



APPLYING FOR EQUITY SCHEMES & SCHOLARSHIPS

VTAC's Equity Schemes and Scholarships application covers special consideration for all of your course preferences in a single application.

What are equity schemes?

Equity schemes are designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to access tertiary education, regardless of the challenges or disadvantages they may have faced during their studies. These schemes recognise that certain circumstances—such as financial hardship, medical conditions, family responsibilities, or attending a school with limited resources—can impact a student's ability to achieve their full academic potential.

Once you apply, tertiary institutions can consider the hardships you have experienced and their impact on your studies when making selection decisions. This means that the information you provide in your equity schemes and scholarships application can help you achieve an offer for your dream course as well as financial scholarships.

An equity schemes application can only help to make your application more competitive, so if there are any categories you think are relevant, we always recommend students to apply.

The equity schemes application only becomes available once you have completed your course application.

How might an equity schemes application help you?

- Special consideration can increase your selection rank (based on your ATAR and other factors), which may help you achieve an offer for your dream course.
- The equity schemes and scholarship application could award you a scholarship from participating institutions.

Things to keep in mind

- You can and should apply for as many equity scheme categories as are relevant to your circumstances.
- Even with an equity schemes application, you still need to meet any essential requirements outlined by the course.
- You will not receive notification of whether special consideration has been granted as each institution and course may apply it differently for selection.
- Each category may require supporting evidence, so start to familiarise yourself with all of the requirements so you can be organised for completing your application.



VTAC Equity Schemes and Scholarships is **one application** that can increase your chance of receiving course offers and financial scholarships.

Dates & Deadlines

3 AUGUST

Applications open

You can apply for equity schemes and scholarships from this date – get started early!

9 OCTOBER 5 PM

Applications close

This is a **hard deadline**, so make sure you have applied by this time and provided any required supporting documents.

VTAC Connect

Our helpful and supportive team is here to help you with any application questions, including questions about equity schemes and scholarships.

(03) 9926 1020

9 am – 5 pm
Monday to Friday



EQUITY SCHEMES & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CATEGORIES

PERSONAL INFORMATION & LOCATION



Consideration

There are seven subcategories considered, which are:

- Age
- Recognition as an Indigenous Australian
- First in family to attend university
- Living or school location
- Under-represented school
- Under-represented gender
- Non-English speaking background

Evidence

None required. VTAC will use information supplied in your profile to automatically consider you for this category.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP



Consideration

Considers impacts on your education and daily life due to financial hardship.

Examples of circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- you receive Centrelink benefits
- your parent/guardian receives Centrelink benefits you have excessive financial obligations
- individual or family economic hardship
- individual or family poverty

Evidence

- Centrelink statement
- If no Centrelink payments are received -
 - Impact Statement and Statement of Support

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION



Consideration

Considers any impact on your education due to disability or medical conditions, including diagnosed mental health conditions.

Conditions could be related to any learning, physical, sensory, psychiatric or mental health medical conditions, illness or disability.

Evidence

- Impact statement written by the applicant
- Statement of support written by a health practitioner

DIFFICULT FAMILY AND LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES



Consideration

Considers any impact on your education due to family or other life circumstances that have been out of your control.

This category can include:

- Refugee or asylum seeker status
- Disrupted home environment
- Excessive family responsibility
- Natural disaster
- Abusive living or school environment
- Domestic, family and sexual violence
- Disrupted education

Evidence

- Impact statement written by the applicant
- Statement of support written by a responsible person

For some circumstances, the evidence requirements may be different. Follow the instructions on the application form.

Statement of Support

A statement of support is required for some equity schemes applications. It is written by a responsible adult, such as a teacher or medical practitioner, who is aware of your circumstances and supports your application by providing confirmation and additional information about how your circumstances have impacted your learning.

A responsible person must meet all of the below criteria:

- 21 years of age or older
- Has known you for at least 12 months or for the entire duration of the circumstance(s), whichever is shorter
- Is not related to you
- Does not live with you

Providing a statement of support

Online

This option sends your responsible person an email with a one-time link that enables them to submit a statement of support.

Scanned document

This option is a template that you give to your responsible person and then you need to provide a scanned copy by uploading it into your VTAC account.

Impact Statement

Within the Equity Schemes and Scholarships application form, you will be prompted to include a statement about how the circumstances have impacted your study. You should write a statement in your own words that briefly describes your condition and explains how your education has been impacted. The application will list key points to include that are relevant to the categories you select.

Want to find out more?

Head to our website to find out more details about equity schemes and scholarships.

vtac.edu.au/access



vtacguide



vtacguide



vtacguide



vtacmedia

