



2020 ATAR Presentation

QTAC | CHOOSE
THE FUTURE

Topics

1. What is QTAC?
2. Terminology in the New QCE System
3. Overview of the ATAR
4. Inter-subject Scaling
5. Calculation of ATARs
6. ATAR Publications
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8. VET and Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions from 2021
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A high-angle, top-down photograph of five students sitting around a light-colored wooden circular table. They are all focused on their work, with some looking at tablets and others at papers. The students are diverse in age and appearance. The table is cluttered with various school supplies, including notebooks, pens, and tablets. The background is a light-colored tiled floor. The entire image has a warm, reddish-orange tint.

1. What is QTAC?

1. What is QTAC?

QTAC is:

- A not-for-profit organisation
- Owned by seven Queensland universities

What do we do?

- Provide information about tertiary study and courses
- Receive and process approximately 75,000 applications per year
- Make offers in 1,700 tertiary courses on behalf of 16 institutions
- From 2020: calculate and award ATARs.





2. Terminology in the new QCE System



2. Terminology in the new QCE System

Subjects in the new QCE System

General subjects

General (Extension) subjects

Applied subjects

Subjects in the new QCE System

What we see in English:

English
English and Literature Extension
English as an Additional Language
Literature
Essential English (Applied Subject)

What we see in Maths:

General Mathematics
Mathematical Methods
Specialist Mathematics

Essential Mathematics (Applied Subject)

The grading system in the new QCE System

General subjects reported:

Numerical Result (0 to 100)

Letter Grade (A to E, A highest)

Applied subjects reported:

Letter Grade (A to E, A highest)





2. Terminology in the new QCE System

Units of Study

Unit 1 and Unit 2:

- Represent the formative years of study.
- Developmentally less complex than Units 3 and 4.
- The results in Units 1 and 2 will not be provided to QTAC.
- Will not be included in the calculation of the ATAR.

Units of Study

Unit 3 and Unit 4:

- Represent the summative years of study.
- Students undertake the 3 internal and 1 external assessments in Units 3 and 4 (administered by QCAA).
- This will lead to the overall raw subject result to be provided to QTAC for scaling, and from which the ATAR will be calculated.



A photograph of a young woman with long blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a white polo shirt, sitting at a desk in a classroom and writing in a notebook with a pencil. Other students are visible in the background, also working at their desks. The entire image has a red overlay, and a solid red banner is at the bottom.

3. Overview of the ATAR

What is the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)?

Primary mechanism used nationally for tertiary admissions.

Indicates a student's position relative to other students.

2,000 point scale from 99.95 down to 0.00.

ATARs less than 30.00 will be expressed as "30 or less".

Will be calculated by QTAC for entry into courses in 2021.

Is the new standard pathway to tertiary study in QLD.



3. Overview of the ATAR

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) are different and have a different purpose.



QCE

Certifies learning, showing the individual has achieved a specific standard of education at senior schooling level and may be considered by employers and the general community.

