

## **Unit Points: Changes Effective 1 January 2019**

Vice-Chancellor, 1 June 2018



### **1. A New Points System**

The Academic Board has approved a major change to the points system used at the University of Divinity to denote the weighting of units in all University awards. This system will take effect on 1 January 2019 (subject to approval of changes to the Regulations by the University Council on 20 June 2018). The new system means that for all units and awards:

- a full-time year of study will be 144 points
- a full-time semester (half-year) 72 points
- a standard postgraduate unit will be 24 points (1/6 of a full-time year)
- a standard undergraduate unit will be 18 points (1/8 of a full-time year)

### **2. Why Change?**

For twenty years, the University has operated different points systems for undergraduate and postgraduate units. Standard undergraduate units have been valued at 15 points each, but a full-time year's study requires 8 undergraduate units, or 120 points. Although standard postgraduate units have also been valued at 15 points each, a full-time year's study has requires 6 undergraduate units, or 90 points. This has created confusion for some students, especially for students transferring into the University from other providers. The proposed change aligns both the undergraduate and postgraduate systems into a single framework without changing the volume of study required for each. The conversion of units will be as follows:

- existing undergraduate points  $\times 1.2 =$  new undergraduate points
- existing postgraduate points  $\times 1.6 =$  new postgraduate points

This framework is designed to accommodate all existing unit values, both standard and non-standard, undergraduate and postgraduate as illustrated in the table below. The smallest units accredited by the University are currently 1/18th of the full-time postgraduate load for a year, and 1/16th of the full-time undergraduate load for a year. The new system allows all current standard and non-standard units to be represented using a whole number, without use of decimal points.

### **3. How Will This Affect Students?**

Students will not experience any change in tuition fees, time commitment or assessment workload for units. Eligibility to graduate will not be affected as study requirements will remain identical. Academic transcripts (the formal record of study completed) will show the new points system for units completed after 1 January 2019, while continuing to show the old points system for units completed prior to 2019. The total points required for completion will be calculated by applying a multiplier to units completed prior to 2019.

### **4. How Will This Affect Staff?**

All unit values will be adjusted from the old system to the new system, for all units and courses from 1 January 2019. After 20 June 2018 (when Council has adopted the final regulatory changes), Colleges will be permitted by the Academic Board to adjust the points applicable to all units as per the table below. Units recorded in the University's student record system will be updated by OVC staff. Historic records will not be changed; Academic Deans and others involved in ensuring students have met all degree requirements will need to exercise particular care for the next three to six years as a majority of graduating students will have completed study under both the old and the new systems.

## 5. What Else Is Changing?

In addition to changing the points system, the total word count for assessment for postgraduate units will be changing:

- From 1 January 2019, Research Essays will increase from 12,000 to 16,000 words in length.
- From 1 January 2020, the total assessment word count for Postgraduate Foundational units will increase from 6,000 words to the range 6,000 – 7,000 words.
- From 1 January 2020, the total assessment word count for Postgraduate Elective units will increase from 6,000 words to the range 7,000 – 8,000 words.

These three changes are to align the University of Divinity's assessment requirements with those of other Australian universities and higher education providers. These changes will not affect undergraduate or research students.

## 6. Where Can I Get More Information?

Your College Academic Dean or Registrar will be able to provide more information on request. In addition, please look out for updates in the University's regular e-news bulletin.

<b>Unit Points Changes effective 1 January 2019</b>			
Approved by Academic Board, 1 June 2018			
<i>Type</i>	<i>Volume (full-time year equivalent)</i>	<i>Current Points</i>	<i>New Points</i>
<b>All Units</b>			
Full-time semester	1/2	60 UG / 45 PG	72
Full-time year	1	120 UG / 90 PG	144
2 year award	2	240 UG / 180 PG	288
3 year award	3	360 UG / 270 PG	432
<b>Undergraduate Units</b>			
Standard Unit	1/8	15	18
Half Unit	1/16	7.5	9
Double Unit	1/4	30	36
<b>Postgraduate Units</b>			
Standard Unit	1/6	15	24
1/3 Standard Unit	1/18	5	8
2/3 Standard Unit	1/9	10	16
Double Unit	1/3	30	48