Agent Update 51- 22 May 2003

1. FEES FOR 2004
As stated in the last update, tuition fees for University courses in 2004 have been set, and are attached. The new fees will apply to all offers made for University courses commencing in 2004 made from TODAY - Thursday, 22 May 2003. They apply to all offer letters issued from TODAY for all UOW courses commencing in 2004 (and later). Student body fees (compulsory service charges) are ADDITIONAL to the tuition fees.

The University will maintain its fees policy of holding the fee quoted in the offer letter valid for the duration of a student's course (i.e. the 2004 fee will continue to apply for the duration of the course, and will NOT increase year-by-year). WUC is shortly to set its fees for 2004.

2. CRICOS UPDATE
Please find this attached, for use by agents with admissions delegations (see Attachment 2). It has up-to-date CRICOS Course Codes, and we have included the total tuition fees payable for the course for your reference when advising students of financial evidence requirements.

3. MATERIALS MAIL OUT
In approximately two to three weeks you will be receiving by courier an International Materials Pack containing copies of the most current UOW promotional items - including the new 2003/2004 Undergraduate course brochures mentioned in Agent Update 49. Please read the letter which accompanies the Materials Pack for more information regarding UOW course information and instructions on how to request further quantities of UOW materials.

4. MORE WEB UPDATES
News @ UOW http://media.uow.edu.au/news/
- the revised site has a number of new features including a PDF version of Campus News and a list of regularly updated links to external news sites. A new "NewsDirect" email registration service offers users the option of receiving regular UOW news updates and the new Image Gallery will provide searchable access to thousands of images of the University, its staff, students and facilities.
Faculty of Engineering  http://www.uow.edu.au/eng/
- the revised site reflects new Faculty School structure with new, more dynamic content including "Focus on Engineering" news updates and student/graduate/staff profiles.

- formerly Online Calendar; the new site provides access to all course related information including course and subject descriptions for current and past years, course codes and abbreviations, course rules, policies, and Codes of Practice. Additionally, the 2003 course information and subject descriptions (as they appear in the 2003 print Calendar) can be downloaded as separate PDF documents for each faculty.


5  SARS Update

The University of Wollongong (UoW) places great importance on the health and safety of all students and staff. The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is of particular concern, not just for the University but for the whole community. It is clear that there are some students and staff at UoW who are worried about the risk of infection and are anxious to know that appropriate steps have been taken to minimise risk, particularly as some of our students will have recently been in areas where SARS has been detected.

UOW's approach to this matter is consistent with the advice issued by both the Australian and NSW State Government. A general quarantine of any adult travelling from a SARS infected area has not been recommended or implemented at this stage. All arrivals in Australia from SARS infected areas are being screened by appropriate Australian authorities at the point of entry and if symptoms are detected, those individuals are being referred for medical attention.

The Government's policy is that isolation of anyone who has been in these areas as a matter of course is not warranted. Individuals need to be alert to possible SARS symptoms [rapid onset of fever (temperature over 38 degrees) and cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties] and seek medical advice if they think they have the symptoms or feel unwell. The exceptions are: health care workers who have been to a hospital or clinic that has cared for SARS patients. This includes University staff/students who have been in SARS affected countries.

These people should exclude themselves from the University and/or health care facility for 10 days after leaving the affected area. In addition any student who has to undertake a practicum in a health or education institution must not do so for 14 days after returning from a SARS affected country.

This is the approach being taken by UoW. No students, other than the exceptions noted above are being restricted from attending our campuses or education centres in Australia and we are relying on anyone displaying symptoms to take appropriate action and seek medical advice. We expect all students and staff to be vigilant about this.

6  DIMIA OUTCOME

On 31 March 2003, the Federal Government announced that graduates applying after 30 June 2003 for permanent residency under the work experience exemption provisions of the skilled migration scheme, would be required to have completed two years study in Australia. Following representations made by the University, the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Philip Ruddock, announced on 14 May 2003 transitional arrangements for overseas students wanting to remain in Australia after completing their studies.

The transitional arrangements mean overseas students studying in Australia on or before 31 March 2003 can have their application to remain in Australia considered under the current one-year study requirement.

DIMIA has since advised us that to take advantage of the transitional arrangements, students have until 1 April 2004 to lodge an application to remain in Australia under the General Skilled Migration category.
This will inevitably mean that some students who are due to graduate in June 2004 on completion of a three semester (72 credit point) program will NOT qualify under the new rules.

We are advised that no further changes to the transitional arrangements will be considered by DIMIA.

We have asked for clarification from DIMIA as to which level and field of studies following a one-and-a-half year masters program will be acceptable to qualify for the new two-year requirement, and will advise you in a future update.

