How Does It All Work at University?

**MAJORS & STREAMS**
In most cases when choosing a degree, you will need to choose a generic qualification, such as a degree in Business and then you will need to choose an area of study within that qualification. This is called choosing a major or stream of study.

**WHAT IS A SCHOOL?**
Each faculty is broken down into separate schools which have a more specialised focus. For example, the Faculty of Business has 8 schools:
- Graduate School of Business
- Law, Marketing, Management,
- Centre of Entrepreneurship,
- Economics and Finance,
- Information Systems & Accounting

**WHAT IS A FACULTY?**
A faculty is a group of study areas. At Curtin University, there are 5 major faculties:
- Science and Engineering
- Humanities
- Health Sciences
- The Centre for Aboriginal Studies
- Curtin Business School

**DEGREE STRUCTURE**
Most undergraduate degrees are three years long, however some, like Engineering, require a fourth year of study. The first year of some degrees is called a “common year”. A common year allows you to learn about different areas within your chosen field of study, which can help you decide what area you want to specialise in the following years. If you have achieved excellent scores during your studies, the Vice Chancellor (which is like the principal of a high school) may invite you to do an honors year. This is a special opportunity to further your studies and open more career opportunities.

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If you are studying your first degree, you are called an Undergraduate. An undergraduate degree is also called a "Bachelors Degree". When you finish your first degree you are called a Graduate. If you continue your studies, you are called a Postgraduate.

POST GRADUATE

Once you have completed your undergraduate degree, you can continue your studies and become a postgraduate. A post graduate degree can help you specialise in different areas or even change careers completely. You can do a:
- Postgraduate Certificate (6 months)
- Postgraduate Diploma (12 months)
- A Masters Degree (up to 2 years) and
- A PhD or a Doctorate (many years)

Undergraduate

Lectures are very large classes where a Lecturer gives an educational talk. In a lecture, you will learn by being guided through your course content.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Some universities have a summer school which is like a short semester over the Christmas break. Students can elect to continue their studies over summer rather than take a break to reduce the time taken to complete the degree. Some students do additional units to their degree to add further value to their studies. Not all degrees offer classes during this time, so you will need to check with your university if you wish to study over the summer.

Tutorials are small classes and are designed for you to put what you have learned into practice. You will be able to interact with the Tutor, ask them questions, have group discussions and work on group projects.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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