

VTAC Bulletin

Annual National Edition

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Privacy at VTAC

In March 2014 the Federal Government introduced new privacy legislation that regulates the handling of personal information in Australia. VTAC values the privacy of our applicants' and is committed to handling personal information in a manner consistent with our obligations under the new Australian Privacy Principles (March 2014).

Our new privacy policy outlines how and what information is collected, maintained and disclosed (including identification of individuals) for the services VTAC provides. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the new policy, and if you have any questions contact our Privacy Officer.

<http://www.vtac.edu.au/privacy/>

Want to practice applying? Do a demo

Before you start working on your course, scholarship or SEAS application, you might like to try a demo first to get an idea of what's involved. The VTAC website has demos available for all application types as well as website registration and the VTAC personal statement. Practice makes perfect so to make sure the application process has no surprises, take a look at the demo.

<http://www.vtac.edu.au/applying/demos.html>

Keeping track of changes at VTAC

Things are always changing at VTAC, but keeping up with important policy updates and course amendments, such as new and cancelled courses, is easy. All you need to do is subscribe to one of our social media channels. Follow us on Twitter or Facebook for regular updates and reminders of upcoming application deadlines. You can also find this information on the VTAC blog (<http://vtacmedia.wordpress.com>).

We also have a blog for careers professionals (<http://vtac-careersprof.com>), where careers practitioners can find important information about factors that affect their students and clients. We encourage all careers professionals to subscribe to this interactive resource by email or RSS.

Already there are 26 new course codes and 31 cancelled course codes, so make sure you subscribe to stay up to date!

CourseLink now available to interstate schools

In August 2013, VTAC wrote to all non-Victorian schools inviting them to be part of the interstate access CourseLink program. Around 150 schools took up this offer for the 2014 application and selection period, giving them access, with the permission of students, to see which students applied for courses through VTAC, what courses they applied for, what offers they received and who had and hadn't enrolled in courses offered by VTAC.

Instructions on using this valuable counselling tool are available from the careers practitioners website in the presentations and tutorials archive. If you didn't take up the offer to use the program last year, your school principal should have the original letter containing your login details. If your school is offering an Australian Year 12 program for the first time and you wish to participate, or if you can't find the original letter, please contact schoolsliaison@vtac.edu.au and an account will be created.



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www.vtac.edu.au

Blog/RSS:
vtacmedia.wordpress.com

Facebook:
[facebook.com/vtacguide](https://www.facebook.com/vtacguide)

Twitter: @vtacguide

Telephone: 1300 364 133

**For updates
please check:**

www.vtac.edu.au

About VTAC application services

VTAC administers three applications: VTAC course application, VTAC scholarship application and Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application. VTAC also takes bookings for admissions tests. A range of courses are also listed for which the applicant may apply directly to the institution.

Course applications

You can apply for courses through VTAC if you are:

- an Australian citizen
- an Australian permanent resident
- a New Zealand citizen
- a temporary resident or someone planning to obtain a student visa who is currently studying an Australian Year 12 (in Australia or overseas)* or International Baccalaureate in Australia or New Zealand. *For example: VCE, VCAL, HSC, NTCE, QLD Senior Certificate, SACE, TCE, WACE
- an international student currently enrolled at The University of Melbourne applying to transfer to another course at The University of Melbourne
- a temporary resident or someone who is planning to obtain a student visa who is currently studying or has finished the NCEA in New Zealand with no tertiary studies applying to Monash University.

If you don't meet the citizenship/residency requirements above you must apply directly to institutions – not through VTAC.

Applicants must also meet all entrance requirements in order to be considered for a course. Entrance requirements include tertiary entrance requirements, institutional entrance requirements, and course selection criteria.

If you don't meet tertiary entrance requirements or have had difficulty meeting them or have not studied for the past few years, you should consider applying for special consideration such as SEAS or pathways and preparatory programs.

A number of private tertiary course providers list their courses with VTAC, but manage their own application and offer processes. Similarly, a number of traditional VTAC institutions that offer their undergraduate courses through the VTAC process have also listed a number of post graduate courses for which graduates can apply directly to the institution. Course listings in the VTAC Guide and on CourseSearch include information on how to apply.

Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)

Many institutions offer a range of alternative entry schemes that take into account short and long-term disadvantage. The Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) is the umbrella program run by most institutions offering courses through VTAC. SEAS is for applicants who have experienced educational disadvantage.

