

Bringing you up-to-date with the latest QTAC information

Welcome to Issue 2 of the *QTAC Update* for 2011.

This publication informs school and institution personnel of the changes that have taken place since publication of the *QTAC Guide to Tertiary Courses: September 2011 to August 2012*.

The *Update* also contains QTAC contact information and discusses current issues pertinent to schools.

The third and final edition of the *QTAC Update* for 2011 will be available on the QTAC website in October.

Download the Update

Current and previous issues of the *QTAC Update* are on the QTAC public website under 'Schools and Institutions' and on the Corporate website under 'QTAC Publications'. Feel free to copy information in the *Update*; however, please ensure the information is not used out of context.

Course Changes

Please check the QTAC website - www.qtac.edu.au - throughout the admissions period for up-to-date information on course offerings. As a quick reference, a consolidated list of *Course Changes* is available on the QTAC website under 'Courses'. This list highlights the major changes to course offerings since the *QTAC Guide* was published.

Year 12s can apply from 1 August

QTAC tertiary study applications can be submitted from 1 August. Current Year 12 students can lodge their QTAC application for up to six different courses across 17 tertiary education providers via the *Twelve To Tertiary* (TTT) service at www.qtac.edu.au. See page 4 of this *Update* for more details.

QTAC applications due Friday, 30 September

The on-time due date for applications is Friday, 30 September. Students can continue to apply through the TTT online service after this date for most courses. See page 4 of the *QTAC Guide* for courses with fixed closing dates. There are no late application fees, however, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply on time to allow sufficient time for QTAC to assess their application.

Contents:

<i>Information for student advisers</i>	
Tertiary Prerequisites 2014	2
Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List	2
New features in the <i>QTAC Guide</i>	2
QTAC Corporate Website	2
PowerPoint presentation for Year 12s	3
Parent/Student information sessions	3
OP ineligible rank estimator	3
Changes to student details	3
Bulk purchase prepayment voucher	3
Changes to TTT application	3
<i>Year 12 applications quick help</i>	
Key dates, <i>Current Applicant</i> online service, ordering preferences	4
<i>Information for students</i>	
QTAC may contact you about your application	5
International students	5
TAFE Qld and SBIT course fees	5
Prepay your QTAC application fee	5
Scholarships	5
Bonus rank schemes	6
Educational Access Scheme	6
Alternative ways to meet prerequisites	6
Pathways Updates	7

Information for student advisers

Publications

Tertiary Prerequisites 2014

Tertiary Prerequisites 2014 was distributed to schools in May. This publication assists Year 10 students in selecting subjects for Years 11 and 12 with future tertiary study in mind. It provides an overview of the courses that institutions expect to be available when the student finishes Year 12 and provides details of the requirements for entry to those courses. An online version of this publication is available at www.qtac.edu.au/Schools/Year10and11.html.

Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List

The *Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List* (SATCL) is a supplement to the *QTAC Guide* and is intended for student advisers and tertiary institution staff rather than students. The publication summarises all courses on offer through QTAC including their prerequisites and previous cut-offs.

Courses from institutions with self-managed admissions are not listed in this publication.

The SATCL is available through the QTAC website www.qtac.edu.au – under 'Schools and Institutions'. It is also available on the Corporate site under 'QTAC Publications'.

All course information in this publication can be easily accessed via QTAC's course search facility at www.qtac.edu.au. Searches can be refined by criteria such as institution, area of interest, fee type, and OP range.

New features in the QTAC Guide

Section 5: Institutions with Self-Managed Admissions

The *QTAC Guide* provides information on tertiary courses, application procedures and pathways to tertiary study. Traditionally, this information has been presented for all institutions that have QTAC manage their admissions (ie all universities in Qld and northern NSW, TAFE Qld, Southbank Institute of Technology, and selected colleges).

For the first time this year, the *QTAC Guide* also provides information about tertiary study options at institutions that manage their own admissions. This new information will give applicants the opportunity to consider a broader range of study options.

