

The VTAC Gazette

July 2018

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New processes

Higher education admissions transparency plan

The Australian Government, in conjunction with higher education providers, is implementing a higher education admissions transparency plan. The objectives of this plan include the nation-wide implementation of common terminology and information sets, and the standardised presentation of admissions data. These changes will be reflected in VTAC's CourseSearch course entries and the terminology used in VTAC's communications. Nothing has changed in terms of how institutions approach selection.

Resources to assist you understand these changes include:

- The fact sheets: [How to use CourseSearch 2018](#) and [The ATAR Profile Explained](#).
- The careers practitioners' blog article [Five Key Changes to Course Information in 2018](#).

New combined closing date: SEAS and scholarships

Applications for the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) and scholarships will now close on the same day. This year it will be **5 pm 12 October 2018**.

STAT now administered through ACER

From July 2018, responsibility for administering the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) in Victoria and Tasmania returns to the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). VTAC will still access and provide STAT results to institutions.

Applicants required to sit the STAT should visit stat.acer.org.au for details.

New policies

SEAS

Asylum seekers are now eligible for SEAS

The SEAS application is now available to international applicants on some Temporary, Bridging and Safe Haven Enterprise visas. Once a course application is made, applicants with an eligible visa will have access to the SEAS application through their VTAC account.

Difficult circumstances: refugees and asylum seekers with or without permanent residency

When applying to SEAS Category 4: Difficult circumstances as an eligible refugee or asylum seeker, applicants will be prompted to supply a copy of their passport with the relevant visa page or a copy of their visa grant notice. The impact statement is then optional, however applicants must still supply a statement of support from a responsible person.

Disadvantaged financial background: Department of Veteran Affairs benefits

A reminder that recipients of Department of Veteran Affairs benefits are eligible to apply for SEAS Category 2: Disadvantaged Financial Background. Applicants must provide a copy of their 'statement of pension' as VTAC is unable to access it electronically.

Disability or medical condition: 'health practitioners'

Statements of support for applications to SEAS Category 3: Disability or medical condition are to be provided by a health practitioner. Health practitioners include, but are not limited to, GPs, physiotherapists, psychologists, counsellors in the field of health and school nurses.

Application dates for Round 2 and subsequent offers

Those who miss the December deadline and wish to be considered for Round 2 offers in 2019 will have the opportunity to apply for Round 2 and subsequent offers from **4 January 2019 to 22 January 2019**. The fee for these applications is \$54.

Note: not all courses will be available at this late stage—popular courses may have already reached capacity.

Year 12 students: VTAC and VASS details must match

When Year 12 students create a VTAC account, it is important that their details recorded in the Victorian Assessment Software System (VASS) match the details they use for their VTAC account. In the past, students have jeopardised chances of receiving offers by varying their personal details when registering.

If students have difficulty creating a VTAC account, they are advised to first check with the school to see if the details recorded with VASS are correct and, if not, change them accordingly.

If students continue to have difficulties, they should contact VTAC.

Policy reminder

First published November/December 2017

ATAR 2019: Changes to how unscored studies contribute to the ATAR

From December 2019, the rules on how unscored studies can contribute to the calculation of the ATAR will be amended. Unscored increments for VCE VET and VFE block credit are currently calculated as the average of the primary four. From December 2019, they will instead be calculated using 10 per cent of the lowest study score of the primary four.

Research undertaken by VTAC indicates that using the lowest scaled study score of the primary four, rather than the primary four average, is a closer match to what occurs for students with scored studies. It also shows that using the lowest study score of the primary four will ensure students with an unscored fifth or sixth increment are not disadvantaged over those who take a scored increment. This change does not apply to higher education increments as part of the VCE or to the Legitimate One Year increment.

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