**Student Choice – User Manual (v1.0)**

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## **1 Introduction**

Welcome to **Student Choice**, the community-powered platform that helps current and prospective students make informed decisions about university life.  
With Student Choice you can

* **Discover** and compare universities, programs, subjects, and a growing list of lifestyle categories such as Destinations, Accommodation and more.
* **Read & write reviews**, browse blogs and ask questions to real students.
* **Bookmark** and **compare** your favourites side-by-side.

This manual shows you how to register, navigate every page type, use the new secondary menu and take advantage of the latest rating tools.

## **2 Getting Started**

### **2.1 Create an Account**

1. Click **Login ▸ Sign Up** on the top-right of any page.
2. Fill in **Display Name**, **Email**, **Password** and **Confirm Password**. (Your Display Name is shown on reviews and questions.)
3. Press **Sign Up**. A confirmation email is sent instantly.
4. Verify your email, then log in with your new credentials.

**Tip:** Passwords must be at least 8 characters and include a number.

### **2.2 Sign In**

1. Click **Login**.
2. Enter the email address and password you registered with.
3. Select **Log In**. Forgot your password? Choose **Reset Password** and follow the email instructions.

**3 Primary Navigation**

The maroon top bar is visible on every page.

* **Universities** – browse every institution on the platform.
* **Programs** – explore degrees grouped by award level and discipline.
* **Subjects** – drill down to individual courses for detailed insight.
* **＋ (Add)** – a shortcut to write a review, create a blog post, or ask a question.
* **Search** – type any keyword and press Enter to find matching items quickly.

## **4 Secondary Navigation**

As you scroll, a fixed grey bar appears with lifestyle categories:

Destinations • Accommodation • Health • Fitness • Eateries • Clubs & Societies • Culture & Religion

A pin icon on the right side keeps this bar visible while you browse. Hover over the icon to reveal its tooltip, then click to pin or unpin the bar.

## **5 Exploring the Core Pages**

Below is a walkthrough of the three main directories—**Universities, Programs, Subjects**—and the two corresponding detail pages you will see after choosing an item. All layouts follow the same logic: filters sit at the top, results populate underneath, and every card is one-click away from its own detailed view.

### **5.1 Universities Directory**

* A bold **Universities** headline is followed by two search fields.
  + **Search for universities** lets you type the name of an institution.
  + **Search by location** accepts country, state, or city keywords.
* Hit **Search** to refresh the results grid.
* A **Sort by** ribbon appears just above the cards. Choose Alphabetical, Highest Rating, or Lowest Rating.
* To the right you will find a **grid / list toggle** so you can switch between tile view and stacked rows.
* University cards show the logo and a star badge with the current average rating. Clicking a card opens the university’s detail page.

### **5.2 Programs Directory**

* The page starts with a large **Programs** heading and an icon, then displays a block of selectable **Fields** such as Science, Engineering, Law, Finance, Cybernetics and many more.
* Below the fields you will see the **Graduation level** filter with large buttons for Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Research.
* A third filter, **Universities**, expands into clickable logos so you can narrow results to ANU, UNSW, Monash, and other institutions—or choose *All universities* to reset.
* As soon as you click any combination of field, level, or university, matching programs appear in a grid just below the filter section. Scroll to browse, or adjust filters to refine further.

### **5.3 Subjects Directory**

* The **Subjects** directory mirrors the Programs layout.
* Pick one or more **Fields** (e.g. Computing, Psychology, Chemistry) and optionally restrict by **University**.
* Results can be filtered by university name, fields and graduation level. If no field is selected you will see every subject offered by the chosen universities.
* Selecting a tile takes you straight to that subject’s detail page.

### **5.4 University Detail Page**

* A full-width banner shows a campus photograph; the official logo is pinned to the top-right corner.
* Location and an external link to the university website sit just below the title.
* Four tabs divide the content: **Reviews · Blog · Ask Questions · Helpful Links**.
  + **Reviews** is the default view. You will see a circular average rating dial, a rating-distribution bar, and tick-boxes that let you hide or show individual star levels.
  + Review cards can be reordered with the **Sort by** drop-down (Latest, Highest, Lowest, Most Liked).
  + Press **Add Post** to write a new review or blog entry (the plus button sits to the right of the tab bar).
* Blog entries, questions, and resource links all follow the same clean card layout used in the Review tab.

### **5.5 Program and Subject Detail Pages**

* A back arrow returns you to the previous directory.
* The header line shows:
  + University name (deep-red text)
  + Program or subject title (large grey text)
  + Award level or course code (smaller grey text on the far right)
* An official link icon directs you to the relevant university webpage.
* The same four-tab structure—**Reviews · Blog · Ask Questions · Helpful Links**—appears below the header. If the page is new and no posts exist yet, a friendly message invites you to “Be the first to post!”
* The **Add Post** button remains available in every tab, so you can contribute content without changing views.
* When reviews do appear, you will see the same rating dial, distribution bar, star-level tick-boxes, and sorting control found on university pages.

With these consistent patterns—filters on top, live results underneath, and identical tabbed detail views—you will feel at home no matter where you are on Student Choice.

## **6 Brand-New Listings**

We recently opened a **Lifestyle** wing of Student Choice.  
All these directories sit behind the secondary (grey) menu bar and share the same controls, so once you learn one you can use them all.

