

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **WHAT SETS HEALTH COURSES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA APART FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTRY?**

The 2012 *Good Universities Guide* (now available for purchase) has revealed some strong ratings for South Australian universities across a number of different categories, including 5 STAR ratings for the University of Adelaide in 'Student Demand', 'Research Grants' and 'Research Intensity'; the University of South Australia (UniSA) for 'Cultural Diversity' and 'Access By Equity Group'; and Flinders University for 'Staff-Student Ratio'.

The *Guide* estimates that only around ten per cent of South Australia's commencing undergraduates are from interstate and, while the South Australian universities are not as well-represented overall in terms of graduate experience and outcomes, all three achieve success within specific field of study level assessments. The three South Australian universities have demonstrated ratings success, with Flinders rating above the corresponding national average in terms of teaching quality and employment success within the creative arts and engineering sectors, as well as UniSA showing strength within the field of architecture. The *Guide* discussed some field of study indicators with the universities to see what students interstate might be missing.

UniSA has attained successful ratings within the health services and support field of study in the 2012 *Guide*, placing among the top 25 per cent of all universities nationally within the 'Graduate Employment Success' and 'Teaching Quality' categories. We asked Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic, Professor Joanne Wright, what makes UniSA so successful when it comes to delivering these types of courses: *"The University is strongly committed to a curriculum that engages students with active learning, world leading knowledge and professional practice. We need our students to understand how their academic knowledge and insights will be translated into the workplace and in the health industry this is especially important. In order to ensure that we produce excellent, work ready graduates, we have invested in state of the art facilities that simulate health sector environments where students can practice their learning. At the same time, we have forged important industry relationships that provide placements for students to further refine their skills and knowledge. Our students are graduating with the highest level of professional knowledge and the capacity to take on jobs as work ready graduates. We get strong positive feedback from employers that this is what distinguishes UniSA graduates."*

Also noteworthy is the University of Adelaide's success within the nursing field of study. It has been placed within the top 25 per cent in relation to 'Teaching Quality', 'Generic Skills' and 'Overall Satisfaction', as well as rating better-than-average in terms of employment prospects and graduate starting salaries. What then makes their nursing graduates so sought after? We asked Adelaide what is so unique about the delivery of their nursing programs that has been successful: *"At the University of Adelaide's School of Nursing, we pride ourselves in the way we look after our students. We believe a good student experience equips the new nurse for an excellent career. The University of Adelaide has a smaller intake than many universities and this means that the undergraduate teaching team gets to know each student. The students themselves develop strong bonds that often continue when they leave the University. The School of Nursing also has strong links with the Medical School, which means our Nursing students are learning with the doctors of tomorrow. We prepare and inspire the next generation of nurse leaders through excellence in clinical practice and innovative care."*

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#### **Book orders:**

The *Good Universities Guide* 2012 will be available to the public through newsagents and online at

[www.isubscribe.com.au/hobsons](http://www.isubscribe.com.au/hobsons) or by contacting Hobsons on Freecall 1800 682 133.

### Characteristics

Institution	Non-Govt earnings	Student demand	Research Grants	Research Intensity
ADELAIDE	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
FLINDERS	★	★★	★★★	★★★
UniSA	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★

### Access and Equity

Institution	Access by Equity group	Gender balance	Indigenous Participation	Entry flexibility	Proportion TAFE credit	Proportion of school leavers
ACSA				★★★★	★★	★
ADELAIDE	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★	★★★★★
ECNH	★★★		★★★	★★★★★		
FLINDERS	★★★★★	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
ICHM				★		
TABOR	★★★★		★★	★★★★★	★	★
UniSA	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★★

### Who's There?

Institution	Number of Higher Ed Students	Proportion over 25 years	Number of students from abroad	Proportion Part-time	Proportion External	Cultural diversity
ACSA	VERY SMALL	VERY HIGH		VERY HIGH		
ADELAIDE	BIG	LOW	BIG	LOW	VERY LOW	★★★
ECNH	SMALL	VERY HIGH	SMALL	VERY HIGH		★
FLINDERS	BIG	HIGH	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	LOW	★★★
ICHM	VERY SMALL	LOW	SMALL	LOW	AVERAGE	
TABOR	VERY SMALL	VERY HIGH	VERY SMALL	VERY HIGH	HIGH	★
UniSA	VERY BIG	HIGH	VERY BIG	HIGH	HIGH	★★★★★

### The Educational Experience

Institution	Staff-student ratio	Staff qualifications	All Graduates: Teaching Quality	All Graduates: Generic Skills	All Graduates: Overall Satisfaction	Domestic Graduates: Teaching Quality	Domestic Graduates: Generic Skills	Domestic Graduates: Overall satisfaction
ADELAIDE	★★★★	★★★	★★	★★	★	★★	★★★	★
FLINDERS	★★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★
UniSA	★★★	★★★★	★	★★	★	★★	★★	★

### Graduate Outcomes

Institution	Work: Starting salary	Work: Getting a job	Work: Positive Outcomes
ADELAIDE	★★★★	★	★★★★
FLINDERS	★★★	★★	★★
UniSA	★★	★★★	★★