

Breadth study

Title	Breadth study
Overview	The policy explains the breadth requirements for the New Generation degrees, and for the revised Bachelor of Engineering and details the availability of University breadth subjects to pre-Melbourne Model students.
Key Words	Undergraduate degrees, breadth
Scope	All coursework degrees
Related documents	
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Breadth

Definitions: (NB. These are working definitions that may be changed to ensure consistency with terminology employed in the Student System).

Breadth: Subjects that contrast with, yet complement the core-disciplinary studies.

Core-disciplinary studies: Subjects undertaken from within the broad discipline central to the degree (i.e. Arts, Science etc.). These may include compulsory and elective subjects.

Compulsory: Subjects required for completion of the degree.

Core: Subjects required for completion of a major.

Elective: Subjects within the broad discipline central to either the degree or major, from which students may choose a specified number.

Policy

Undergraduate degrees

This policy intersects with the Breadth brochure and other information available online at <http://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html> and should be read with reference to these documents.

A cornerstone of the Melbourne Model for undergraduate students is the introduction of a breadth component into the following undergraduate degrees from 2008:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Biomedicine
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Environments
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Science

The revised Bachelor of Engineering also contains a breadth requirement.

The breadth component is a compulsory part of each degree designed to introduce students to different subject areas involving different ways of learning and thinking from those common to their core-disciplinary areas of study.

Specific requirements of the breadth component differ between the degrees (see appendix 1 for details), and students seeking accreditation in Actuarial Studies or Accounting are exempt from a portion of the breadth component because they are required to take particular subjects to achieve accreditation. Except for this exception, the following rules apply and will not be waived under any circumstances:

- Students require 75 points of breadth subjects (or between 37.5 and 50 points in the revised Bachelor of Engineering).
- Within each degree it is possible to include a 37.5 point breadth sequence including 12.5 points at each of levels 1, 2 and 3.*
- Within each degree it is possible to undertake all of the available breadth subjects within one subject area.*
- Except for the revised Bachelor of Engineering, students must complete at least 12.5 points of breadth at level 3.

* Where such a sequence is available in the relevant subject area.

To facilitate engagement with the breadth component the University has encouraged teaching departments to collaborate in the development of a range of interdisciplinary subjects examining some of the critical issues of our time from multiple perspectives. These are known as University breadth subjects and are open to any students enrolled in the degrees mentioned above.

In addition to these subjects, a student should be able to include in the breadth component of their degree any subject that contrasts with, yet complements, their particular core-disciplinary area(s) of study and/or major, providing they have satisfied prerequisites for the relevant subject.

Student Centres will provide advice to students about the breadth component of their degree. It is critical that students receive advice about appropriate combinations or sequences of breadth subjects. Such sequences may lead to major or minor study in a subject area secondary to the core-disciplines of the degree in addition to fulfilling specific degree requirements.

Some variations to the breadth component may be permitted for sound academic reasons, however students seeking to vary the subjects normally permitted as part of the breadth component will have to demonstrate how the relevant subject contrasts with the ways of knowing common to studies in their core-disciplinary subject area(s).

Breadth and the concurrent diploma

A concurrent diploma is a separate award course in which students may enrol concurrently with their degree. In some cases subjects taken within the breadth component of a Bachelor's degree will be credited towards the concurrent diploma, leaving the student with fewer total points to complete to become eligible for both awards. Please consult the policy on Concurrent Diplomas for further detail.

Procedure and Practice Pre Melbourne Model degrees

University breadth subjects are designed for the New Generation courses, and as such are not automatically available to students in pre-Melbourne Model Programs.

The decision to allow a student entry into a University breadth subject will be made on a case by case basis, and subject to the following:

- A student will need to demonstrate that the subject is an appropriate subject for their current course;
- The student would need room within elective points for a breadth subject, and;
- Places in subjects designed for Melbourne Model students will naturally be reserved for these students; however, if space exists, a student with the prerequisites may seek approval from their Student Centre to take the subject.

Procedure and Practice New Generation Undergraduate degrees

1. Advice about the breadth component of the degree

- Accurate information about the breadth component of each degree and available subjects is available online at <http://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/breadth/info/index.html>.
- Students will also be required to meet with a student adviser at several points in their degree and should seek additional advice about the breadth component and structuring sequences of breadth subjects as required.
- All questions about the breadth component within a particular degree should be addressed to the Student Centre associated with that degree in the first instance.

2. Variations to the breadth requirement

- Students seeking to vary the requirements of the breadth component within the total requirement of 75 points, either with respect to the number of points required at particular levels or the breadth status of specific subjects within their degree, should first discuss their request with a Student Adviser in the relevant student centre.

- The Student Adviser will provide advice as to whether approval of the request is subject to established policy or precedent, and may be able to respond to the request immediately.
- If this is not possible the student should submit a formal, written request for a variation to the breadth component, together with a full explanation of the reasons for their request, to their student centre.
- A student who has requested a variation to the breadth component may be asked to discuss their request with a designated officer in the student centre before a final decision is made.
- A formal, written response will be provided to the student including instructions about what they need to do to complete their enrolment.
- The outcome of the request will be recorded on the student's file and may also form the basis of a precedent to guide decision making about future requests.

3. Advanced standing towards the breadth component for studies at other institutions

Students may seek advanced standing towards the breadth component for studies completed at other institutions:

- Prior to admission to the University of Melbourne;
- While on exchange or study abroad (NB. It is expected that students on exchange will normally focus primarily on subjects for credit towards the core-disciplinary component(s) of their degree. Please refer to the policy on Exchange and Study Abroad for more details);
- While enrolled on a cross-institutional basis (after approval of the subject; please refer to the policy on Cross-Institutional Enrolment for more details).

The process of applying for advanced standing, exchange, study abroad and cross-institutional study will require students to indicate subjects that they would like to be considered for credit towards the breadth component. Such applications will constitute requests to vary the requirements of the breadth component as mentioned above. Please consult the policies on these processes for more details.

3. Discretion

- The relevant Dean or custodial Dean), in consultation with the Course Standing Committee, is the ultimate arbiter in any consideration about the breadth component of the degree, however the Manager of the relevant Student Centre will initially consider student's requests and refer issues for determination.
- For quality assurance purposes, faculties will be required to report on any approved variations to the breadth component through the Committee of Deans as part of the quarterly reporting process. If the same variation(s) are being approved repeatedly the Course Standing Committee may recommend an alteration to the breadth requirement of that degree.
- Designated professional staff officers in Student Centres will have discretion to apply these in consideration of student requests for variation to the breadth component as guidelines and precedents are established.

4. Appeals

Appeals should be dealt with according to the Student Grievance Policy.