Broadly speaking, the purpose of the “Enabling Course” is to provide the required background for students who do not meet university entrance requirements but wish to undertake studies leading to a degree in the sciences or engineering.

The course is funded through the Commonwealth Department of Education Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Students undertaking this course are not charged the usual 'student contribution' – ie. your fees are paid by the government, and students don’t ‘use up’ their Student Learning Entitlement – ie. doing the Enabling Course does not affect the length of time for which the Commonwealth will provide support for your degree studies. Consequently, the course is not available to non-Australian Citizens. The course is eligible for Commonwealth support through Centrelink.

The course is a 1 year, full time program, which if successfully completed enables direct entry into science and engineering courses at Curtin. (The course is available for part time study.) Many institutions offer 1 semester/6 month ‘University Preparation’ courses. These provide some study skills, English & communications and possibly some basic maths; they do not prepare students to take up degree courses in the sciences or in engineering.

On successful completion of the Enabling Course you are guaranteed a place in the Bachelor of Science (311148), Multidisciplinary Science major (312548) in the School of Science. Limited places are available in all other science & engineering courses at Curtin and entry to these is competitive; ie. depends upon your performance and the current demand for that course. EG. for entry into an Engineering degree you must, as a minimum, pass a full enrolment in the Enabling Course with an average mark greater than 65%.

Within the ‘Multi Science’ degree program every opportunity is provided for a student to “prove themselves” – to improve their performance – and hence switch to the degree course of their choice.

Curtin has negotiated with Canning College & Tuart College, an arrangement whereby students enrol through Curtin and have the same privileges as any other Curtin student but they also enrol at either Canning or Tuart Colleges which provide all the teaching in maths and the sciences. Students also get an opportunity to study some Curtin units at the Curtin Bentley campus. We believe this arrangement gives Enabling Course students the best of both worlds ... they get the best education in maths and the sciences from institutions that specialise in providing education to meet university entrance requirements and they get a gradual introduction to the ‘university experience’.

The course is challenging because we aim to provide students with a genuinely solid background in maths and the ‘enabling sciences’ so that students are in a position to successfully tackle any degree in science or engineering. Although all the units you will be studying assume just basic/general knowledge, if you are coming to this with only a Year 10 High School background (and possibly from many years ago!) it would be advisable to spend a semester or two taking some preparatory Canning or Tuart College units of study to ‘get back into the swing’ of learning. Counselors at these Colleges would be best placed to advise you in this regard.
Do not be ‘put off’ … the major challenge is in the sheer volume of material presented and in the pace you need to digest the stuff.

Many folks with limited backgrounds have succeeded in the course and are now pursuing degrees in areas such as Engineering (Civil, Mechatronic, Electrical, …), Physics, Computing, Geology, Mathematical and Environmental Science, and the Health Sciences.

Application is quite easy.
If you have done your TEE and your TER is greater (or equal) to 70, you may have met the minimum requirements for admission to a Curtin degree course in which case you may not be eligible for the Enabling Course.

All applicants for 2012 should apply through the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC).
http://www.tisc.edu.au/

Direct applications are also possible (see contact details below) but if for 2012, official offers of a place in the course may not be made until February 2012. Download an ‘Application for Admission’ form at:
Although there is currently no general ‘mid-year intake’ (to commence studies in July), applicants with a strong Year 11 or a Year 12 high school background may be accepted.
All applications for mid-year entry, must be ‘direct’ and must be submitted by 30th June.

All applicants will be required to provide a ‘Personal Statement’. In this you should
- tell us a bit about your background;
- tell us to what level you took your education in the first place and what you’ve been doing since;
- mention any qualifications/experience that you have gained in the interim;
- include a bit on your future aspirations, ie. where you want the Enabling Course to take you.

Include a brief ‘CV’ and other support material such as copies of certificates (school, TAFE, etc), the name of a referee (someone who can say that you’d make a great student!) or a reference.
The idea is to convince us that you are keen; that you can apply yourself and hence would have a good chance of succeeding.

The very latest date by which ‘direct applications’ need to be submitted to our administration would be by Monday, 6th of February 2012.
Please note that there is every indication that competition for places in 2012 will be stronger than ever and the later the application the more difficult it will be to win a place.

Please note that the course can only be undertaken at the Curtin Bentley campus and Canning or Tuart College campuses and all units studied require attendance at these campuses.

The teaching timetable follows the normal Curtin and Canning or Tuart College Semesters. Curtin Orientation Week (StartUp Week) starts on the 20th February, 2012 and ‘proper’ lectures start on Monday the 27th February.

You can find more information about Curtin, Our Courses, Schools and Faculties, etc at http://www.curtin.edu.au/.
For general information for students follow the Current Students and Future Students links.

The Enabling Course is detailed in the Curtin Handbook: http://handbook.curtin.edu.au/ (Search for “enabling”.)

Information on Canning College is available at http://www.canningcollege.wa.edu.au/
Information on Tuart College is available at http://www.tuartcollege.wa.edu.au/Home.htm

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Mysteries are not necessarily miracles. -- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)