

VTAC Bulletin

Annual National Edition

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Exciting new resources from VTAC!

VTAC is launching a number of exciting new publications and resources this year to help applicants navigate the world of tertiary education.



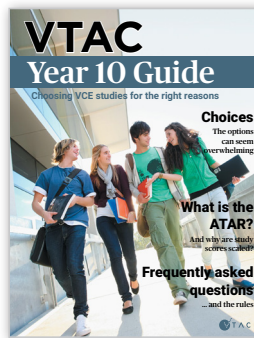
The first edition of *VTACmag* is now available in newsagents. Full of lively and informative articles about tertiary study and how to plan for life after school, the content draws on advice from careers practitioners as well as current students and graduates.

The magazine features interviews with actors, musicians and comedians who share their tips for Year 12 and some perspectives from where they are now, and in 30 Minute Mentor, we've paired up three students with experienced professionals in their chosen fields to get inside industry knowledge.

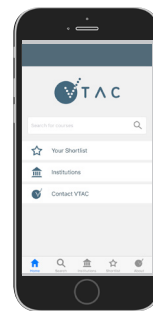
Searching for courses has gotten easier with the launch of the VTAC CourseSearch app. The app contains all the course information you'll find on CourseSearch and is searchable offline. Course content is updated whenever the device is connected to the internet, and users can keep

track of their favourite courses by creating a personalised shortlist. The app is available for iOS and Android.

We are also launching new resources to help Year 10s plan their study futures. The *VTAC Year 10 Guide* is a new print publication full of information to help them look ahead to VCE and beyond and plan a VCE program that will help them reach their goals. Meanwhile, the VTAC Prerequisite and Course Planner is a new online search tool that will help Year 10s explore possible study combinations and the tertiary course options they can lead to.



Let us know what you think of these new resources – we're eager for your feedback!



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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Blog: blog.vtac.edu.au

Facebook: facebook.com/vtacguide

YouTube: youtube.com/vtacmedia

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.

For updates
please check:

www.vtac.edu.au

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 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 applicants 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 applicants who 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 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 scholarship 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 Loan** - www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/student-start-loan
- **Relocation Scholarship** - www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/relocation-scholarship
- **Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships** - www.education.gov.au/commonwealth-scholarships

The Student Start-Up Loan and Relocation Scholarship 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.

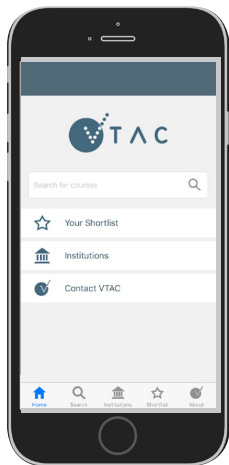
Merit scholarships

Merit scholarships may be awarded to students for academic achievement if they have studied an Australian Year 12 or the International Baccalaureate (IB) in 2016. 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.

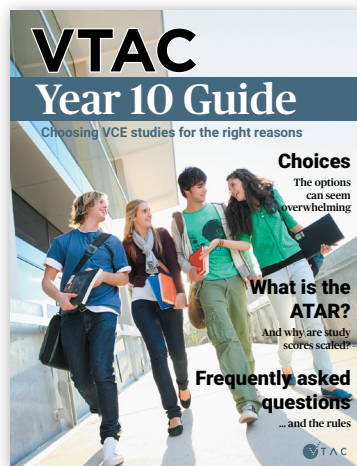
Publications and resources



VTACmag



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

VTACmag

VTACmag has everything applicants need to know about applying for further study in Victoria. Content includes advice from VTAC and career experts, interviews with current tertiary students and graduates, and more. Flip the magazine to read the VTAC Institution Supplement, including information about the 62 universities, TAFE institutes and private colleges listing their courses with VTAC. 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 CourseSearch app

The VTAC CourseSearch app contains all the course information that's on CourseSearch on the VTAC website. The app is searchable offline and will update with any changes to CourseSearch whenever 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 CourseSearch app is available from the Apple App Store and Google Play (\$1.49 inc. GST).

VTAC Prerequisite and Course Planner

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 getting a good ATAR, urban myths surrounding choosing VCE studies, and scaling. 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.

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.

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 2016 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

No more certified copies

As of 1 August 2016, applicants are no longer required to have documents certified before submitting them to VTAC. With the move towards uploaded and electronic evidence, it no longer makes sense to request certified copies. Instead, VTAC will be increasing efforts to identify fraudulent documents.

Discontinuation of Higher Education Increments for the IB notional ATAR

Published originally in the VTAC Gazette, May 2016

Higher education extension studies are explicitly designed for credit towards the VCE. At its meeting in December 2015, the VTAC Scaling Committee confirmed that as of December 2018, a Higher Education Increment will no longer be available for IB students.

Mathematical Methods

The nomenclature of Mathematical Methods (CAS) has been updated to Mathematical Methods by the VCAA.

To avoid confusion with students studying Mathematical Methods and Mathematical Methods (CAS), VTAC will update all references to the study to read as follows: Mathematical Methods (any).

Units 1 and 2 Specialist Mathematics

All references to Units 1 and 2 Mathematics (any) will include the new Units 1 and 2 Specialist Mathematics.

All references to Units 1 and 2: General Mathematics or Mathematical Methods published in VICTERs 2018 and 2019 will be updated to also include Units 1 and 2 Specialist Mathematics.

Evidence can now be uploaded

There are now three ways to submit evidence for course, SEAS and scholarship applications:

Upload a PDF or JPEG: Applicants can upload information associated with their impact statement or statement of support from their VTAC account.

Online secure login: Statements of support can be submitted online. Applicants can allocate a user name and password to their 'responsible person' or medical practitioner so that they can submit their statement of support online. Instructions are in the VTAC account.

Hard copy: Applicants can also submit information about their impact statement or the statement of support via hard copy. The correct cover sheet must be downloaded from their VTAC account and attached to the copy. If the applicant is using the same evidence for both SEAS and scholarships, two copies must be submitted with the appropriate cover sheets.

Don't forget that the barcode on the cover sheet is unique to the applicant. It is essential that applicants use their own cover sheets and not copy someone else's.

Evidence related to course applications must be submitted in hard copy.

Download important dates into your calendar

Want to know when institutions are holding their open days, when Round 1 offers are released, or how many days are left until scholarship applications are due?

You can now download all of VTAC's important dates in an electronic calendar.

The calendar can be imported into whatever calendar app you use on your computer, phone or tablet, including Outlook and Google Calendar. For more information, visit www.vtac.edu.au/careers and look under Resources.

You can also check important dates on the VTAC website at www.vtac.edu.au/dates.

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



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