details Text is generic but the statement will identify 'Open Universities Australia' for Curtin-OUA courses. The duration referred to in this text must be comparable for OUA and Curtin.
- Duration and Availability text must be comparable- the total course credits must be the same but an OUA program might be able to be fast-tracked due to the academic calendar (4 study periods as opposed to 2 semesters) and there may be different intakes.
- Course Entry requirements may be restricted; all postgraduate courses and some undergraduate courses (e.g. Bachelor of Education (Primary) and Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)) are restricted. Courses that have restricted access, such as postgraduate courses or CSP courses, must have comparable Course Entry Requirements (Specific).
- Course Structure - course structure must follow the same structure, using comparable units. Sometimes OUA have an existing equivalent unit offered by a different provider, which may be used in the place of a Curtin-OUA unit.
- Less option units may be offered through OUA, in some cases OUA students may have a core unit instead of a choice of options, provided that the core unit is equivalent to a unit on the Curtin structure's option list.
- Optional units may not be offered through OUA and may be replaced by a core unit instead of a choice of options, provided that the core unit is equivalent to a unit on the Curtin structure's option list.

Differences in Course Requirements

- Award Features Text - as the course structure may be different for OUA and Curtin courses, the award features text may differ between the two courses.
- Career opportunities, known as career outcomes at OUA, and may differ if OUA has a different market or professional recognition/accreditation.
- Entry requirements – non-restricted courses have no entry requirements.
- Course organisation, known as award requirements at OUA, - OUA courses may have different Course Organisation (Specific) text.
- Further Information, known as how to apply at OUA, - Further Information text for Curtin-OUA courses provides details on how to apply for the course unlike Curtin Further Information text, which provides details on who to contact for more information.
- Additional course expenses, known as study materials at OUA, - Curtin-OUA courses may have different course expenses due to the difference in delivery modes.
- Course Entry/Completion Note, known as special requirements at OUA.
- Practicum placements, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Recommended Study Pattern, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Open Enrolment units, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- ESOS compliance - OUA courses are undertaken externally and are therefore not compliant with the ESOS Act or available for CRICOS registration. Therefore, a non-OUA course which is CRICOS registered will have different ESOS compliance to the Curtin-OUA equivalent.

MAJORS/MINORS/STREAMS EQUIVALENCE REQUIREMENTS

Identical Requirements	Comparable Requirements	Possible Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Outcomes (OUA course objectives) • Entry Requirements (if applicable) • Title • Award titles (applied at a course level) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major/stream/minor overview (OUA Introduction) • Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Accreditation & Professional Recognition text • Award Features Text • Career Outcomes text (OUA Career Opportunities)

• Field of Education		
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UNIT EQUIVALENCE REQUIREMENTS

Identical Requirements	Comparable Requirements	Possible Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus (OUA Unit Description) • Unit Learning Outcomes • Title • Field of Education • Credit value • Year Level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Breakdown • Requisites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional tuition pattern information • Further information • Additional Requisite Information • Modules • Topics • Textbooks • Study resources • Academic references • Student requirements • Special requirements • Computer requirements • Availabilities • Tuition pattern

Comparable Unit Requirements

- Assessment Breakdown - the number of assessments, unit learning outcomes addressed, requirements of the assessment tasks and their weighting must be the same, but the actual task and delivery mode may differ. OUA consider exams to be invigilated, if the exam is not invigilated, it should be recorded as a test.
- Credit Value is identical, but is listed differently on OUA documentation. For example, a 25 credit unit is considered by OUA to be a 0.125 EFTSL unit, and would be listed as 0.125 EFTSL on all OUA documentation.
- Requisites - If the Curtin unit has a prerequisite unit, the OUA unit must have the prerequisite's equivalent as its prerequisite. If the equivalent is offered by a different university (or if there is an alternate prerequisite offered at a different university), the prerequisite(s) will be listed in the text as Additional Requisite Information. All other prerequisites will be listed in this requisites tab on Student One.
As requisite waivers are a major workload issue, the school should carefully consider the need for requisites and unit scheduling to prevent the use of requisite waivers wherever possible.

Differences in Unit Requirements

- Tuition Pattern for OUA units is not recorded on Student One and Additional Tuition Pattern Information is not required for OUA units.
- Modules, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Topics, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Textbooks, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Study resources, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Academic references, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Student requirements, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).
- Special requirements, OUA only text (not recorded in Student One).