



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE



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# Towards Automated Admissions: International Admissions of the Future

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*seek* LIGHT



# Towards Automation

- The University of Adelaide's on-line application system launched in August 2011 in partnership with SATAC.
- Resulted in:
  - increased transparency and consistency of offer outcomes;
  - fast turnaround times: the majority of applications are dealt with centrally.



# Transparency

- Transparent eligibility criteria are key to building a robust automated online system.
- Transparency is optimised by:
  - Simplicity of entry criteria (as distinct from “low entry criteria”)
  - Standardised assessment practices.

# Centralised International Admissions

- Organisational trust:
  - eligibility criteria and assessment practices must be *demonstrably* appropriate, effective, compliant

.....How?



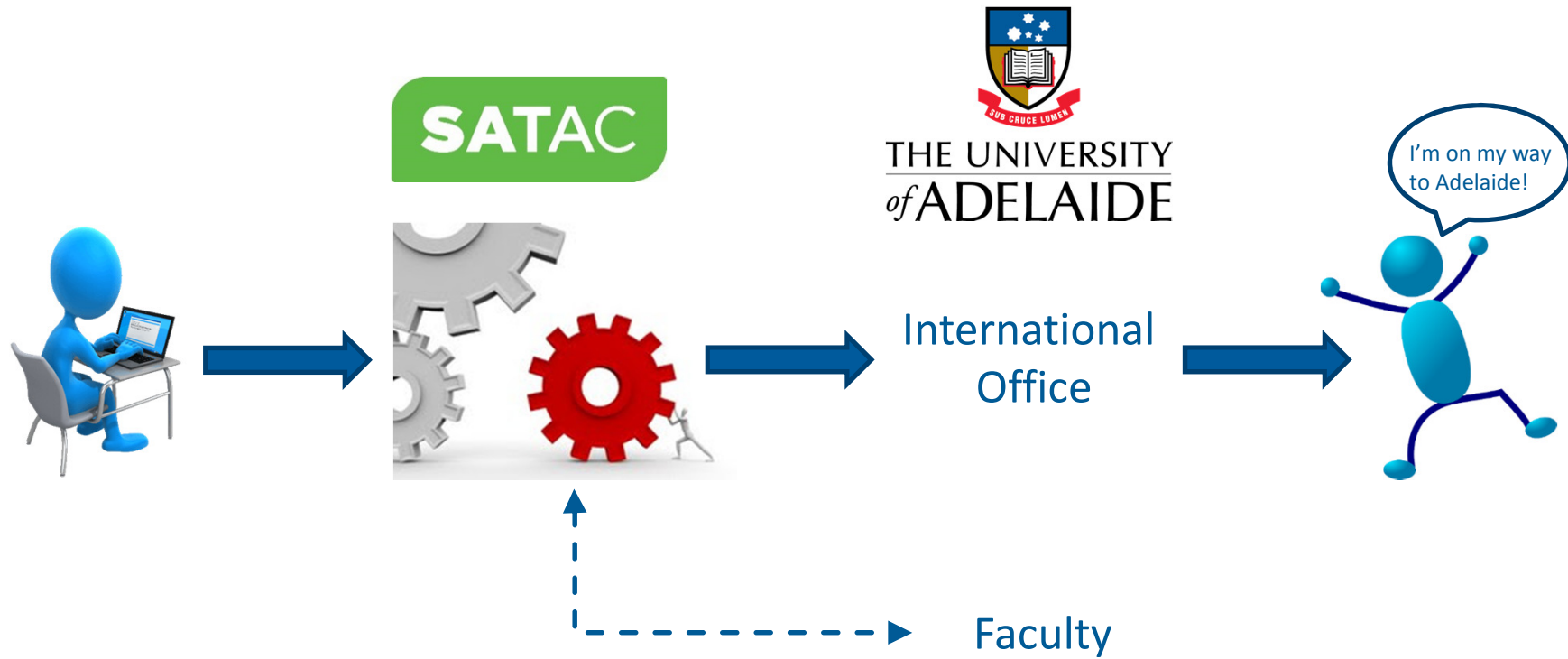
# Course Selection Methodology (CSM)

- A template with detailed prescription of eligibility criteria for each award program, encoded for automated assessment.
- Academic details for CSM still ‘owned’ by each faculty via a process of continuous engagement.
- Enables transparency, equity and quality.

Masters Degree							
<b>ABW menu item:</b>	Flagged	ABW Text					
<b>Course Description</b>		Description of the Degree which is viewable by the applicant once the course is selected on the application website.					
<b>Category</b>	STATUS name	STATUS is PASSED if the following conditions are met	Refer Y/N	Adelaide target for referral or automatically generated ABW task			
<b>English</b>	<b>UA ENGLISH2 STATUS</b>	Applicant has met Adelaide English requirements as stipulated by the University.	YES	Refer to International Office			
<b>Higher Education</b>	<b>GRAD 3YEAR STATUS</b>	Applicant is a graduate with a Bachelor degree or Honours with a duration of at least three years.	YES	Refer to International Office			
<b>Academic</b>	<b>ADEL ACAD STATUS</b>	If Bachelor Degree is NOT from an Australian institution (whether studied onshore or offshore), then PASS;  Or  If Bachelor Degree is from an Australian institution (whether studied onshore or offshore) and the FOE is NOT 99999 then PASS;  IF FOE is 99999 then FAIL	YES	Refer to Faculty			
<b>Pre-requisites</b>		Any required pre-requisite areas are entered here. Ie. Physics and Maths at First Year University Level.	YES	Refer to Faculty			
				<b>HE GPA</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>VET</b>	<b>Bridging</b>
	Rank			4.8 out of 7.0 if GPA <4.7 but >=4.3 send a RECOM	N/A	N/A	N/A



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# Assessment Quality

- Initial increase in application rejection rates.
- Continuous dialogue between Admissions staff, SATAC and Faculties resulted in refinement of the CSM's.
- Subsequent rejection rates have normalised and even lowered than that of the pre-SATAC environment.
- GPA's of international students have been maintained with a slight increase.





# Advantages and Disadvantages

- Transparency in entry requirements.
- Consistency in decisions: the number of appeals based on purely academic grounds has reduced to zero.
- 21% more applications processed by 35% less staff since 2011.
- Major reduction in faculty referrals from 70% of all applications in 2011 to less than 30% at present.
- Not always suitable for quota-based courses in which ranking/merit plays a major role in admission.

# A Public Version of the CSM

- The University's website entitled 'Degree Finder.'
- Planned functionality for online student appraisal before submitting an application.
- To be completed by December 2015.
- Credit Transfer System – an important tool for self-appraisal of advanced standing.



# From self-appraisal to self-assessment?

- CSMs contain academic eligibility criteria. Can this be extended to cover all aspects of admissions criteria?
- Will developments eventually enable an applicant to complete a full self-assessment online?



# The Future

- From self-appraisal to full self-assessment?  
.....Perhaps not.
  - A complete self-assessment would represent an onerous task for applicants.
  - System design: complex integration with multiple systems.
- Increased transparency of entry requirements = increased risk of fraud.
- Digital and physical working together.



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**Thank you**