

VTAC Bulletin

Annual National Edition

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Introducing the VTAC eGuide

The VTAC Guide is now available in digital format. The VTAC eGuide features more detailed course information than the print edition, including full details of course selection criteria.

The VTAC eGuide is available from Google Play for use on your mobile device or tablet (RRP \$4.99 AUD).

Change of Preference replaces negotiated offers

Negotiated Offers will no longer exist for course applications from 2015 onwards. Instead, Change of Preference will be reopened between offer rounds.

From this year onwards, applicants who have changed their mind about which course they want to study will simply adjust their preferences after an offer round, irrespective of whether or not they have received an offer.

Change of Preference will close a few days prior to each offer round (exact dates are available on the VTAC website), and reopen the day after each offer round (until the last round).

Previously, rounds 1 and 2 were general offer rounds, and rounds 3, 4, and 5 existed only to formalise Negotiated and Supplementary Offers. Now, applicants will be able to change

their preferences between all five offer rounds, and receive offers in all five rounds (if selected by institutions).

This change does not affect the Supplementary Offers process.

For a full list of Change of Preference dates and Facebook events see: vtac.edu.au/dates.html

Change of Preference info pack

All schools were emailed a change of preference information pack in July, containing detailed information about the Change of Preference process, FAQs, important dates and a selection of advertisements for use in your school newsletters.

The pack has everything you need to talk to your students (and their parents) about Change of Preference. For a copy of the pack email schoolsliasion@vtac.edu.au or visit www.vtac.edu.au/careers/correspondence.html.

The VTAC Gazette—course amendments and policy updates in one place

The best way to keep up to date on changes at VTAC is by reading the VTAC Gazette.

The VTAC Gazette is published monthly during the application period. In addition to listing recent new and cancelled courses and other course amendments, it is also the central repository for updates to VTAC's policies and procedures. The Gazette is distributed by email to careers practitioners and is published on the VTAC website (vtac.edu.au/publications).

New and cancelled courses and other course amendments are also published as they happen on the VTAC website (www.vtac.edu.au/courses-inst/courseupdates.html) and in weekly updates on the VTAC blog (blog.vtac.edu.au).

Don't forget the careers practitioner blog

Important updates for careers practitioners are published at careersblog.vtac.edu.au. Subscribe by email or RSS for updates as they happen.

Connect your students to VTAC's social media

Help your students stay up to date with course changes, important dates and upcoming events by encouraging them to sign up for one of our social media channels. It's also a great way for students to contact VTAC with questions.

Subscribe to the VTAC applicant blog by email or RSS: blog.vtac.edu.au

Follow VTAC on Twitter: [@vtacguide](https://twitter.com/vtacguide)

Like VTAC on Facebook: facebook.com/vtacguide



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youtube.com/vtacmedia

For updates
please check:

www.vtac.edu.au

Already there are 80 new course codes and 115 cancelled course codes, so make sure you subscribe to stay up to date!

About VTAC application services

VTAC administers three applications: the VTAC course application, the VTAC scholarship application and the 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

To apply for courses through VTAC an applicant must be:

- 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, or
- 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.

Applicants who don't meet the citizenship/residency requirements above 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.

Applicants who don't meet tertiary entrance requirements or have had difficulty meeting them or have not studied for the past few years 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 VTAC institutions that offer their undergraduate courses through the VTAC process have also listed a number of postgraduate 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 four 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
 - » Living and/or school location—to identify applicants from a regional or remote area
 - » Non-English speaking background
 - » Recognition as an Indigenous Australian

- » First in family to attend university
- » Under-represented schools—to identify if you attend one of various under-represented schools identified by institutions under this category.

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

While many alternative entry schemes are offered through the single SEAS application process, others require applicants 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 applications are made directly to the institution via their own website. For all other scholarships applicants should use the VTAC Scholarships Application.

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 2015. 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



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 more are also available online at <http://www.vtac.edu.au/publications>

The VTAC Guide 2016

The VTAC Guide 2016 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).

The VTAC eGuide 2016

New this year, the VTAC eGuide 2016 is the digital edition of the VTAC Guide, featuring more detailed course information than in the print edition as well as everything you need to know about applying for courses, SEAS and scholarships. The VTAC eGuide is available from Google Play for use on your mobile device or tablet (RRP \$4.99 AUD).

ABC of Applying

The ABC of Applying is a snapshot of the course, SEAS and scholarships application processes for prospective applicants including Year 12 students and their parents. Copies are distributed at no charge to Victorian and border secondary providers.

Choice

Choice is written for 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 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 2015 will be available on the VTAC website in August.

Change of Preference Facebook events

VTAC will be hosting a series of online Facebook events to provide support to applicants during Change of Preference. VTAC staff will be online during each event to answer questions in real time.

Offer period	Offers released	Facebook event
Early offers (non-year 12 applicants only)	20 November	23 November
Early Victorian international offers	21 December	21 December
International offers	8 January 2016	11 January 2016
Round 1 offers: all domestic applicants	18 January	19 January 2016
Round two undergraduate (domestic and international) and graduate entry (other) offers	4 February 2016	20 January 2016
Round three undergraduate (domestic and international) and graduate entry (other) offers	15 February 2016	05 February 2016
Round four undergraduate (domestic and international) and graduate entry (other) offers	22 February 2016	16 February 2016
Round five undergraduate (domestic and international) and graduate entry (other) offers	29 February 2016	23 February 2016

Important dates

Course applications	Open	Close
Timely course application	3 August (9am)	30 September (5pm)
Late course application	30 September (7pm)	6 November (5pm)
Very late course application (not available for graduate entry teaching courses)	6 November (7pm)	4 December (5pm)
Mid-year 2016 application	Mid April 2016	Early June 2016
Change of preference		
Undergraduate and graduate entry (other) courses	3 August (9am)	10 November (4pm)
International courses	3 August (9am)	16 December (4pm)
Graduate entry teaching courses	3 August (9am)	30 November (4pm)
Undergraduate and graduate entry (other) courses	23 November (10am)	21 December (12noon)
Undergraduate, international and graduate entry (other) courses (Opens to accommodate IB and WA applicants)	4 January 2016 (10am)	4 January 2016 (4pm)
Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)		
SEAS application and supporting documentation	3 August (9am)	6 October (5pm)
Scholarships		
Scholarship application and supporting documentation	3 August (9am)	16 October (5pm)

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



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