The tertiary education providers described in Section 5 of the *QTAC Guide* are: Australian College of Applied Psychology; Australian College of Sports Therapy; Bellevue Beauty; Building Trades Australia; Endeavour College of Natural Health; JMC Academy; and JSchool.

Importantly, students should note that applications and offers for these courses are handled by the institutions, not QTAC. More specifically, applications for Endeavour College of Natural Health are now taken directly by the college.

QIBT opens on Gold Coast in 2012

The Queensland Institute of Business and Technology will open on the Griffith University Gold Coast campus in February 2012, offering a range of diploma and diploma/degree-pathway programs including commerce and business, engineering, hotel management, foundation studies, and an associate degree.

Resources

QTAC Corporate Website

Track students through the School Web Service

Student advisers and other relevant school personnel can keep up to date with QTAC resources and track student applications through the web service on QTAC's Corporate website. To register your school for this free service, go to the public website www.qtac.edu.au and click on 'Corporate'.

Registered, but lost your password? By accessing the above-mentioned webpage you can easily enquire about your password through the 'password enquiry' email service.

Download forms for QTAC applicants

Applicants can print forms relevant to their application either while applying online or after they have applied via the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au. Registered users of the *School Web Service* on QTAC's Corporate website can also download the following forms for students from the QTAC Corporate site under 'QTAC Forms – School Users':

- Forms for the QTAC Educational Access Scheme (this has replaced Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage, see page 6)
- Early Indication of Support Needs for QTAC Applicants with Disabilities Form

Resources cont...

PowerPoint presentation for Year 12s

QTAC's PowerPoint presentation on application procedures for Year 12 students is now available on the Corporate website (under 'Year 12 PowerPoint Presentation') and on the public website (under 'Schools and Institutions'). This is a great resource for student advisers to use in explaining the QTAC application process to students.

Parent/Student information sessions

QTAC staff can conduct one-hour information sessions at your school, tailored to your requirements. These sessions typically cover topics such as QTAC applications, tertiary pathways, VET studies, and subject selection.

Cost - \$500 daytime session, or \$570 evening session (plus associated costs for sessions outside Brisbane).

For information or bookings, phone (07) 3858 1298.

OP ineligible rank estimator

The OP ineligible sample schedules for 2011 Qld Year 12 students are available at: www.qtac.edu.au/Applying-CurrentYr12/2010NonOP.html.

So that you can estimate a student's OP ineligible rank, QTAC has developed an OP ineligible Rank Estimator. This can be accessed via the webpage above. Ensure students are aware that the ranks provided are estimates only and that the schedules change each year based on the Year 12 cohort.

Reminders

Changes to student details

In late July, QTAC will upload Year 12 student information (Year 12 number, name, date of birth, and school) from QSA or the interstate equivalent. If a student's details change after this, please report the changes to QTAC as we do not upload changes to student information from the education authorities.

In particular, QTAC needs to know if the spelling of a name or date of birth has changed from what was originally reported. Additionally, if a new student comes to your school, please advise QTAC.

Please note, students can change their own address and contact information when they apply or after they apply, via the *Current Applicant* online service.

Bulk purchase prepayment voucher

Schools can bulk purchase prepayment vouchers for their students. A *Bulk Prepayment Voucher Request Form - School Version* will be available from late July to download from the Corporate site under 'QTAC Forms - School Users'. Please fax this request through to (07) 3367 1164. See page 5 for information on prepaying application fees.

Changes to TTT application

- Students completing the International Baccalaureate log into the TTT application by selecting the relevant IB/State option and entering their IB number.
- The 'defer payment' option is no longer available. Applicants can pay their QTAC application processing charge before they apply via a Prepayment Voucher, when they apply with a credit card, or after they apply via BPAY®.
- There are no late application fees. Applicants are, however, strongly advised to adhere to the 30 September on-time due date to allow sufficient time for QTAC to assess their application.
- The Applicant Details frame is divided into two tabs, Personal Details and Contact Details. This provides additional space for the applicant to list both their residential and postal addresses.
- QTAC and its participating institutions generally use email as the primary method of communication. As such, applicants must list an email address on their application.
- QTAC's Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage has been replaced by QTAC's Educational Access Scheme. The TTT application has changed accordingly, see also page 6.