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

- Category 1: Personal information and location
 - » Age – will generally be used by institutions that recognise and operate mature age entry schemes
 - » Gender – to identify if you are applying for a course in a male or female under-represented discipline
 - » Language spoken at home and date of arrival to Australia (if applicable) – to identify and operate Non-English speaking background consideration
 - » Living and/or school postcode – to identify applicants from a regional or remote area.

- » Recognition as an Indigenous Australian
- » Current school for school leavers – to identify if you attend one of various under-represented schools identified by institutions under this category – also refer to Category 5 if you are applying to La Trobe University, or Victoria University.

- Category 2: Difficult circumstances
- Category 3: Disadvantaged financial background
- Category 4: Disability or medical condition
- Category 5: La Trobe University SALT, Victoria University PPP

While many alternative entry schemes are offered through the single VTAC SEAS application process, others require you to apply directly to the institution. All applicants should read the information to find out whether or not they are eligible to apply through SEAS or via one of the direct institutional schemes.

Scholarships

Most institutions listed in the VTAC Guide have a number of scholarships available to applicants to reward academic excellence and ensure equitable access to education. For some of these scholarships you will need to apply directly to the institution via their own website. For all other scholarships you should use the VTAC Scholarships Application.

Scholarships through VTAC

Institutional Access and Equity Scholarships

Victorian universities provide their own scholarships both through VTAC and directly. Scholarships determined via the VTAC scholarships application may be awarded to students with financial difficulties, Indigenous Australians and other equity and access groups as defined by each institution.

Commonwealth Scholarships

There are three types of Commonwealth scholarships:

- **Student Start-Up Scholarship** - <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/student-start-up-scholarship>
- **Relocation Scholarship** - <http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/relocation-scholarship>
- **Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships** - <http://www.innovation.gov.au/HigherEducation/StudentSupport/CommonwealthScholarships/Pages/default.aspx>

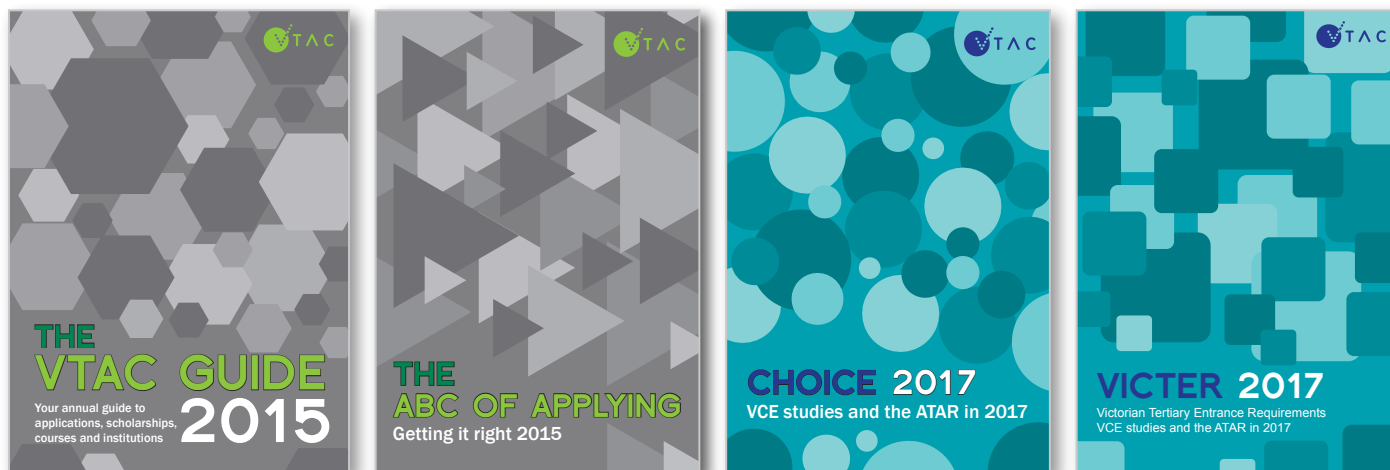
The Student Start-Up and Relocation Scholarships are available to students receiving income support and will be administered by Centrelink.

The Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships are administered by institutions and will be allocated to students who meet the Commonwealth eligibility as described on the Centrelink website and have had their Indigenous status confirmed.

