

# VTAC Bulletin

Annual National Edition – AUGUST 2019

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## December offers for domestic Year 12 students

Students currently studying Year 12 in Victoria or Queensland who apply for courses through VTAC for 2020 will be eligible to receive a course offer in December 2019, just after the release of the ATAR.

### Eligibility

Domestic applicants currently studying the VCE or QCE are eligible for offers in the December round. All other applicants, including IB and other interstate applicants, will be considered in offer rounds from January onwards. Places will be reserved for those studying the IB or another state curriculum, so they won't be disadvantaged.

### Participating courses

Most but not all courses will make offers in the December round. All courses will participate in the January round, regardless of whether or not they have made offers in December. VTAC has published a fact sheet about the December offer round, which contains a list of statements from institutions indicating which courses are likely to participate by making offers in December.

### Change of preference

Once they have applied for courses, applicants can change their preferences as many times as they like. This includes a short period after the ATAR is released, and between each offer round. The majority of course offers are made in December and January, so it's best for them to plan your preferences early to maximise their chance of receiving the offer they want.

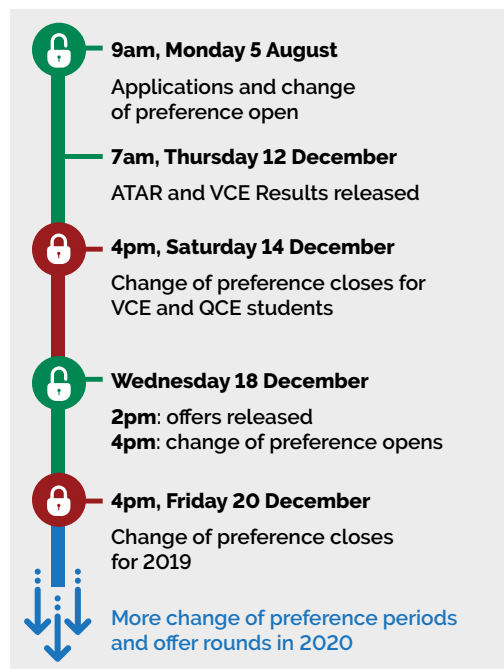
## Policy updates

### 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 fourth study score of the primary four.

Research undertaken by VTAC indicates that using the fourth scaled study score of the primary four, rather than the primary four average, is a closer

### Key dates



## Stay connected

To stay up-to-date with important policy updates and course amendments, such as new and cancelled courses, read the VTAC Gazette, published each month from July to December ([vtac.edu.au/publications](http://vtac.edu.au/publications)).

You can also follow us on Twitter or Facebook for regular updates and reminders of upcoming application deadlines.

For important news and advice for careers professionals, subscribe to the careers practitioners blog ([careersblog.vtac.edu.au](http://careersblog.vtac.edu.au)).



### VICTORIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE

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For updates please check:  
[www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)

## 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 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
- » essential requirements and admission criteria including prerequisites, requirements for selection and application and requirements for enrolment or graduation and any other admission criteria.

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, or that allow institutions to identify applicants from under-represented groups when making selection decisions. 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 are applied for directly to the institution, other scholarships 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 2019. 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.

## Key dates for current Year 12 students (domestic and international)

For all VTAC dates and fees, including change of preference windows and payment deadlines, see [vtac.edu.au/dates](http://vtac.edu.au/dates)

Course applications	Open	Close	Fees
Timely course applications	5 August (9am)	30 September (5pm)	\$39.00 processing fee (YR12)
Late course applications	30 September (5.30pm)	1 November (5pm)	\$113.00 Late processing fee
Very late course applications	1 November (5.30pm)	6 December (5pm)	\$148.00 Very late processing fee
New January applications	3 January 2020 (10am)	Check VTAC website	\$58.00
VTAC Personal Statement and supporting documentation for course applications		Close	
Final submission date to ensure consideration for December and subsequent offer rounds		6 December (5pm)	
Final date to edit VTAC Personal Statement for January round offers		2 January 2020 (5pm)	
Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)	Open	Close	
SEAS application and supporting documentation	5 August (9am)	11 October (5pm)	
Scholarships	Open	Close	
Scholarship application and supporting documentation	5 August (9am)	11 October (5pm)	
Offers (Domestic)		Offers (International)	
Round	Offers released	Round	Offers released
December round (Victoria and Queensland only)	18 December (Victoria and Queensland only)	December round	18 December
January round	15 January 2020	January round 1	7 January 2020
February round 1	3 February 2020	January round 2	10 January 2020
February round 2	10 February 2020	January round 3	15 January 2020
February round 3	17 February 2020	January round 4	20 January 2020
February round 4	24 February 2020	January round 5	24 January 2020
» Offers are emailed to applicants on the day of release, and available in the VTAC account from 2pm the same day		» Offers are emailed to applicants on the day of release, and available in the VTAC account from 2pm the same day	
» Supplementary offers commence from February round 2			
VCE results and ATAR	Online	Post	
VCE results and ATAR	12 December (7am)	from 18 December	
IB Notional ATAR	3 January 2020 (3pm)	from 8 January 2020	

