

VTAC Bulletin

Annual National Edition

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Changes to teaching selection criteria

Victorian framework for selection into initial teacher education

As a result of a Victorian Government review, new selection guidelines will be introduced for all initial teacher education (ITE) courses taking applications for 2018. The selection framework has been developed by the state government and the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

The framework is founded upon a set of principles that set requirements for both initial teacher education providers and applicants. These requirements pertain to selection mechanisms, documentation and reporting, and the academic capabilities and personal attributes of applicants.

The following table specifies criteria to be used for accreditation when assessing whether ITE programs have demonstrated the principles of the Victorian ITE Framework, in respect to:

- Year 12 Entry via an ATAR into an ITE program
- supplementary academic pathways into an ITE program
- personal capabilities applicable to all entry pathways, and
- specifying the reporting requirements in respect to the criteria.

Accreditation criteria for Victorian initial teacher education courses

Academic capability and pathways—Year 12 (including VCE, IB, VCAL or interstate/international studies)		
Year	Min. ATAR	Notes
2018	65	The minimum ATAR may include SEAS, other bonuses (e.g. subject bonuses) and other special entry schemes.
2019	70	The minimum ATAR may include SEAS, other bonuses (e.g. subject bonuses) and other special entry schemes.

Supplementary academic pathways—non-Year 12 applicants

2018 and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All pathways documented• Minimum AQF level 4 (Certificate IV or higher)• Credit/RPL justified
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Personal attributes—applicable to both Year 12 and supplementary academic pathways

2018 and ongoing	<p>This may include non-cognitive tests (e.g. CASPer) either prior to selection or as part of the course. All information requirements are included in course entries. Additional costs may apply.</p> <p>Providers will demonstrate and report on the effectiveness of their selection criteria and process as it impacts on quality teaching and improved student outcomes.</p> <p>Personal attributes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• motivation to teach• strong interpersonal / communication skills• willingness to learn• resilience• self-efficacy• conscientiousness• organisational and planning skills
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Evidence, effectiveness and impact

ongoing	<p>ITE providers will demonstrate and report on the effectiveness of their selection criteria and process as it impacts on quality teaching and improved student outcomes.</p> <p>Selection criteria and processes will be validated through the accreditation of the ITE program and verified by VIT.</p> <p>A collective evidence-based approach to evaluating the framework will inform its overall impact on the quality of teaching and improved student outcomes, and drive ongoing improvement.</p>
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What's new?

New and improved resources from VTAC.

The 2017 VTAC App includes both CourseSearch and the Prerequisite and Course Explorer. Furthermore, it's free! Encourage your Year 10–12 students to download it from their app store to discover tertiary opportunities and plan their studies.

We listened to your feedback about our inaugural VTACmag and so 2017's edition includes sections on clearly-in ATARs and VTAC essentials. It has also been restructured to improve usability.

Read about all our publications and resources on page 3.



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Case study: Jess and Jill both have an ATAR of 63

Jess and Jill want to study teaching and each lists a range of education courses on their VTAC application.

All courses have a minimum ATAR requirement of 65 and all require Jess and Jill to sit a non-cognitive test designed to assess applicants' personal and professional attributes.

Both students are required to register and pay for the test prior to selection. Both complete all the selection requirements and in December both get an ATAR of 63.

With their respective careers teachers, each student looks at each course entry and notices that in addition to the ATAR, bonuses for access and equity programs, SEAS, subject bonus statements etc. may apply.

Jess receives an offer for a course because once bonuses had been applied, the corresponding ATAR to her selection rank was at or above 65. Furthermore, that she received an offer also means she fulfilled the requirement of the noncognitive test.

Jill doesn't receive an offer—even with subject bonuses being applied it was not enough to take her ATAR selection rank up to or above 65.

CASPer

CASPer is a non-cognitive online test many initial teacher education courses in Victoria will require applicants to take. A fact sheet on CASPer is available from the 'Publications' section of the VTAC website.

Higher Education Reform Package

The Australian Government has announced a set of proposed reforms to the higher education sector within the 2017–2018 budget. If legislation enacting the reforms is passed by the Senate, there are likely to be significant changes to the levels of student contributions and repayment thresholds, and the eligibility of non-Australian citizens for CSP courses.

If the changes are implemented, VTAC will update our website and digital publications with the relevant amendments.