### **6.1 Destinations**

*Landing page*

* Big maroon **Destinations** title with a map-pin icon.
* **Search for destinations** – one field; type any country, state, or city and press **Search**.
* **Sort by** buttons directly under the search bar: Alphabetical · Highest rating · Lowest rating.
* A **grid / list toggle** on the right lets you choose tile cards or stacked rows.
* Each destination card shows
  + a hero photo with a dark label bar (white pin + city name)
  + a yellow star badge for the current average rating.
* Bookmark and Compare behave exactly as on University cards.

*Detail page*

* A back arrow returns to the directory.
* Header includes
  + breadcrumb “Destinations › [City]”
  + location string (state, country)
  + optional external link (e.g. “Study Adelaide”).
* A full-width banner image fills the screen.
* Four familiar tabs — **Reviews · Blog · Ask Questions · Helpful Links** — plus the **Add Post** button on the right.
* Rating dial, distribution bar, filters, and sort-order work exactly like the university view.

**6.2 Health**

*(Fitness, Eateries, Clubs & Societies, and Culture & Religion use the same template.)*

***Landing page***

* The page opens with a large heading and a category icon (for Health it’s a heart with a plus sign).
* A **University filter ribbon** comes first: click any logo to show services tied to that campus, or keep “All universities” selected to see everything.
* **Search by location** – identical to Destinations, but focused on street, suburb, city, or state.
* **Sort by** buttons and the **grid / list toggle** underneath the search bar.
* Cards display the service name, location line, and average rating badge (if ratings exist).
* Bookmark and Compare already function; rating and posting will feel the same as other entities once detailed pages arrive.

***Detail pages***

When you click on a specific service (like "ANU Medical Centre") from the Health, Fitness, Eateries, Clubs & Societies, or Culture & Religion lists, you'll be taken to its dedicated detail page. Here's what you'll find:

* **Easy Navigation:**
  + At the very top, you'll see a "← Health" (or "← Fitness", etc.) link. Clicking this will take you back to the list page you came from.
* **Service Information:**
  + The name of the service (e.g., "ANU Medical Centre") is displayed prominently in large, bold text.
  + Right next to the name, you'll find a **bookmark icon**.Click this to save or remove the service from your personal bookmarks.
  + Below the name, you'll see the **type or category** of the service (e.g., "GP" for a medical centre, or "Therapy" for a counselling service).
  + The **location** of the service (e.g., "Online" or "ANU") is shown with a location pin icon next to it.
  + If the service provider has an official website, a link will be available.
  + Any **additional information** about the service will be clearly presented in its own section.
* **Community Contributions & Feedback:**
  + Below the main details, you'll find sections where you and other users can share experiences and information:
    - **Reviews:** Read what others think and see an average rating. You can filter reviews by star rating and sort them (e.g., by newest, highest rating).
    - **Blog:** Find blog posts or articles related to the service.
    - **Ask Questions:** See questions asked by others or ask your own.
    - **Helpful Links:** Discover useful external web links shared by the community.
  + You can contribute your own content by clicking the **"Add Post"** button, which allows you to write a review, a blog post, ask a question, or add a helpful link.
* **Consistent Experience:**
  + Adding posts, bookmarking, and interacting with content on these detailed pages works just like it does for Universities, Programs, and Subjects across the site.
  + The page is designed to look great and be easy to use on both mobile devices and desktop computers.
  + If you're using Dark Mode, the detail page will also adapt to this theme for comfortable viewing.

## **7 My Activity & My Bookmarks**

Open your profile avatar at the top-right, then choose **My Activity** or **My Bookmarks**.

### **7.1 My Bookmarks**

* All universities, programs, subjects, or lifestyle listings you save appear here.
* Quick filters let you jump to a specific category such as Universities or Eateries.
* You can tick up to three items and click **Compare** to view them side-by-side in a pop-up table.
* Remove any bookmark with the trash-can icon.

### **7.2 My Activity**

* A reverse-chronological feed of all reviews, questions, answers, and blog posts you have authored.
* Use this page to edit or delete any of your content.

## **8 Writing and Managing Reviews**

1. Navigate to the university, program, subject, or lifestyle listing you wish to review.
2. Click **Write Review**.
3. Select an overall star rating plus any required sub-ratings.
4. Enter at least fifty characters of feedback (Markdown formatting is supported).
5. Click **Submit**. Your review appears instantly and can be edited later via **My Activity**.

To refine the review list, use the star-rating filter or change the sort order to latest, highest, lowest, or most-liked.

## **9 Bookmark and Compare: A Quick Example**

1. While browsing, click the star icon to bookmark “University of Sydney”.
2. Bookmark “Monash University” and “University of Melbourne” as well.
3. Open **My Bookmarks**, then select the **Universities** filter.
4. Tick the checkboxes beside all three institutions and click **Compare**.
5. A table appears showing ranking, tuition, average rating, and cost-of-living data side-by-side.
6. Click **Download** to save the comparison as a PDF

## **10 Troubleshooting Quick Tips**

* **Email already in use when signing up** – you may already have an account; try **Reset Password**.
* **New review not visible** – refresh the page; if it remains hidden, make sure your email is verified.
* **Bookmarks page is empty** – ensure you are logged in with the correct account.
* **Layout issues on mobile** – switch to List View, clear your browser cache, and reload.

## **11 Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **How many bookmarks can I save?**There is no limit. However, the comparison view can display only three items at once.
2. **Can I edit a review?**Yes. Go to **My Activity**, locate the review, and click the pencil icon.
3. **What defines a “Most Liked” review?**It ranks by net up-votes over the past ninety days.

## **12 Technology Stack**

* **Backend** – Strapi (Node.js)
* **Frontend** – React 18, Vite, and Tailwind CSS
* **Hosting** – AWS (ECS Fargate, S3, CloudFront)