UNSW Bachelor of Commerce 2021 FAQs

1. **Can I enrol for the 2021 BCom in all terms?**
   The 2021 BCom will continue to have three intakes for new students, T1, T2, and T3. All Integrated First Year (IFY) courses will be offered in all three terms.

2. **I am currently studying the BCom, will the changes to the BCom structure impact on the courses I have to take?**
   The new structure applies to students who start their degree from 2021. For current students, we recommend that you continue in your degree and not follow the new curriculum. Otherwise you might have to take additional courses which can delay your graduation.

3. **Why has UNSW Business School changed the structure of the Bachelor of Commerce?**
   The global business environment is changing, and companies are innovating at a pace that has not been seen before. Updating and redesigning our Bachelor of Commerce curriculum will ensure that UNSW Business School continues to deliver a world class, market leading degree that prepares graduates to achieve their career goals. Changes to the program have been informed by extensive research with students, alumni and employers.

4. **What are the main differences between the old and new structure?**
   **An Integrated First Year (IFY):** This is another way of saying “interdisciplinary”. Organisations solve problems by using different teams and discipline areas. This is reflected in the way we teach you content and skills. Students learn core knowledge from Accounting, Finance, Economics, Information Systems, Management, Marketing, Statistics and Analytics, and Taxation in eight interdisciplinary courses.
   **MyBCom:** A portfolio of your learning journey to demonstrate your knowledge, skills, capabilities and achievements to employers.
   **Mandatory Work Integrated Learning (WIL):** Preparing you for your future career by allowing you to practice your theory in a practical, real-world business environment.
   **Final Year Synthesis:** Cementing your knowledge gained in your degree and applying that to real-world interdisciplinary problems.

5. **Why don’t we learn subject areas like Statistics, Finance or Economics like in other degrees? Will the degree be as rigorous?**
   By taking the Integrated First Year (IFY), you will receive broad business knowledge across all areas of business, such as finance, accounting, technology and economics, to name a few. The new IFY courses have been designed from the ground up to incorporate the latest thinking in organisations. You will learn the same rigorous discipline content, in an integrated way across
themes and applications, rather than in subject domains.
This new first year will set you up to take a deep dive into specialised content within the majors.

6. **I still have some old core courses to complete, will these still be offered?**
   Yes, we will still teach our existing core courses for the last time in 2021 and these will not be offered every term. You should prioritise taking the following courses: MGMT1001, MGMT1101, ACCT1501, ACCT1511, FINS1613, MARK1012, TABL1710.

7. **If I stay in the pre-2021 structure, can I still complete courses in the 2021 structure, for example, the Graduation Portfolio courses?**
   Yes, you can.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commerce UOC Completed</th>
<th>Able to transition to 2021 BCom curriculum?</th>
<th>myBCom available?</th>
<th>WIL available?</th>
<th>IFY Courses?</th>
<th>Final Year Synthesis available?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 - 18</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>- Blueprint (COMM0999) - First year portfolio (COMM1999) - Graduation portfolio (COMM3999)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 - 42</td>
<td>Yes#</td>
<td>- Blueprint (COMM0999) - First year portfolio (COMM1999) - Graduation portfolio (COMM3999)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 - 90</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>- First year portfolio (COMM1999) - Graduation portfolio (COMM3999)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes*</td>
<td>Yes (UOC permitting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96 - 138</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>- Graduation portfolio (COMM3999)</td>
<td>Yes (UOC permitting)</td>
<td>No*</td>
<td>Yes (UOC permitting)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*. Some courses from the IFY may be available depending on where you are at in your degree and what courses you have already completed. Please check the prerequisites in the handbook.

# See question 9 below
8. Can I choose some of the 2021 structure courses as Free Electives in my pre-2021 structure program?
Yes, you can. This depends on how close you are to finishing your degree and how much space you have left. Some options include:
- Choose some of the IFY courses as free electives or to replace your flexi-core courses (depending on satisfying pre-requisites)
- WIL and Final Year Synthesis can count as free electives
- The myBCom courses (COMM1999 and COMM3999) are non-credit options

9. I started the Bachelor of Commerce before 2021, but I would like to complete the 2021 structure, is this possible?
This will depend on how much of your Commerce degree you have completed (we measure this in UOC where one course is 6 UOC; note that if you are studying a double degree, the UOC refer to the Commerce part of your degree)
- **Up to 18 UOC completed:** We recommend you transition but you have the option to remain in the pre-2021 structure.
- **Between 24 – 42 UOC completed:** We recommend you stay but you have the option of transferring (note this will require more substitutions and might delay your graduation).
- **48 UOC or more completed:** You will not be able to transfer to the 2021 structure. However, there are some features that you can take up, including the WIL options, Final Year Synthesis and the myBCom Graduation Portfolio.