For information on HELP, student income support and Commonwealth scholarships see the Australian Government's Study Assist website at: www.studyassist.gov.au

For information on the Victorian Training Guarantee see the Victorian Government's Further Education and Training website at: www.education.vic.gov.au/training

For information on scholarships see the VTAC website at: www.vtac.edu.au/scholarships

About VTAC application services

VTAC administers three types of applications for Victorian tertiary institutions: VTAC course applications, VTAC scholarship applications and Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) applications.

VTAC also takes bookings for some admissions tests and provides course listings for some courses that require applicants to apply directly to the institution.

Course applications

To apply for courses through VTAC an applicant must meet:

- citizenship or residency requirements
- minimum tertiary entrance requirements
- institutional entrance requirements, and
- course selection criteria including prerequisites, selection requirements, additional considerations and enrolment considerations.

The 'Am I eligible?' section of the VTAC website describes these in detail.

Applicants who don't currently meet these requirements are encouraged to investigate pathways to tertiary study, which include preparatory programs.

Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)

Many institutions offer entry schemes that take into account short and long-term educational disadvantage. The main program is the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS), which is run through VTAC.

There are four categories within SEAS. Not all institutions recognise all categories:

- **Category 1:** Personal information and location. This includes mature-age entry, applying for a course in a discipline in which your gender is under-represented, attending an under-represented school living in a regional or remote area,

having a non-English speaking background, recognition as an Indigenous Australian, and being the first in your family to attend a university.

- **Category 2:** Disadvantaged financial background
- **Category 3:** Disability or medical condition
- **Category 4:** Difficult circumstances

While most special consideration is offered through the single SEAS application process, other schemes require applicants to apply directly to the institution.

More information is available in the 'Special consideration (SEAS)' section of the VTAC website.

Scholarships

Most institutions have scholarships available to applicants to ensure equitable access to education and to reward academic excellence. Some scholarships require applications to be made directly to the institution. For all other scholarships, applicants should use the VTAC scholarship application.

VTAC administers applications for:

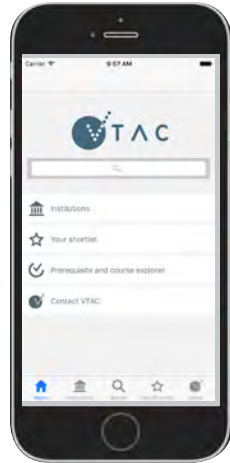
- institutional access and equity scholarships, and
- Commonwealth scholarships. This includes student start-up loans, relocation scholarships and Indigenous Commonwealth scholarships.

Most merit scholarships are also administered through VTAC. Merit scholarships may be awarded to students for academic achievement if they have studied an Australian Year 12 or the International Baccalaureate (IB) in 2017. To be considered, applicants must apply for courses through VTAC, but they do not need to lodge a VTAC scholarship application. Where an institution offers merit scholarships, students who have listed that institution on their course preference list and met any additional course or institutional eligibility requirements will automatically be assessed by that institution.

Publications and resources



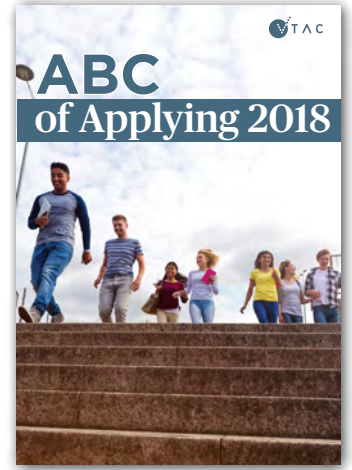
VTACmag



VTAC App



VTAC Year 10 Guide



ABC of Applying

Every year VTAC publishes a range of resources to help Year 10 and 11 students plan their VCE studies and Year 12 students prepare for entry into tertiary education. Some of these resources are available in print, and all are available online at www.vtac.edu.au/publications

VTACmag

VTACmag has everything applicants need to know about applying for further study in Victoria. Content includes: VTAC essentials, covering everything from creating a VTAC account to scholarships and special consideration; advice from VTAC and career experts; interviews with current tertiary students and graduates; and selection data for courses that commenced at the beginning of 2017 that had a clearly-in ATAR. VTACmag is available from newsagents (\$7.95 RRP inc. GST) and in digital format from the Apple App Store and Google Play (\$4.49 inc. GST).

VTAC App

The new VTAC App brings together CourseSearch and the Prerequisite and Course Explorer. The app is searchable offline and will update with any changes when the device is connected to the internet. Users can also save course entries to a shortlist so they can find them easily later. The VTAC App is free. Download from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

VTAC CourseSearch

CourseSearch is an online tool that allows students to search or browse through courses at universities, TAFEs and independent tertiary colleges. CourseSearch summarises courses and details entrance requirements.

