The Change to a Trimester System

From 2012, the Sydney Business School (SBS) will be offering all its courses at Sydney and Wollongong on a trimester system. Students will be able to choose from three start dates a year in both locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trimester</th>
<th>Orientation and Enrolment Day (commencing 9.30 am)</th>
<th>Trimester Dates (inclusive of examination week)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trimester 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 24 &amp; Wednesday 25 January</td>
<td>30 January – 28 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trimester 2</td>
<td>Thursday 3 &amp; Friday 4 May</td>
<td>7 May – 4 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trimester 3</td>
<td>Thursday 9 &amp; Friday 10 August</td>
<td>13 August – 10 November</td>
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Under the new trimester system, students commencing in 2012 will follow the structures below:

- students taking an 8-subject Masters or Graduate Diploma will normally study in 3+3+2 subject delivery mode, and therefore finish in a duration of one year as per the current semester system. This applies to the following courses:
  - Master of International Business
  - Master of Management
  - Master of Project Management
  - Master of Retail Management
  - Master of Science (Logistics)
  - Graduate Diploma in Business Administration

- students taking the 12-subject MBA will study in a 3+3+3+3 delivery mode, and therefore finish in 15 months (reducing the duration by three months compared to the current semester system).

- students taking the 16-subject MBA Advanced will follow the above MBA pattern for the first 12 subjects, and then take one additional trimester of four subjects. This will take the duration to a total of 5 trimesters or 18 months.

- Students taking a Graduate Certificate will complete four subjects per trimester, and will therefore finish their course in three months.

Advantages of the Trimester System

Introduction of the trimester system will bring consistency to the starting dates at SBS teaching locations in Sydney and the Wollongong Innovation Campus, as well as introducing a new commencement in May each year.

An advantage of the trimester system is that students may be able to accelerate their Masters study by completing four subjects per trimester. For example, under the fast-track option an 8-subject Masters course could be completed in a 4+4 subject delivery mode, within 2 trimesters (or approximately 7 months). Taking a ‘fast-track’ load of four subjects per trimester will depend on subject selection and availability in any given trimester.
If you will be studying English at UOW College before your SBS course:

- **Trimester 1 2012 Arrangements**

For students destined for SBS in 2012 who are undertaking an English language course at UOW College in Wollongong, and completing English for Tertiary Studies or English for Business in February 2012, transitional arrangements are in place. These students will attend the SBS orientation program on 24 January 2012 and attend SBS classes in the first week of the trimester prior to their English language results being available on 8 February 2012.

- **Trimester 2 2012 Arrangements**

For Trimester 2 commencing 7 May, students requiring English at UOW College in Wollongong will need to undertake an IELTS Preparation course, and IELTS testing, to meet the English entry requirement. The relevant course dates for IELTS Preparation (6 week course) are:

- 20 February – 30 March 2012 (recommended); or
- 2 April – 11 May 2012 (transitional arrangements will be in place to allow commencement in Trimester 2 for those meeting the IELTS requirement)

Students not meeting the IELTS test requirement following their IELTS Preparation course may extend their English study and defer their SBS course to the next trimester. Even with an extension of the English course, students in this situation will be able to finish within the expected time by taking advantage of the fast-track option of four subjects per trimester.

- **Trimester 3 2012 Arrangements**

The Direct Entry English for Business or English for Tertiary Studies programs ending on 24 June 2012 are recommended for those requiring an English course at UOW College before Trimester 3 (commencing 13 August).

An IELTS Preparation course from 2 July to 10 August is also available, however applicants must complete IELTS testing in order to progress to their SBS course.

Further information on English courses, including dates, fees and entry requirements are available from the UOW College website: [www.uowcollege.edu.au/english_programs/academic_english](http://www.uowcollege.edu.au/english_programs/academic_english)

**Offer Letters**

From 9 September 2011, all new offer letters issued will reflect the new trimester dates.

For students already holding an offer to an SBS course starting in 2012, replacement offers reflecting the new trimester dates will be issued during the week commencing 12 September 2011. We appreciate your patience and understanding in implementing this change.

Please note the move to a Trimester system applies only to courses offered by SBS – all other programs offered by the University of Wollongong will remain on the current semester system of Autumn (February) and Spring (July) Session each year.

**Further information**

If you have a question in relation to these changes, please contact Chen Zhu in the Sydney Business School. Tel: +61.2.4221 4040   Email: czhu@uow.edu.au