10. Q: I started my program before 2021, I am in double degree and have only completed a few courses or I have not completed any courses for my Commerce degree. Should I keep following the pre-2021 structure or should I follow the 2021 structure?
This depends on how many Commerce courses you have already completed, irrespective of how advanced you are in your double degree. Please see the table above to guide you. Also see the Progression Plans [here](#).

11. I'm currently studying the BCom and would like to follow the 2021 structure. Can I try the new structure and if I don't like it, can I revert back to the old structure?
No, changing curriculums is a complex process. Please consider carefully because once you decide to follow the 2021 structure you will have to continue in that plan.

12. Is there a timeframe where I must decide on whether I want to transition to the new structure?
Yes. Students in the pre-2021 BCom will have until 31 January 2021 to decide whether to transition.

13. If I can change to the new Commerce structure, what courses can be substituted?
We have an approved list of substitutions related to existing courses, which will be valid during the transition year to the new structure. If you would like advice on which courses will transfer, please contact the Business School Student Service Team (via The Nucleus: Student Hub).

14. I was working towards a major but haven't declared it. Its not in the 2021 Handbook. Has it been cancelled?
We reviewed our majors as part of designing the new curriculum. Some will discontinue. If you were working towards a major, and have not declared it, you should declare it ASAP before the end of the year. You can still complete a discontinued major, but you will need approval to declare after T3, 2020. Once approved in the major, you should follow the handbook plan for the
year you commenced in your degree. If you declared one of our new majors, such as Business Analytics or Financial Technology, you should follow the plan for the year when you declared that major. Please note that you will need to declare a major to graduate.

15. **MyBCom Blueprint (COMM0099), myBCom First Year Portfolio (COMM1999) and myBCom Graduation Portfolio (COMM3999) are 0 UOC courses, why do I have to complete these courses in the 2021 BCom?**

These elements are compulsory in the 2021 BCom and form the requirements of you attaining your degree. They enable you to navigate the curricular and co-curricular options at the Business School and combined with the IFY courses, the myBCom series supports both your personal and professional career development.

The myBCom Portfolio is an interactive skills dashboard and curated learning portfolio that serves as supplementary documentation for potential employers or further academic study.

16. **I have already completed 18-48 UOC and want to follow the new structure, but I do not want to complete the 0 UOC courses (myBCom Blueprint (COMM0099), myBCom First Year Portfolio (COMM1999)). Can I not complete these courses?**

If you follow the 2021 structure having completed 18-48 UOC you will need to complete all elements including the 0UOC myBCom series. If you do not want to complete the myBCom series, you should stay in the current program, and consider if completing any IFY courses, WIL or Final Year Synthesis as electives is an option.

17. **I have completed 48UOC in core courses and flexible core courses, can I still follow the 2021 structure?**

No, but you may choose to complete some or all of the new 2nd or 3rd year program features, e.g. myBCom portfolios, WIL course, Final Year Synthesis as electives if it fits into your program.

18. **If I complete an IPT for T1 2021, can I follow the pre-2021 BCom structure?**

Yes, although we encourage students who have completed less than 18 UOC of Commerce courses to follow the 2021 structure.

19. **I want to complete an IPT in T3 2020 to the Bachelor of Commerce, but I want to complete the 2021 structure. What courses should I enrol into for T3 2020?**

Contact the Business School Student Service Team (via The Nucleus: Student Hub) for enrolment advice. Progression Plans and a course substitution matrix are available to reference. If you internally transfer in T3 2020, your ability to follow the new structure will depend on the number of UOC you have already completed in Commerce.

20. **What courses are considered to meet the Synthesis requirement?**

The best place to see the requirements for your degree is the handbook, including the synthesis requirement. You can take either a for-credit course such as COMM3030, COMM3500, COMM3900 or a non-credit option such as The Big Idea Competition or Business Case Competitions. Please check the handbook options under ‘Final Year Synthesis’ for all courses counted.

21. **Are non-Business WIL courses considered to meet the WIL requirement?**

Yes, we currently have an option for BCom students to take a UNSW course called CDEV3000 Practice of Work as their WIL option. Students in double degrees have the option to count a WIL course taken in their non-Commerce degree towards their Commerce WIL requirements. As further opportunities for WIL become available at UNSW, we will consider adding these to the WIL option list.