

2027

Information for parents



Tirkangkaku is the Aboriginal name bestowed upon Adelaide University by the Kurna People.

Tirkangkaku means "Place of Learning" and is a gift representing 65,000 years of continuous discovery.

In Kurna culture, learning is never passive – it's active and transformative.

Tirkangkaku is a place where all knowledge systems can come together and learn from each other. A place where the world's oldest living culture shapes cutting-edge discovery. A place where we are creating the future, while honouring the past.

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Kurna, Boandik, and Barnjarla First Nations Peoples and their Elders past and present, who are the Traditional Owners of the lands that are home to our campuses across Adelaide and South Australia.





**For a young person,
the transition from
school to university
life is a big moment.**

**It's both exciting and
a time that brings
about a lot of change.**

Whether they've just started thinking about university or are getting ready to apply, there are many ways you can provide support to your young person as they navigate this next chapter.

This guide has been designed to help you feel prepared in these conversations. It contains useful information on a range of topics – from choosing the right course to adjusting to university life.

You'll also find links to helpful resources and key support services.

Contents

Benefits of a university experience	03
Why Adelaide University?	04
Pathways to Adelaide University	06
Differences between school and university	08
Setting up for success	11
Helpful tips and resources	12
Financial support	13
Student experience and support	14
Study 100% online	16





Benefits of a university education are lifelong.

Every additional year of education increases the resources a young person has available to them, helping them establish a healthy and secure foundation for their future¹.

Research shows that university graduates have more employment opportunities and earn higher salaries on average throughout their entire working life² – but the benefits of a university education go far beyond the financial.

A university education helps young people develop the confidence to face challenges, think creatively and respond wisely, expands their view of the world, encourages excellence and enables them to build networks with people who are shaping our future.

It's an experience that can hone their strengths, clarify their passion and, ultimately, connect these with opportunities to utilise them.

¹ Balaj, Mirza et al., 2024, *Effects of education on adult mortality: a global systematic review and meta-analysis*, *The Lancet Public Health*, Volume 9, Issue 3, e155 – e16. Source: [www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(23\)00306-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(23)00306-7/fulltext)

² *Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT), Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023.*

Why Adelaide University?

Adelaide University is Australia's university for the future ranked in the global top 100.*

**Ranked equal 82, 2026 QS World University Rankings*



We are transforming higher education by combining face-to-face learning with advanced digital technologies to create a flexible, student-centred experience. Degrees are designed to be stackable and personalised, supported by digital learning, industry partnerships and extensive work-integrated learning opportunities.

The Common Core provides interdisciplinary skills that employers value – ensuring students graduate with real-world knowledge and experience. Across all programs, Adelaide University fosters strong graduate qualities, embeds First Nations perspectives and provides equity-focused support so every student can succeed.

Go8 member

We are part of Australia's elite research-intensive university group.



Connected

Australia's most connected university: Building on our 7,000 strong partnerships with industry and collaborators.

7,000



Real-world

Real-world experience: Work-integrated learning is embedded across all programs, giving students hands-on opportunities.



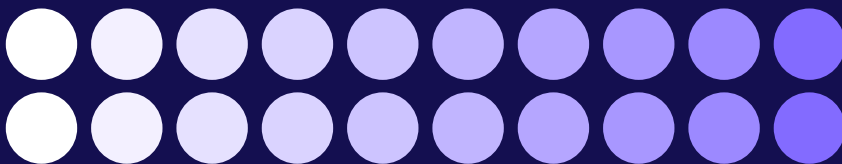
Equity and inclusion

We champion inclusive education through First Nations Knowledges and equity-focused pathways.



Transformative and flexible education: Australia's most accessible, contemporary and future-focused teaching and learning experience.

Transformative



Pathways to Adelaide University

There are many ways your child can gain entry into one of our degrees.



Selection rank (ATAR plus adjustment factors)

If your child has qualified for the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or holds an equivalent recent year 12 qualification, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB), and have achieved a competitive selection rank, they can use this as a pathway into university.

Your child's Selection Rank (ATAR plus any applicable adjustment factors) will be used to compete for a place in a university degree.

For most of our undergraduate degrees, your child must not have completed more than 2 years full-time equivalent university study (96 units) to use their year 12 results.

Some degrees take additional factors into account as well as or instead of your child's ATAR, such as auditions, the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT), oral interviews, etc.

Guaranteed Entry

Allows your child to choose their preferences with confidence.

We offer Guaranteed Entry for most undergraduate degrees. There's no need for your child to complete a separate application – they'll be automatically considered when they list their preferred Adelaide University degree as their highest preference.