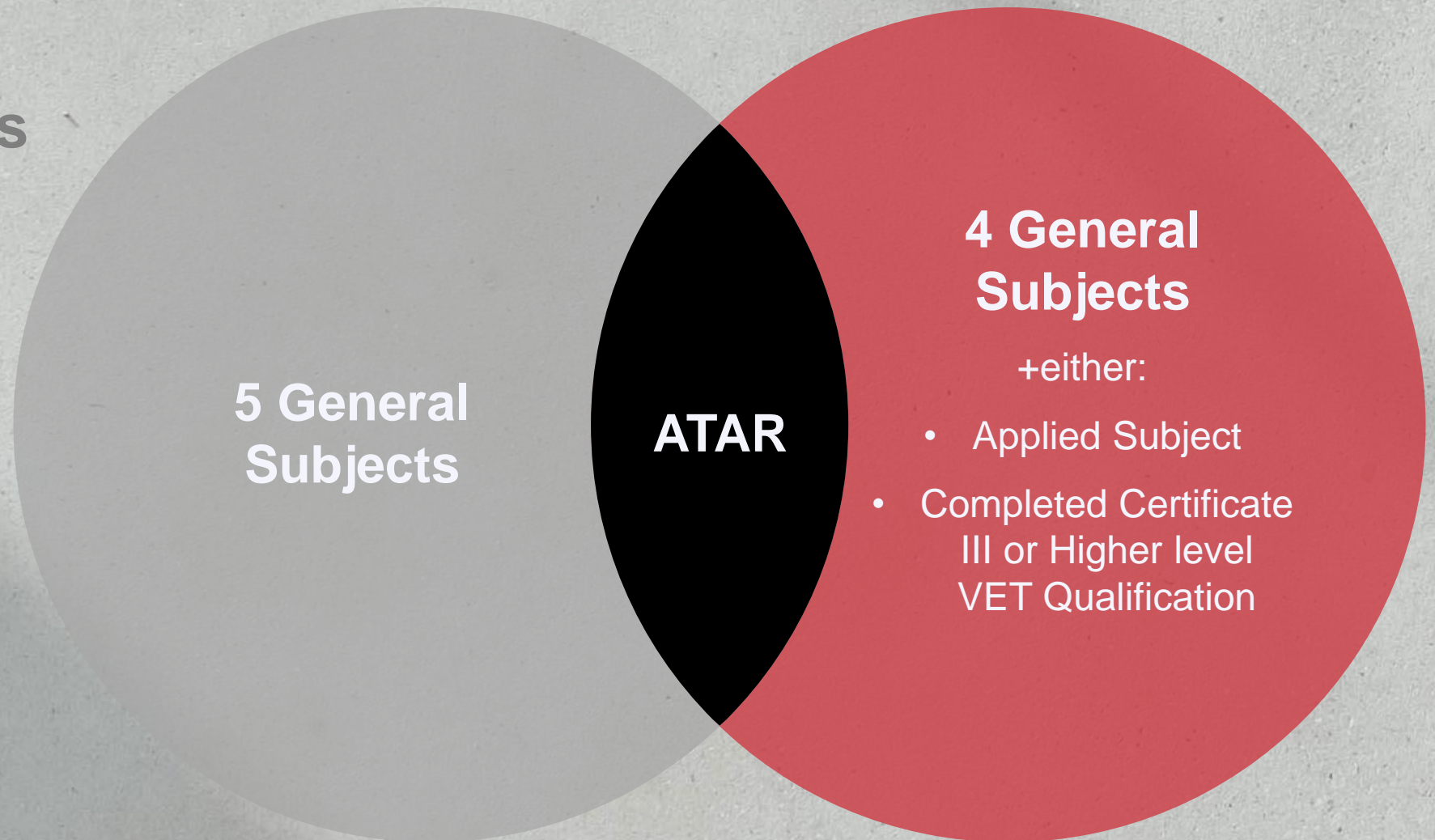


ATAR

Tells us about a student's position (or ranking) compared to all other students in the state. The only intended purpose for the ATAR is to assist with selecting applicants for tertiary study.

For questions about the QCE, including assessment and subject results, please contact www.qcaa.qld.edu.au

ATAR requirements



3. Overview of the ATAR

Students must successfully complete one of the following:

- English
- English as an Additional Language
- English & Literature Extension
- Literature
- Essential English

Successfully complete = 'C' letter grade.

No specific subjects are mandated inclusions in the ATAR.



