



## **Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement?**

The Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS) is a Commonwealth initiative that has been introduced to ensure Australian qualifications are recognised and renowned throughout the world. The AHEGS will describe a higher education qualification in an easily understandable way, relating it to the system within which it was issued and describing qualifications in a clear and consistent way to potential employers and other higher education institutions.

The AHEGS presented to graduates is based on nationally agreed specifications. The AHEGS is additional to other documentation, such as degree certificates (testamurs) and academic transcripts.

AHEGS have the potential to make Australian awards better understood internationally, enhancing the international mobility of Australian graduates and Australia's competitiveness in the international higher education market.

### **What will be included in the AHEGS?**

The AHEGS presents the graduate's academic achievements relating to a particular award, and include information about:

- The Award;
- Awarding Institution;
- Graduate's Academic Achievements; and
- Description of the Australian Higher Education System

### **When will students start receiving their AHEGS?**

Students who complete their program at the end of Trimester 1, 2010 onwards will receive their AHEGS shortly after completion.

### **Will the AHEGS be handed out retrospectively?**

No, an AHEGS will only be issued to those who graduate from Trimester 1, 2010 onwards.

### **Will students who complete a combined degree receive an AHEGS for each of their qualifications?**

Yes, graduates receive two separate awards (ie two testamurs), therefore separate AHEGS will be provided for each award.

Note that if the award is a 'double degree', (eg Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor of Arts) for which a student receives a single testamur, a single AHEGS will be provided.

### **How will The University of Newcastle handle jointly badged awards where another Australian tertiary education provider is involved?**

The AHEGS will include information about both institutions however there will be only one AHEGS provided. The AHEGS will include a description of the joint arrangements on the statement.

### **Will I be charged a fee for the AHEGS?**

AHEGS will be issued free of charge in the first instance. If students require additional statements, a charge of \$50 will apply. This fee will not be applicable where the AHEGS needs to be updated due to new information on achievements, such as the awarding of a medal at a date after the provision of the original AHEGS.

### **Should a reprinted AHEGS contain updated information on the institution (Section 3) and the Australian Higher Education System (Section 5)?**

No. A reprinted AHEGS should contain exactly the same content as at the time of original issue. The AHEGS is designed to provide a snapshot of the candidate's qualification at the point of completion.

### **When will an AHEGS be given to candidates completing their qualifications?**

An AHEGS will be issued to graduates upon completion of their program. They will not be issued if a graduate has an outstanding debt to the University. Once the debt is cleared the AHEGS will be issued.

### **What if the language of instruction varies between units of study?**

Where the language of instruction for the award, overall, was not English, information on the language in which the award is taught should be included in Section 2. For individual units of study such as languages, this is not necessary. It is important for the reader to know if the program of study was taught in a language other than English.

### **Will admission requirements be included on the AHEGS?**

Yes. The information will list the general requirements for admission, not the selection process or outcomes.

### **Will my Grade Point Average (GPA) be included on my AHEGS?**

As GPA's are not included on the official transcript, they will not be included on the AHEGS.

### **How can I calculate my GPA?**

To calculate your [GPA](#).

### **How can I calculate my Weighed Average Mark (WAM)?**

To calculate your [WAM](#)

### **Will award and course codes be included on the AHEGS?**

Yes.

Where credit/advance standing has been granted, as much explanation as possible will be included.

For Higher Degree Research awards with no coursework component at all, only the title of thesis title and abstract will be required on the AHEGS.

### **Will fail grades be included in Section 4 of the AHEGS?**

Yes, fail grades must be included on the AHEGS. Your grades appear on academic transcripts, and therefore will appear on the AHEGS in order to provide the prospective employer with a clearer picture on prospective employees.

### **Will units be included on the AHEGS?**

Yes, as per the Guidelines, units earned are appropriate to report in *Section 4*, under 'course details'.

### **Which prizes/awards will be included on the AHEGS?**

Only awards/activities that are measureable, verifiable, recordable, centrally available and linked to academic achievement will be included on the AHEGS

The prizes/awards that will feature on a University of Newcastle AHEGS include:

- Scholarships awarded by the Institution;
- Prize that are administered centrally by Student Administration;
- University Medals;
- Faculty Medals; and
- Faculty Commendation Lists

### **Will the AHEGS include information on work placements?**

If work placements are an important feature of the award, then they will be included in the optional 'features' component of Section 2.

**Will the University of Newcastle include details of examiners/supervisors or assessment processes for postgraduate awards?**

No. The names of supervisors or examiners will not be included on an AHEGS for awards at any level.

**Where can I find more information on the AHEGS?**

Information can be found <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/ahegs.html> or in the publication *Proposal for an Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement* at:  
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/Quality/QualityAssurance/Pages/GraduationStatement.aspx>. Alternatively, email The University of Newcastle:  
[ahegs@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:ahegs@newcastle.edu.au)