® Registered to BPAY Pty Ltd
ABN 69 079 137 518

Year 12 application quick-help

Current Year 12 students apply through the *Twelve To Tertiary* (TTT) online service at www.qtac.edu.au.
This service allows you to apply online at your own pace.

Be prepared

Visit www.qtac.edu.au for:

- TTT Instructions
- demonstration version of the online application
- TTT training movie - available late July

Before applying, have ready your:

- Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) or equivalent IB or interstate student number. (You can apply without your LUI if you supply sufficient identifying information)
- four-digit PIN (initially set to the day and month of your birth, eg 4 May = 0405)
- list of QTAC course preferences, up to six. See 'Ordering preferences' below

Key dates

Monday, 1 August

Applications open

Friday, 30 September

Due date for on-time applications

Thursday, 15 December

Major offer round for Bond University courses and other selected creative and performing arts courses that begin in semester 1, 2012

Friday, 16 December

Qld Year 12 results mailed by QSA

Tuesday, 20 December

Due date to apply or submit documentation for 12 January offer round

Thursday, 22 December

Due date to respond to a 15 December offer

Wednesday, 28 December

Qld Year 12 students without an OP who have lodged a QTAC application can find out their OP ineligible rank through the *Current Applicant* online service. Non applicants can phone QTAC

Thursday, 5 January

Final date to change preferences for the 12 January offer round

Thursday, 12 January (from 1am)

Find out if you have been offered a place and respond to an offer using the *Current Applicant* online service

Friday, 20 January

Due date to respond to a January offer

Thursday, 2 February

Final date to change preferences for the 9 February offer round

Thursday, 9 February (from 1am)

Find out if you have been offered a place and respond to an offer using the *Current Applicant* online service

TTT application processing charge

The TTT application processing charge is \$32. Please note that you can pay by credit card when you apply, before you apply by prepayment voucher (see page 5), or you can pay later using BPAY.

Current Applicant online service

This service can be accessed via the QTAC website after you apply using your LUI (or equivalent IB or interstate student number) or your QTAC application number and PIN. Through the service you can:

- change preferences on three separate occasions at no extra charge. Fourth and subsequent changes cost \$16 each
- find out if you have received an offer and download/print your QTAC offer letter
- respond to an offer
- update your contact details, QTAC PIN and authorisation details
- view correspondence from QTAC
- receive feedback on whether you satisfy the minimum entry requirements for each of your course preferences (see the *QTAC Guide*, page 11)
- track the assessment of your qualifications and monitor supporting document requirements (see the *QTAC Guide*, page 11)
- view and print cover sheets for documentation that you need to provide to QTAC
- view your OP ineligible rank (from 28 December). This is only relevant for 2011 Qld school-leavers who are QTAC applicants and not eligible for an OP

Ordering preferences

Please note the following about selecting and ordering preferences:

- Applicants can apply for courses starting in semester 3, 2011, semester 1, 2012 and semester 2, 2012 on one QTAC application.
- Courses commencing semester 3, 2011 are generally not available to current Year 12 students as the courses start before Year 12 studies are completed.
- Up to six course preferences can be listed. It is recommended that ideal, realistic and 'back-up plan' courses are included.
- Course preferences should be listed according to their major offer round dates. (Major offer round dates are listed against each course in the *QTAC Guide* and on the QTAC website.) This means that courses whose major offer round is earlier need to be listed as higher preferences than those whose major offer round is later. For example, a course with a major offer round in December 2011 needs to be listed as a higher preference than a course with a major offer round in January 2012.
- When an offer is made in one round, applicants have the option to respond to their offer on a 'conditional basis'. They can then rearrange their preferences and be considered for higher, more preferred courses in a subsequent offer round.

