

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a maroon hoodie and dark blue pants, is sitting on the floor in a library. He is leaning against a bookshelf and reading a book. The library has many bookshelves filled with books, and the lighting is warm and focused on the man.

QTAC

TERTIARY
ENTRANCE
IN 2021

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

From 2020, the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the Overall Position (OP) as the standard pathway to tertiary study for Queensland Year 12s. The ATAR is used nationally for tertiary admission and shows a student's position relative to other students. It is calculated on a 2000 point scale from 0 to 99.95. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will be responsible for calculating and administering ATARs.

HOW TO GET AN ATAR

To receive an ATAR, students must:

1. satisfactorily complete an English subject
2. complete five general subjects, or four general subjects plus one applied subject or VET course at AQF Certificate III or above
3. accumulate subject results within a five-year period.

The English subject result will only be included in calculation of the ATAR if it is one of the student's best five subjects.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will ATARs be calculated?

ATARs will be calculated using:

- a student's best five scaled general subject scores, or
- a student's best four scaled general subject scores plus one applied subject or completed VET course at AQF Certificate III or above.

QTAC will only receive Units 3 and 4 results from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

What is scaling?

Inter-subject scaling is where raw scores for a given subject are adjusted so the results for that subject can be compared fairly with the results of other subjects.

I am studying a VET qualification (Cert II, III, IV or diploma). How does this work with the ATAR?

A VET qualification can be used in two ways:

1. It will be incorporated into the ATAR calculation; and/or
2. the qualification may be used on its own to gain entry to a tertiary course.

Each institution in Queensland has its own policy for accepting VET Qualifications for entry.

A university course I'm interested in lists the prerequisite as English (Units 3 & 4, C). What does this mean?

This means that you must complete Units 3 and 4 of a General English subject and achieve a grade of C or better in order to be eligible for the course.

What subjects will give me the best chance of getting a high ATAR?

You should take subjects that you enjoy and are good at in order to achieve the best results possible. It is also important to remember to make sure you choose subjects that meet university prerequisites.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can read more about these changes by visiting qtac.edu.au or by calling 1300 467 822.