Merit scholarships

Merit scholarships may be awarded to students for academic achievement if they have studied an Australian Year 12 or the International Baccalaureate (IB) in 2014. 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 will automatically be assessed by that institution.

Publications and resources



Every year VTAC publishes a range of resources to assist 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 most are also available online in PDF format at <http://www.vtac.edu.au/publications>

The VTAC Guide 2015

The VTAC Guide 2015 contains everything you need to know about applying for tertiary studies through VTAC, including detailed information about the courses offered by institutions that participate in the VTAC system. It also offers in-depth explanations of the Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) and the VTAC scholarship application. Packed with information to help guide you through the VTAC application process, the VTAC Guide is an invaluable resource for both Year 12 students and those returning to study.

Reference copies of the VTAC Guide 2015 are available at Victorian and border school careers centres, and you can purchase your own copy at your local newsagent for \$12 RRP (inc. GST).

ABC of Applying

The ABC of Applying is a snapshot of the course, SEAS and scholarships application processes. It is an extremely useful resource for parents of students. Copies are distributed at no charge to Victorian and border secondary providers.

Choice

Choice is written for and targeted at current Year 10 students planning their future VCE program. The booklet covers topics such as getting a good ATAR, urban myths surrounding choosing VCE studies, and scaling. Recent graduates also offer their advice to future Year 12 students. Copies are distributed at no charge to Victorian and border secondary providers. All Victorian schools are sent a number of reference copies based on the number of Year 10 students enrolled.

Victorian Tertiary Entrance Requirements (VICTER)

In VICTER, institutions outline the VCE study requirements needed for entry into their courses in two years time. This advance information is vital for Year 10 students planning a VCE curriculum and a future tertiary direction. It is also a handy reference for Year 11 students who are reviewing their Year 12 study choices.

ABC of Scaling

The ABC of Scaling is a pamphlet that explains in simple terms how VTAC scales the 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 is a pamphlet that explains how the offer system works, with information about offer rounds, course fee types, supplementary offers and negotiated offers. 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 2014 will be available on the VTAC website at the end of August.

Year 12 and non-Year 12 applicants: which one are you?

When you register for a VTAC user account, VTAC categorises you as either a:

- Year 12 applicant, or
- Other (non-Year 12) applicant.

The reason for this is that institutions sometimes use different selection criteria for Year 12 and non-Year 12 applicants.

Whether you are treated as a Year 12 or non-Year 12 applicant will depend on the highest qualification you have achieved to date.

Institutions consider you a Year 12 applicant if:

- you are currently enrolled in an Australian or overseas Year 12 program (including the IB) with no post-secondary studies, or
- you have previously attempted or completed an Australian/overseas Year 12 (including the IB) with no post-secondary studies, or

- you have previously attempted or completed an Australian/overseas Year 12 (including the IB) with post-secondary studies of Certificate I, Certificate II or Certificate III (but NOT Certificate IV or above).

Institutions consider you a non-Year 12/other applicant if:

- you have previously attempted or completed post-secondary study at Certificate IV or above, or
 - you are currently enrolled in an Australian/overseas Year 12 study or program (including the IB) and have post-secondary studies at Certificate IV or above, or
 - you have no Australian or overseas secondary studies and no post-secondary studies at Certificate IV or above.
- Look at the course entries in the VTAC Guide 2015 and on CourseSearch for more details on the selection criteria you need to meet.

Important dates

Course applications	Open	Close
Timely course application	4 August (9am)	30 September (5pm)
Late course application	30 September (7pm)	7 November (5pm)
Very late course application	7 November (7pm)	5 December (5pm)
Change of preference		
August–October for all applicants	4 August (9am)	24 October (5pm)
November–December for early international offers	24 November (9am)	16 December (4pm)
November–December for all other courses	24 November (9am)	22 December (12noon)
November–January for CY12 QLD, WA, IB & NZ NCEA applicants only	24 November (9am)	5 January 2015(3pm)
Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)		
SEAS application and supporting documentation	4 August (9am)	7 October (5pm)
Scholarships		
Scholarship application and supporting documentation	4 August (9am)	17 October (5pm)

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



Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre

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www.vtac.edu.au

📄 **Blog/RSS:** vtacmedia.wordpress.com

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