If your child doesn't achieve the results for Guaranteed Entry, they'll still be considered on a competitive basis for available places in their preferred degree.

ATAR based

Your child will be eligible for an ATAR based Guaranteed Entry place when they:

- Achieve an ATAR (including adjustment factors) that is equal or higher to the Guaranteed Entry score
- Meet any admissions criteria for their degree, for example a subject prerequisite.

Subject based

Did your child achieve solid grades in year 12, but didn't get the ATAR they were expecting? They'll be eligible for a Subject based Guaranteed Entry place when they:

- Complete SACE (or equivalent) and have an ATAR of 50 or higher (not including adjustment factors)
- Utilise their best three grades from 20-credit subjects
- Meet any additional admissions criteria such as subject prerequisites.



Selection rank



Guaranteed Entry



Admission test



Higher Education GPA



Internal transfer



VET studies

Admission test

STAT (Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test)

If your child didn't achieve a competitive year 12 result, hasn't completed year 12 at all or any other higher education, they may wish to use the Skills for Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) to gain entry to university. The STAT is a two-hour, multiple-choice test designed to assess a range of skills and knowledge needed to study at university.

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) coordinates the STAT. To sit the test, your child will need to be over 18 years old before 1 February in the year that they wish to commence study. If your child has been enrolled in university in the last two years, they must not have completed more than two years (full-time) tertiary study in total.

For more information, visit: stat.acer.org/au

Higher Education GPA (Grade Point Average)

If your child has already completed at least six months (full-time) of a recognised higher education degree at a recognised higher education institution, they can use their Grade Point Average (GPA) to apply for Adelaide University.

Internal transfer

Perhaps your child gained entry to a degree that wasn't their first preference or, after completing a few courses, have changed their mind about what they'd like to study. Your child can use their GPA (or any eligible previous qualifications) to apply for what is called an internal transfer.

This is an option available to students who may have already started studying in one degree and, for a range of different reasons, would like to transfer into another degree at the same university. Please note that not all degrees are available via internal transfer. If unsure, your child can contact our friendly student advisers for assistance.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Studies (Certificate IV or higher)

Has your child completed a VET qualification at a Certificate IV or higher? Their completed qualification can gain them entry to many of our degrees.

For students that have studied at either TAFE SA or other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), most Certificate IV courses (including former Advanced Certificates or equivalent) meet the minimum entry requirements for a wide range of our undergraduate degrees. For some degrees, a successfully completed Diploma or Advanced Diploma will be required to meet the minimum entry requirements.

A completed Certificate III could also provide a pathway into a Diploma at Adelaide University. Please see individual program pages for entry requirements.

Differences between school and university

It's likely that your child has spent the last few years of their education in familiar surroundings, with their tasks assigned and explained by teachers they know well.

They will have received regular feedback on their progress and a sense of belonging to a clearly defined, supportive and structured learning community.

At university, students are treated as adults who are responsible for their own work and time management. Class sizes are larger, and the learning environment is less structured than school.

This increase in responsibility may feel like a big change compared to school. It's normal and expected for your child to take some time to adjust to these aspects of university life.

School	University
Students must leave the school grounds after hours.	Students can study on campus 24/7.*
Teachers manage assessments and provide prompts and reminders.	Assessment information is available from week one. Students are responsible for managing their deadlines and submissions.
Attendance is closely monitored by both home group and subject teachers.	Students are responsible for managing their attendance.
Teachers may allow extra time for assignments.	Formal extensions are available, however they are only given with a significant reason.
Most learning is face-to-face.	Learning is flexible, with options to study on campus, online or a combination of both.
Students are known by staff and other students.	Students are guided by their Program Director and generally have different lecturers and tutors in each study period, so proactively forming connections is important.
Some students have casual jobs.	It is very common for a university student to have a job whether it be casual, part-time or full-time.
Classroom learning is essential to success.	Independent learning is a huge part of university study. Students engage in lectures, workshops, practicals, tutorials and placements.
Students attend one location.	University students may have classes at different campuses, online and within industry.
School reports are sent to parents/guardians.	Results are confidential and are only available through an online student portal. This information is not shared with others without written permission from the student.
Classroom teachers manage most student issues.	Students can access a wide range of support services on campus and online.
School hours are routine and regular.	Classes are scheduled from early morning to mid-evening. Every student's timetable will look different and vary with each study period.

**Note: Our regional campuses provide students with extended access to campus, not 24/7 access.*

Support with settling into university life

While university study does involve an increase in responsibility compared to school, this doesn't mean students need to navigate this transition alone. Adelaide University runs two weeks of orientation events, before any classes start, to help students ease into university life at their own pace.