## Publications and resources

Every year VTAC publishes a range of resources to help Year 10 students plan their VCE studies and Year 11 and 12 students research and prepare for entry into tertiary education. Some of these resources are available in print, and all are available on our website ([vtac.edu.au/publications](http://vtac.edu.au/publications))

### 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

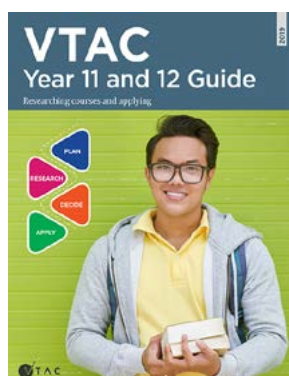
The VTAC Prerequisite and Course Planner is an online tool that allows students to research course prerequisites up to two years in advance. Year 10 students can use it to investigate different study options and plan their VCE program. It is also a handy reference for Year 11 students who are reviewing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

### VTAC App

The 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 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 Year 11 and 12 Guide

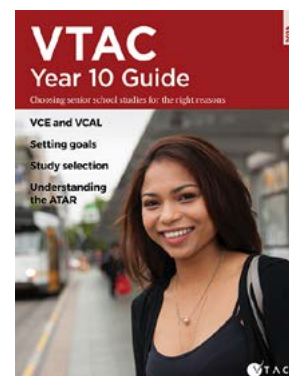
The 2019 *VTAC Year 11 and 12 Guide* helps students research tertiary courses and leads Year 12 students through the application process. All Victorian and border secondary schools are sent one copy for each Year 11 and Year 12 student.



VTAC Year 11 and 12 Guide

### VTAC Year 10 Guide

The 2019 *VTAC Year 10 Guide* provides information and activities to help Year 10 students identify their strengths and interests, research tertiary education, understand prerequisites and the ATAR, and choose their senior school studies. All Victorian and border secondary schools are sent a copy for each Year 10 student.



VTAC Year 10 Guide

### 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 2019 is available on the VTAC website from July.

### VTAC video series

Our YouTube channel ([@vtacmedia](https://www.youtube.com/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.

## 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](http://careersblog.vtac.edu.au)

### Careers Practitioners website

The website collates key VTAC resources to support careers practitioners. Visit [www.vtac.edu.au/careers](http://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 21 August, 4.15–5.15 pm. Look out for more information about how to register on the Careers Practitioners blog.

The CEAV is also running a public community webinar for students, parents and others on Wednesday 14 August, 7–8pm.

### 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](mailto:SchoolsLiaison@vtac.edu.au) to get started.

### Course Seeker

Course Seeker is a national course information platform which lists higher education courses across Australia.

Visit [www.courseseeker.edu.au](http://www.courseseeker.edu.au)

## Introducing the VTAC Careers Hub

VTAC is pleased to announce the opening of the VTAC Careers Hub. This new service, located at the VTAC offices in South Melbourne, has been developed by VTAC to address the needs of the wider community in access to quality careers counselling.

The VTAC Careers Hub provides one-on-one professional counselling, expert advice on study and pathway options, the application process, overcoming barriers, employability and skills, job search skills, and workshops.

The VTAC Careers Hub provides quality counselling in accordance with CICA professional standards. All counselling is provided by practitioners with postgraduate qualifications in Career Development and Education.

While we expect that most users of these services will be mature age applicants who no longer have access to counselling in a school setting, the VTAC Careers Hub also welcomes bookings from secondary school students. For students with high needs, or those who require counselling beyond the resources of the school, you may wish to refer them to the VTAC Careers Hub.

Fees apply for VTAC Careers Hub services to cover operating expenses. Concession rates will apply for eligible clients.

For more information about the VTAC Careers Hub and services, visit the website, email [careershub@vtac.edu.au](mailto:careershub@vtac.edu.au), or call (03) 9926 1020.



## SERVICES

- One-on-one professional careers counselling
- Expert advice on study and pathway options
- VTAC course, scholarship and SEAS applications
- Overcoming barriers
- Employability skills
- Job search skills
- Workshops
- Information sessions for parents, guardians and carers



Operating in accordance with the Career Industry Council of Australia's Professional Standards, our Career Practitioners hold postgraduate qualifications in Career Development and Education.

Book an appointment with a qualified Careers Practitioner

email us [careershub@vtac.edu.au](mailto:careershub@vtac.edu.au)

or visit our website

[careershub.vtac.edu.au](http://careershub.vtac.edu.au)

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The VTAC Bulletin is available online: [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)



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