



## Graduate Skills Assessment

### What is the GSA?

- ❖ An Australian test designed by the internationally respected assessment service provider, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), available to employers and universities throughout Australia and overseas
- ❖ Development funded by the Commonwealth Government
- ❖ Used by universities and employers throughout Australia
- ❖ Designed to provide information about certain key generic skills in graduates that will assist employers in their selection process

### What are the benefits of the GSA for students?

- ❖ You can add your GSA report to your portfolio when applying for jobs
- ❖ Employers value graduates with skills in problem solving, critical thinking, written communication and interpersonal skills
- ❖ The GSA enables you to provide prospective employers with your GSA score in each of these key areas. This adds to the credentials, such as your academic results, that you can offer for consideration when seeking employment

### What does the GSA test?

Four key components – written communication, problem solving, critical thinking and interpersonal understandings

#### Written communication

- ❖ You are assessed on language, expression, organisation and thought

#### Problem solving

- ❖ You are assessed on your problem solving skills related to generally applicable and accessible everyday problems that vary in complexity

#### Critical thinking

- ❖ You are asked to comprehend, analyse and evaluate statements and passages that present viewpoints of the kind you would come across in the real world

#### Interpersonal understandings

- ❖ You are assessed on your ability to show insight into the feelings, motivation and behaviour of other people, issues related to helping or working with others, including effective feedback, listening, communication, teamwork and leadership

### How is the test structured?

- ❖ The test has two parts, a multiple-choice test (2 hours) and a written test (1 hour)
- ❖ The multiple choice test assesses your ability in critical thinking problem solving and interpersonal understandings
- ❖ The written test assesses your written communication skills through two writing tasks, a report and an argument task

### How are results reported?

- ❖ Every student sitting the GSA receives a personalised report from ACER
- ❖ This report gives you your score on each of the components tested
- ❖ You are also provided with comparative data
- ❖ The report compares your marks to those of all other students in Australia who sat the test
- ❖ The report also compares your results against other students studying in the same or similar disciplines



Further information ❖ ACER web site [www.acer.edu.au](http://www.acer.edu.au) ❖ Email [gsa@acer.edu.au](mailto:gsa@acer.edu.au)

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