For further information about ordering preferences, including examples, see the *QTAC Guide*, page 10, or the QTAC website.

Information for students

■ QTAC may contact you about your application

QTAC may contact you for various reasons, for example, to advise that:

- further documentation is required to assess your application
- your preferences are not ordered correctly for consideration in an upcoming offer round
- an offer has been made to you
- you have not responded to an offer and as such the offer may lapse

Each year problems arise when students move and do not notify QTAC of their current contact details. This is particularly the case where boarders use the school address in their application and then return home or go on vacation and forget to notify QTAC.

Likewise, email accounts that terminate at the end of the school year are not suitable. You should provide your personal email address for QTAC contact purposes. If you provide a mobile phone number, QTAC may also SMS you about your application.

If address and contact details change during the admissions period, you can update your details via the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au.

■ International students

International students completing an Australian Year 12 qualification can apply through QTAC.

QTAC ensures that tertiary institutions are made aware of applications made by international students. Please note that offers to international students are made directly by the relevant institution, not QTAC. Further, entry requirements, study costs and offer dates for international students differ from those for domestic students. Prospective international applicants should contact the institution for more information.

■ TAFE Queensland and Southbank Institute of Technology course fees

TAFE Qld and Southbank Institute of Technology course costs will be available from 26 September via the QTAC website, or contact the institute directly.

■ Prepay your application fee with a QTAC voucher

Applicants who do not have a credit card or BPAY facilities can prepay their application processing charge to QTAC. Prepayment vouchers can be purchased at QTAC by cash, money order, cheque, EFTPOS, or credit card. Alternatively, a *Prepayment Voucher Request Form* can be printed from the QTAC website and mailed to QTAC with a cheque or money order. On receipt of the prepayment, QTAC will issue a prepayment voucher that lists an application number and activation number to allow submission of an online application.

Please ensure that the Prepayment Voucher is requested with enough time for it to be posted and the application lodged before relevant key dates.

■ Scholarships

The **Commonwealth Scholarships Program** financially assists students on low incomes. Scholarships include:

- Student Start-up Scholarships and Relocation Scholarships. Centrelink will automatically pay these scholarships to eligible students.
- Indigenous Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships, Indigenous Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships, and Indigenous Access Scholarships. Applicants must apply through the university for these scholarships.

For more information, visit www.centrelink.gov.au or www.goingtouni.gov.au.

Institution scholarships

Many tertiary institutions offer sporting, academic and other equity scholarships. Applicants must apply through the tertiary institution for these scholarships.

For more information, contact the institution you wish to attend.

Information for students cont

Bonus rank schemes

There are Bonus Rank Schemes for current Year 12 students applying to commence tertiary study in 2012 at: Australian Catholic University; Griffith University; Queensland University of Technology; Southern Cross University; The University of Queensland; University of Southern Queensland.

Bonus ranks may be awarded for successful completion of specific Queensland Year 12 subjects such as Languages other than English (LOTE) and Maths C, and some university-level subjects.

- Australian Catholic University also awards bonus points for a range of other Queensland Year 12 subjects relevant to the course applied for.
- Queensland University of Technology also awards bonus ranks for successful completion of the Queensland Year 12 subject Engineering Technology, for applicants to QUT's Bachelor of Engineering.

Applicants may be awarded a combination of bonus ranks. The maximum number of bonus ranks awarded depends on the institution.

There is no separate application process for these bonus rank schemes. The points are applied automatically to the student's QTAC application. For more information, visit www.qtac.edu.au/Schools/BonusRankSchemes.html.

Educational Access Scheme

QTAC's Educational Access Scheme (EAS) replaces Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage. QTAC's EAS takes into account circumstances beyond your control that have affected your level of academic achievement when assessing an application for tertiary entrance. These circumstances may relate to: disrupted schooling; home environment and responsibilities; English language difficulties; personal illness/disability; refugee status; school environment; and financial hardship.