7 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOCUS IN NATIONAL BUDGET

In the Australian Federal Budget announced on Tuesday night, a number of initiatives regarding international education were announced, both by AEI (Australian Education International) and DIMIA.

Highlights are:
- 30 new scholarships for high achieving students to study in Australia at postgraduate level
- a loans program enabling 2,500 Australian students to study abroad for one or two semesters (rising to 10,000 by 2008)
- new AEI education counsellors in Europe, North America, Latin America and Europe

DIMIA has announced increased funding to ensure compliance with student visa conditions, by institutions as well as students, and will be identifying agents associated with student applications.

They will also be introducing two new visa categories: a "guardian visa" and a "professional development visa" especially designed for special short-term study groups.

Regrettably, part of the funding for these initiatives will come from an increase in the cost of a student visa from $315 to $400.


8 CISCO ACADEMY

The CISCO Academy within the Faculty of Informatics has had more than 90 students take its Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA™) course this year.

The course is especially popular with international students who recognise the value of a multinational accreditation.

While the Academy subjects are NOT UOW subjects, students taking a degree at UOW can gain advanced standing for the courses taken in the Academy for the following programs, with up to 12 credit points (6 @ 100-level and 6 @ 200-level)

- BInfo Tech - Software Engineering
- BInfo Tech - Network Management
- BInfo Tech - Telecommunications
- BInfo Tech - Business Information Systems
- BInfo Tech - Combined Specialisations
- BComp Sci
- BMath-BCompSci

For the Master of Computer Studies, students can receive up to 12 credit points advanced standing at 900 level.
In August 2003, the SCJP™ Academy Program will be offered, and in January 2004 the CCNP™ Academy Program.

More details can be found at the Academy’s website at http://www.sitacs.uow.edu.au/CiscoAcademy or email to cisco_enquiries@uow.edu.au.

9 CORRECTION ON MASTER OF COMPUTER STUDIES

Please note that this is now a 3-semester (72 credit point) course. The attachment in Agent Update 50 (9 May 2003) contained incorrect information on the course structure. The correct information is as appears in Attachment 3 (below).

Students who have offers for the two-session program for Spring 2003 will still be offered the two session program. Students who have offers for 2004, and those who seek to defer their offer for Spring 2003, must undertake the new three-session program.

10 NEW OSHC PROVIDER

The University and the College have signed an agreement with Australian Health Management Group (AHMG) to handle our students’ OSHC. As a Wollongong based provider, AHMG will provide an enhanced level of service for students, including on-line claims, rapid issue of membership cards, specialised OSHC team to answer all enquiries, and on-campus representatives at enrolment.

Students enrolling in Spring 2003 will have OSHC membership with AHMG.

We would ask you to remind students that they must remain covered by OSHC at all times in the period of their student visa. We understand that a number of students do NOT extend their OSHC health coverage after their initial (usually 1 year) membership, and are breaching their conditions of visa, as well as subjecting themselves to the risk of high medical and hospital costs, by failing to do so.

For more information on AHMG, go to http://www.oshc.com.au/

11 PAYMENT OF POSTGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE

A reminder that this fee can only be accepted in AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS. Cheques or payments in other currencies cannot be accepted, and will be returned to you for re-issue.

12 IELTS TESTING IN CHINA

IELTS Australia has advised that no IELTS tests will be run in China until at least the end of August.
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1a and 1b

Attachment 1a and 1b is available upon request to Kathryn Olde (International Marketing Assistant, Wollongong UniAdvice) by email to olde@uow.edu.au.

Attachment 2

Attachment 2 is available upon request to Kathryn Olde (International Marketing Assistant, Wollongong UniAdvice) by email to olde@uow.edu.au.

Attachment 3

DETAILS OF NEW MASTER OF COMPUTER STUDIES (CORRECTION)

First intake: Spring 2003
Entry: Autumn and Spring
Campus: Wollongong
Duration: 3 sessions (72 credit points)
Tuition Fees: $8,900 per session.

Course structure:

6 core subjects (each 6 credit points - total 36 credit points)

Computer Programming
Information Technology B
Data Structures
Data Structures, Algorithms, Systems
C Family and UNIX
Citizens' Rights in the Information Society.

PLUS

6 subjects from the following (each 6 credit points - total 36 credit points), with AT LEAST 2 subjects chosen from among the subjects marked with (*)

Information & Communication Security Issues*
The Wired World*
Database Design & Implementation*
Database Performance Tuning*
Systems Administration*
Artificial Intelligence*
Human Computer Interface*
Interfacing & Real Time Programming*
Organisation of Programming Languages*
Computer Security*
Advanced Topics in Database Management*
Theory of Computer Science
Computer Systems Architecture
Development Methods & Tools
Operating Systems
Java Programming & the Internet
Distributed Systems
Database Systems