VTAC Prerequisite and Course Explorer

The VTAC Prerequisite and Course Planner is an online tool that allows students to research course prerequisites up to two years in advance. Year 10 students can use it to investigate different study options and plan their VCE program. It is also a handy reference for Year 11 students who are reviewing their Year 12 study choices.

VTAC Year 10 Guide

The VTAC Year 10 Guide is a magazine-style booklet designed to help current Year 10 students plan their future VCE program. The booklet covers topics such as prerequisites, ATARs, scaling and urban myths surrounding choosing VCE studies. Copies are distributed at no charge to Victorian and border secondary providers.

ABC of Applying

The ABC of Applying explains application processes for course, SEAS and scholarships. Written for Year 12 students and their parents, copies are distributed at no charge to Victorian and border secondary providers.

ABC of Scaling

The ABC of Scaling explains how VTAC scales VCE study scores and then calculates the ATAR from those scaled scores. The ABC of Scaling will be available on the VTAC website in November.

ABC of Offers

The ABC of Offers explains how the offer system works, with information about offer rounds, course fee types, supplementary offers and change of preference. The ABC of Offers will be available on the VTAC website in November.

The VTAC Gazette

The VTAC Gazette is a monthly digest of policy updates and changes to courses offered through VTAC, such as new and cancelled courses, campus changes and other amendments. The first edition of the VTAC Gazette for 2017 will be available on the VTAC website in August.

VTAC video series

Our YouTube channel (@vtacmedia) features a range of videos to help applicants through the steps involved in creating a VTAC account, applying for courses, accessing offers and managing course preferences.

Policy updates

International applications broadened to TAFE

From 2017, international students studying the VCE or equivalent Year 12 program including the Australian IB, may apply for TAFE courses through VTAC.

Courses available to international students can be identified by the course code.

All course codes ending in '3' are available to international students.

Post main round applications

From this year onwards, new course applications will be accepted after Round 1 offers are released. Not all courses are available at this late stage, and popular courses may have already reached capacity. Students who have forgotten to make an application, or had a last-minute change of mind and wish to study in Victoria will be able to create their application from the VTAC website.

Northern hemisphere ATARs

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) now offers some VCE studies on an alternative timetable that runs from September to July. This is known as the Northern Hemisphere timetable (NHT).

Students who complete one or more units of study under this timetable are not a part of the larger Victorian scaling population. Therefore, VTAC is providing graduating Northern Hemisphere students with a notional ATAR. The scaling and aggregation to ATAR for these students in 2017 will be calculated based on the 2016 aggregate to ATAR table. The label "notional" indicates the ATAR is calculated outside the larger Victorian scaling and aggregation population. As a measure of achievement, and for selection purposes, an ATAR and a notional ATAR are equivalent.

SEAS categories reordered

The order of SEAS categories has been rearranged as follows.

Category 1: Personal information and location

Category 2: Disadvantaged financial background

Category 3: Disability or medical condition

Category 4: Difficult circumstances

Please note, the order is incorrect in the print version of the *ABC of Applying*. The information in the PDF of the *ABC of Applying* and other VTAC publications is correct.

Resources and services for careers practitioners

VTAC aims to assist careers practitioners by providing policy and procedural advice and quality information delivery through seminars, online resources and printed publications. Key resources for practitioners include:

Careers Practitioners blog

The blog is VTAC's primary source of information for careers practitioners. We recommend subscribing by email to receive new posts in your inbox. Visit careersblog.vtac.edu.au

Careers Practitioners website

The website collates key VTAC resources to support careers practitioners. Visit www.vtac.edu.au/careers

Briefings and webinars

VTAC briefings are held throughout Victoria and in some interstate cities between June and August. Bookings are required and further information, including dates and copies of PowerPoint presentations, is available on the Careers Practitioners website. In partnership with the Career Education Association of Victoria (CEAV), VTAC runs a series of webinars every year which focus on different aspects of the application process. The next webinar is an online version of our comprehensive annual career practitioner briefings, and will be held on Wednesday 23 August, 4.15–5.15 pm. Look out for more information about how to register on the Careers Practitioners blog.

CourseLink

CourseLink is VTAC's password-protected portal for Australian schools. Careers practitioners can use CourseLink to view information about all VTAC applicants studying at their school, including information about preferences, offers, and enrolments. CourseLink also provides overall school statistics related to Victorian tertiary applications. If you don't already have access to CourseLink, you can email SchoolsLiaison@vtac.edu.au to get started.

The VTAC Bulletin is available online: www.vtac.edu.au



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