In the first instance you should seek compensation for these circumstances through your school. Because QTAC's EAS can only increase your competitiveness for tertiary entrance, it will not change your OP or other school results.

You can apply for EAS via your QTAC tertiary study application. You will need to provide QTAC with documents that support your case, including an Educational Support Statement from your school. More information about the documentation required is available on the QTAC website.

Alternative ways to meet prerequisites

If you do not satisfy the minimum entry requirements for a course, your application for that course is generally not considered further, irrespective of the strength of your OP or QTAC selection rank. Commonly, minimum entry requirements include Year 12 subject prerequisites. (Prerequisites are listed against each course entry in the *QTAC Guide* and on the QTAC website.)

If you have not satisfied subject prerequisites for a course through your Year 12 studies, you should check with the institution offering the course for alternative ways to meet the prerequisite. A summary of alternative ways to meet the English subject prerequisite, including successful results in bridging subjects or the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT), is found on page 16 of the *QTAC Guide* and on the QTAC website.

Likewise, most institutions accept various ways to meet a maths prerequisite. For example:

- The 'Maths B (4,SA)' prerequisite may be satisfied by: a Sound Achievement in Maths C over four semesters; or a combination of a Sound Achievement in Maths B over two semesters and a sound achievement in Maths C over two semesters.
- The 'Maths A (4,SA)' prerequisite may be satisfied by a combination of Sound Achievements in Maths A and Low Achievements in Maths B and C.
- Maths prerequisites may also be satisfied by sitting the STAT or completing bridging subjects.

As institutions differ in regards to acceptable ways to satisfy prerequisites, applicants are always encouraged to seek advice directly from the institution.

Pathways Updates

Following is a list of changes for the *Pathways to Tertiary Study* section of the *QTAC Guide*. These significant changes to assessment policies have occurred since the *QTAC Guide* was published.

These and future changes will be available via <http://www.qtac.edu.au/Courses/CourseChanges.htm>. Please check this website on a regular basis.

General Assessment Policy Changes

Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT)

In accordance with institutions policies, STAT can interact with a select number of qualifications to provide applicants with a more competitive QTAC selection rank. Based on a recent ACER review, QTAC has revised STAT scores on the following assessment schedules.

- Non-Standard Year Twelve Programs (including Accelerated Christian Education), *QTAC Guide* page 29
- Queensland Senior External Examination (including abridged programs), *QTAC Guide* page 30
- Incomplete tertiary study (AQF Diploma, AQF Advanced Diploma, AQF Associate Degree, Bachelor degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate), *QTAC Guide* page 32
- Completed AQF study (Certificate III, Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma), *QTAC Guide* page 33
- Complete and incomplete 39260QLD Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation (CATP) (since 2008), *QTAC Guide* pages 36-37

The revised schedules can be accessed via <http://www.qtac.edu.au/Courses/CourseChanges.htm>.

Please note: the Special Tertiary Admissions Test schedule printed on page 43 of the *QTAC Guide* remains unchanged.

Institution Specific Policy Changes

Australian Catholic University

QTAC Guide, page 33: Australian Catholic University will only accept AQF Certificate III qualifications from current Year 12 students.

James Cook University

QTAC Guide, page 17: To meet the English subject prerequisite, James Cook University will accept English Communication (4,HA). Please note, English Communication will not satisfy the English prerequisite for B Pharmacy, B Physiotherapy, B Dental Surgery, B Veterinary Science, and B Medicine/Surgery.

Southbank Institute of Technology

QTAC Guide, page 19: STAT results are only valid for 2 years, for the purpose of demonstrating English language proficiency.

TAFE Queensland

QTAC Guide, page 19: STAT results are only valid for 2 years, for the purpose of demonstrating English language proficiency.

University of Southern Queensland

QTAC Guide, page 38, 43: The age requirement of 18 years for USQ alternative entry no longer applies. USQ applicants can now sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) or submit a Personal Competencies Assessment (PCA) at any age. This change does not apply to current Year 12s who are unable to sit the STAT or complete a PCA.