



Agent Update 66

4 August 2005

1. CHANGES TO POSTGRADUATE COMMERCE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FROM 2006

The Faculty of Commerce has introduced changes to the English language requirements for most postgraduate coursework programs, and the academic entry requirements for the Master of International Business and Master of Science (Logistics), for students commencing in 2006 (see 1.5 for implementation details). A new Graduate Certificate in Commerce is being introduced as a pathway to Masters programs. Details of these changes are described below.

1.1 Changes to English Language Requirements for Postgraduate Commerce

All postgraduate Commerce courses will require IELTS Overall 6.5 with 6 in each of the reading, writing, speaking and listening sub-bands, just as the MBA currently requires.

The *exceptions* will be the Graduate Diploma in Information Systems (GDipIS) and the new Graduate Certificate in Commerce (GCertCom). Undergraduate courses and postgraduate research courses in Commerce *also* remain at the 'standard' English requirement of IELTS 6.0 and 6 in reading/writing and 5 in speaking/listening sub-bands.

Students who obtain a minimum of 6 in each IELTS sub-band, but do NOT have an overall score of 6.5, will continue to have direct entry to a Commerce Masters program (except the MBA) BUT will be required to take the subject TBS985 (Communication for International Business) in addition to their normal degree requirements in their first session of study. Offers to these students will be made for a 54 credit point program, over two semesters, for a total fee of \$20,700.

The additional tuition cost for students taking TBS985 under this circumstance is \$2,300 (i.e. the equivalent cost of one subject).

The revised English language requirements, including the equivalent scores from TOEFL and WUC English language courses have been amended on our website at:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/english/uni.html>

1.2 New English language pathway programs at WUC Sydney and Wollongong

WUC will offer 5-week English language courses for students who have an overall IELTS 6 and are applying for a postgraduate course in Commerce with a requirement of IELTS 6.5.

This will be a 5-week English for Business (EB) to be run at WUC Wollongong AND WUC Sydney prior to each of the Graduate School of Business/Sydney Business School intakes (A, B, C and D).

Starting dates for the 5-week EB will be 14 November 2005 (for intake A 2006), 13 March 2006 (for intake B 2006), 29 May (for intake C 2006), and 7 August 2006 (for intake D 2006).

For students commencing in autumn or spring sessions the 5-week English for Tertiary Studies (ETS) remains the best option.

Starting dates for the 5-week ETS will be 3 January 2006 (for autumn 2006) and 29 May 2006 (for spring 2006).

Note that a score of 65% will be required in EB and ETS for those courses which have an entry level of IELTS 6.5.

Tuition fees for the 5-week program are \$1650 (as compared to \$2300 for the TBS985 subject described above).

1.3 Changes to academic entry requirements for Master of Science (Logistics) and Master of International Business (MIB)

Direct entry to the Master of Science (Logistics) will require a bachelors degree *with a major study related to commerce, business, engineering, maths or information technology*. Students with other majors may be considered for direct entry if they have at least two years' relevant professional experience, as evidenced by completion of the Employment History Form:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/downloads/app-forms/employmenthistory.pdf>

Direct entry to the MIB will now require a bachelor degree *with a major in commerce or business*. Students with a degree in a non-business area may be considered for direct entry if they have:

- completed a minor study in business: such students would need to have completed at least eight business-related subjects within their degree to be considered for entry; or
- a demonstrated ability in business, such as two years' work experience, as evidenced on the Employment History Form. In this case, the applicant does not need to have managerial/supervisory experience: the emphasis will be on the applicant's practical experience in a business-related field. For example, those who have worked as an accounts clerk, personnel officer, marketing or other business contexts may be considered.

1.4 NEW: Graduate Certificate in Commerce (GCertCom) for students not qualified for direct entry to Masters

All postgraduate masters courses (with the exception of the Master of Professional Accounting (MPA), the Master of Business Administration (MBA) and the MBA (Advanced) will be 48 credit points (1 year full time equivalent).

The course Graduate Certificate in Commerce (GCertCom) will serve as a pathway to most Masters in Commerce and is designed for students who do not meet the requirements for direct entry to the 48 credit point masters.

After completing the GCertCom, students may progress to a Masters degree, effectively providing a 1.5-year program of study to complete a Masters program. The GCertCom can be used to progress to the following degrees:

- Master of Applied Finance (Banking)
- Master of Finance
- Master of International Business
- Master of Science (Logistics)
- Master of Strategic Management and Marketing
- Master of Strategic Management

- Master of Strategic Marketing
- Master of Strategic Human Resources Management

An offer to the GCertCom plus Masters can be made to enable application for a visa for the full duration of study.

The entry requirements for the GCertCom, and the circumstances in which it can be used to progress to a Masters course, are described in the revised Postgraduate Commerce admissions requirements, shortly to be posted at

http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/pg_admission/index.html

The GCertCom will NOT be used for progression to Accountancy or Information Systems courses or the MBA or MBA Advanced as there is no change to the entry requirements or pathways programs in these areas.

The four subjects taken in the GCertCom will depend on the student's background and intended Masters course. A student wishing to progress to the Master of Strategic Marketing, for example, will take four marketing-related subjects.

Students who do not meet the new English language requirements for Postgraduate Commerce (and who meet the Standard English Language Requirement of IELTS 6 overall) will be able to *include* TBS985 Communication for International Business as one of their subjects in the Graduate Certificate (i.e. TBS985 + 3 other subjects).

The introduction of the Graduate Certificate in Commerce provides a common 'pathway' to Masters programs in the Faculty of Commerce, and is tailored to enable students to gain the academic knowledge and, if relevant, improved English skills, to meet the demands of successful Masters study. Therefore the following courses which have previously been used as a 'pathway' program will NOT be offered from 2006:

- Graduate Diploma in Commerce (Accounting, Finance, Economics)
- Graduate Diploma in Management
- Graduate Diploma in Marketing
- Graduate Certificate in Management
- Graduate Certificate in Marketing
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Economics

In addition, offers should not generally be made to the following courses, as they are NOT entry pathways - the entry requirements are the same as the respective Masters course. They have been retained only for students who will study a *maximum* of six months at UOW:

- Graduate Certificate in International Business
- Graduate Certificate in Business Administration
- Graduate Certificate in Logistics
- Graduate Certificate in Forensic Accounting
- Graduate Certificate in Banking and Finance
- Graduate Certificate in Information Systems

1.5. Implementation

All of the changes described above are effective from courses commencing in 2006. In order to facilitate the changes, please note:

Admission criteria changes to MIB and MSc (Logistics)

- applications for the MIB or MSc (Logistics) which have been assessed and an offer letter issued (dated) by 31 August 2005 will be assessed under the existing requirements. Any student who does not have an offer letter issued by 31 August

2005, or who request a deferment, must be assessed under the new admission criteria described above.

English Language Requirement Changes for all Postgraduate Commerce

- any student who has an offer of admission dated on or before 31 August 2005 may enrol as offered. Any offers made after 31 August 2005, including deferment requests, will be assessed according to the new English language requirements.

If you have any questions about these changes, then please contact the Admissions Case Officer for your country:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/international/agent/service.html>