Connect Week

This week is designed for students who want extra time to prepare, settle in early, and ease into university life at their own pace. Activities typically include:

- Practical workshops on study skills, time management, and planning for success.
- Social events with Peer Connect Guides, perfect for making those first connections.

O'Week

This is the main Orientation Week, designed to help students launch into university life with confidence. Activities typically include:

- Degree Welcomes, where students can meet their academics and classmates.
- Big social activities from the Adelaide University Student Association (AUSA) and AU Sport.
- Campus tours to help students get to know their campus.



Workload

At university, each academic year is typically broken into two main study periods (also known as semesters). One semester is usually around 12 or 13 weeks long*.

Below is a breakdown of the workload expected of students in an average semester.

Weeks	Workload
1 to 5	Workload starts at an introductory pace and assessments commence. Usually one assessment per subject.
6 to 7 (inc 2-week teaching break)	Workload increases around this time. One assessment per subject. Assessments increase in both size and value.
8 - 13	Workload increases again. Final assessment or exam, which is generally the largest in size and value.

*Online students will study over four study periods.



Students studying 100% online

For students studying one of our 100% online degrees, the academic year is divided into four main study periods. Courses are taught in either ten-week or six-week terms. These are designed to support your learning, and to keep you motivated and engaged throughout your studies.

To learn more about 100% online study at Adelaide University, visit: adelaide.edu.au/study/online

Study load

Study load refers to the amount of time your child will be expected to dedicate to their studies. If your child is studying full-time, this means they will study four courses per semester. If they are studying in one of our 100% online degrees, they will study two courses per online term.

Some students choose to study part-time, allowing them to balance study with other commitments. Please note, there are some degrees which can only be completed full-time.

A full-time study commitment is made up of contact and non-contact time, and the specific time commitment required will vary between courses.

Contact time is the time your child spends in organised teaching sessions, mainly lectures and tutorials, although some courses will also include laboratory practicals, fields trips and clinical/work placements.

Non-contact time is spent studying at home or in the library, completing assignments, preparing for tutorials and revising for tests and exams.



Setting up for success

It's important for your child to spend some time exploring the many degrees on offer and to understand what interests them most.

Explore our full range of degrees at:

adelaide.edu.au/study

Helpful questions to ask your child

- ❓ What about this degree interests you?
- ❓ Does this degree lead to your career goals?
- ❓ Do you like the courses in this degree?
- ❓ What will your study schedule look like?
- ❓ Do you meet the entry requirements?
- ❓ What alternate entry pathways are available?
- ❓ Is there an upcoming information session or Open Day event we could attend?

If they're still unsure, we encourage high school students to speak with their school's Career Advisor.

Additionally, they could also book a time to chat with one of our friendly future student advisors to ask any specific questions they might have at:

adelaide.edu.au/contact



Helpful tips and resources

How to apply

Applications open in early August for study commencing in the following year. Your child can apply for their chosen degrees through the SATAC website.

Before they apply, it's a good idea for your child to familiarise themselves with the application process. This includes things like key dates and deadlines for applications, as well as SATAC fees and when to pay.

Some degrees also have additional requirements, such as sitting a UCAT, submitting a portfolio or completing an audition. It's important for your child to check these details carefully to ensure they meet all requirements.

100% online study

With multiple term start dates throughout the year, your child can apply and begin their 100% online studies whenever they are ready. For more details on how to apply to our 100% online degrees, visit:

adelaide.edu.au/study/online/how-to-apply



Key dates

100% online applications

Always open, multiple start dates available

SATAC applications open

Early August 2026

Early application deadline

Late September 2026

Change of preference deadline

Early January 2027 (check SATAC website)

Main offer round

Mid-January 2027 (check SATAC website)



Useful links

Find your Adelaide University degree

adelaide.edu.au/study

Chat with us

adelaide.edu.au/contact

Explore our scholarships

adelaide.edu.au/study/scholarships

SATAC

satac.edu.au

University study tips



Attend classes regularly.



Develop academic and social networks with other students.



Proactively research information as needed.



Dedicate uninterrupted study hours to each subject every week.



Ask for help if things are confusing.



Be engaged during tutorials and participate in online forums.



Complete internships, placements, an overseas exchange or international study tour.



Read assessment details carefully and submit them on time.



Learn from feedback provided by markers.



Be organised and balance extracurricular activities.



Stay healthy by exercising regularly and getting enough sleep to minimise stress.

Financial support

There is a range of support available to help your child manage the financial costs of studying at university.

Commonwealth supported places

Commonwealth supported places are available in all undergraduate degrees studied at Adelaide University. A Commonwealth supported place is subsidised by the Australian Government. This means a portion of the full cost of your child's studies is paid for by the government. For the remaining portion (the student contribution), your child has the option to either pay this up front or defer payment by requesting a HECS-HELP loan.

HECS-HELP is an Australian Government scheme to help students in a Commonwealth supported place to pay their student contribution. Australian citizens and holders of Permanent Humanitarian visas are eligible.

In utilising a HECS-HELP loan, students require a TFN (Tax File Number). This loan is then managed through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). For more information on HECS-HELP, visit:

studyassist.gov.au

Student support payments

Centrelink, on behalf of the Australian Government, provides financial assistance to full-time students (and, to a lesser degree, part-time students) with approved circumstances.

Allowances are subject to various criteria. For more information, visit:

studyassist.gov.au/support-while-you-study/student-payments

Scholarships

Scholarships and grants are available to both new and continuing students. Scholarships are not only for high achievers – they are also available to provide your child with an equal opportunity to study at university, no matter where you live or what your financial situation might be.

We strongly encourage your child to apply for any scholarships for which they might be eligible, as they can be awarded more than one.

More information is available at:

adelaide.edu.au/study/scholarships

Register for Open Days 2026

Join us to explore what your future could look like at Adelaide University. Visit Adelaide University Open Day events across our metropolitan and regional campuses including the new Sport Science Hub at SASI, Mile End.

Tour our dedicated teaching facilities and student spaces, and engage in interactive activities and demonstrations – giving you an insight into life on campus. Learn about our 400+ degrees across 22 diverse study areas, and connect with staff to learn more about your study options and future pathways.



Register here



Student experience and support

While a big part of university life involves developing their independence, that doesn't mean your child has to do it all alone. Our student support services are here to help them achieve their goals and get the most out of their study experience.

We're here to support your child on their student journey, from day one. On campus and beyond, they'll have access to dedicated teaching and supporting staff, and a wide range of services.

adelaide.edu.au/life-at-adelaide/student-life



Aboriginal student services

Culturally safe and dedicated support services including scholarships, study help, peer mentoring and more, are available to Aboriginal students.

Academic support

Whether your child needs general study guidance or more specific assistance, we've got them covered. They'll have access to writing, study skills and maths support, along with peer-led learning and 24/7 support.

Access and inclusion

If your child has a disability, impairment, chronic health condition, or significant caring responsibilities, they can access confidential and personalised advice, adjustments and support to help them reach their study goals.

Accommodation

Helping them find their home away from home. We'll support your child to find and apply for accommodation that's convenient, safe, accessible and right for them. For more information, visit:

adelaide.edu.au/accommodation

Career services

Career services help prepare your child for a lifetime of success. Throughout their studies, they can attend networking and industry events, build career planning and management skills, access job opportunities and more.

Counselling

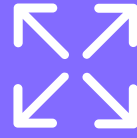
Qualified counsellors are available both on campus and online, to help your child take care of their personal wellbeing. Sessions are free and confidential.

Health clinics

Your child can access health services at reduced student rates at any of our campus health clinics. This includes GP services, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology and more.

Orientation

Orientation programs are the first step towards a fulfilling student experience. Your child can join campus tours, gain an understanding of their degree, meet people they'll be studying with and enjoy fun activities and events. They'll also be able to participate online.



**Wide range
of services**



**Dedicated teaching
and support staff**



Religious needs

Private prayer rooms are available across all our campuses. Your child can also join a faith-based student group or connect with a range of religious chaplains and pastors on campus.

Sports and fitness

Your child can join a sports team, take a group fitness class, or hit an on campus gym or pool between classes. There's something for everyone to stay fit and feel good.

Student clubs, societies and association

Our student association is the voice and social heart of your child's student experience. With a wide variety of clubs and societies, they'll be sure to find their people and their passion.



Study 100% online



Study with us from anywhere in Australia.

Whether you're looking to advance in your field or it is time for a career change, our 100% online mode might be what you're looking for. We offer the chance to study to anyone in Australia, with 50 programs covering Business, Marketing and Communication, Health Science, Construction, and Psychology.

Flexible learning for busy people

Our courses are designed to give you the flexibility to study on your own terms, with learning resources available on-demand. Fit study around your work, family, and life commitments without compromising the quality of your education.

Designed and delivered by our experts

We're committed to creating quality programs and learning experiences. Our academics create learning materials with the latest insights from industry, which our online learning experts bring to life using interactive technology and tools like videos, quizzes, and podcasts.

Studying online doesn't mean studying alone

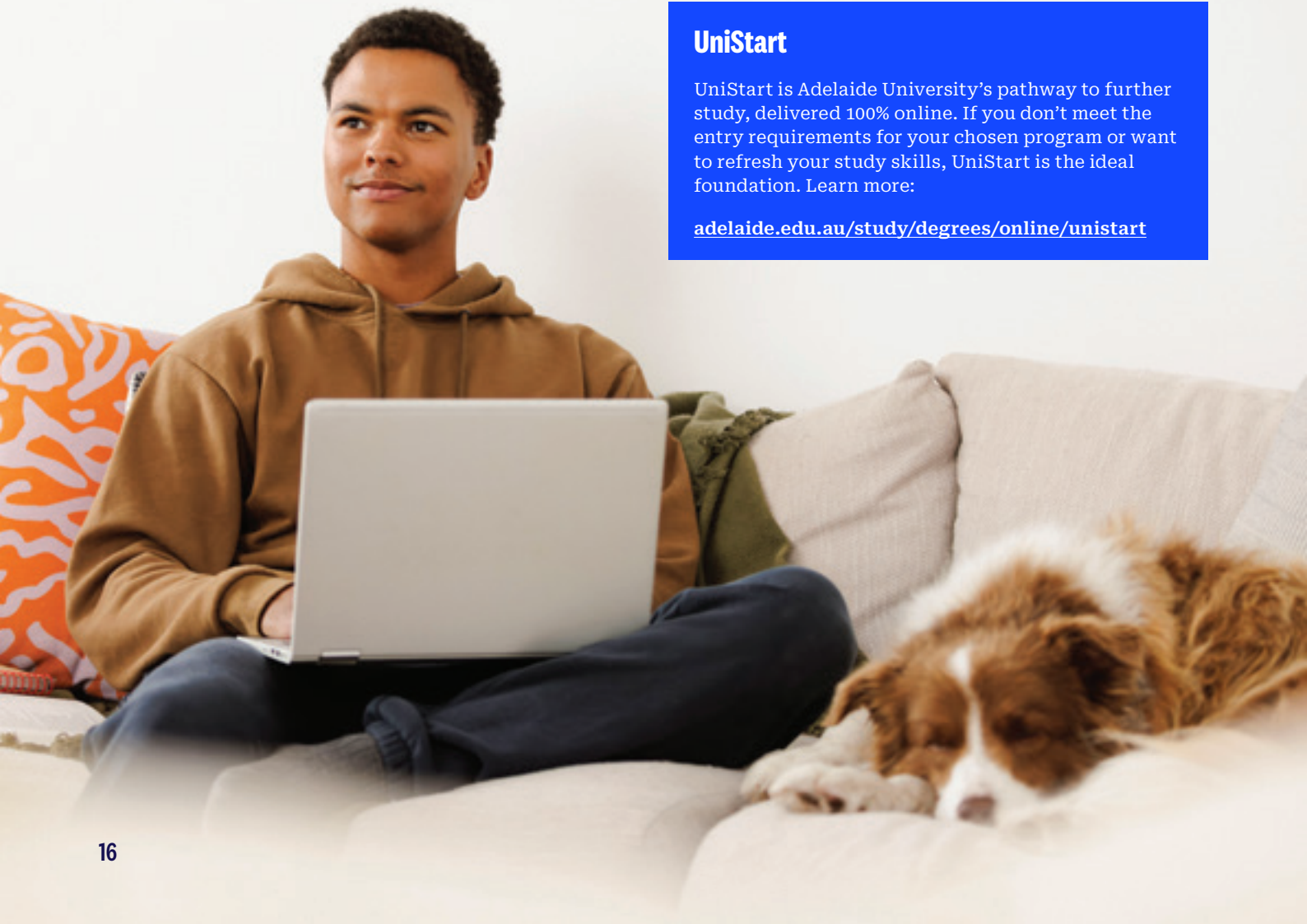
You'll be supported throughout your 100% online studies by a dedicated Student Assist Officer and have access to academic and technical support seven days a week - even outside of regular hours. You will also become part of our online learning community with the opportunity to connect with other students across Australia.

adelaide.edu.au/study/online

UniStart

UniStart is Adelaide University's pathway to further study, delivered 100% online. If you don't meet the entry requirements for your chosen program or want to refresh your study skills, UniStart is the ideal foundation. Learn more:

adelaide.edu.au/study/degrees/online/unistart







Further enquiries

Future Student Enquiries:

P: +61 8 7420 5115

adelaide.edu.au/contact

Adelaide University

SA 5005 Australia

adelaide.edu.au

facebook.com/adelaideuni

linkedin.com/school/adelaideuni

youtube.com/@AdelaideUniAustralia

instagram.com/adelaideuni

tiktok.com/@adelaideuni

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