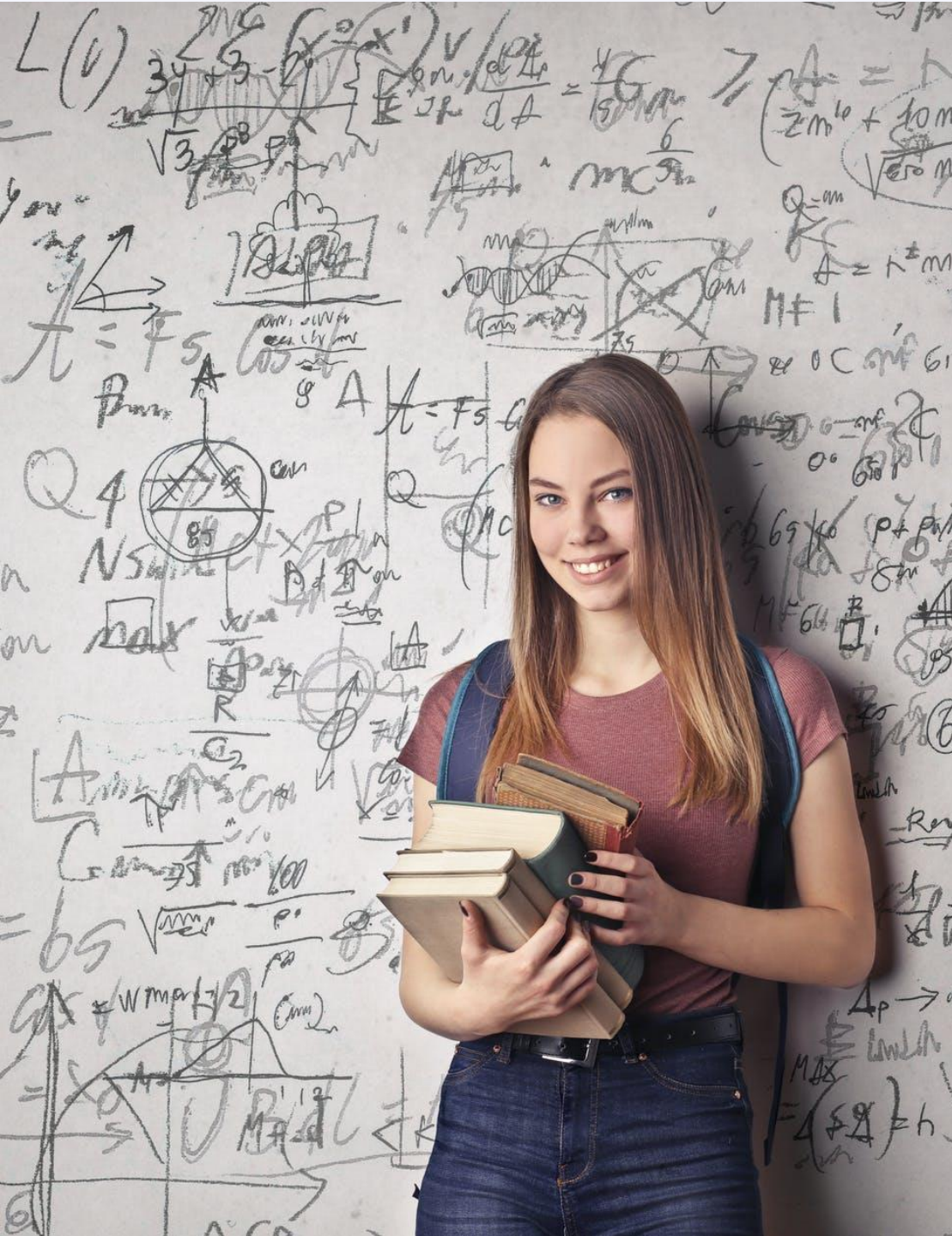
Examples of Study Patterns for ATAR

English
Mathematical Methods
Specialist Mathematics
Physics
Chemistry

Essential English
Accounting
Modern History
Japanese
Music
General Mathematics

English
Dance
Visual Art
Study of Religion
AQF Certificate III
in Business





3. Overview of the ATAR

Accumulating Results

- Most students will follow a traditional pattern of accumulating their results over two years of study in Grades 11 and 12
- ATARs can be calculated based on results from five consecutive years
- One eligible subject a year over a five year period would qualify for an ATAR.

Precluded Subjects and Subject Combinations

1. Only General English subjects or Applied English subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both:

It is not possible to include both

- **English** (a General subject) and
- **Essential English** (an Applied subject) in a student's ATAR.



Precluded Subjects and Subject Combinations

2. Only General Mathematics subjects or Applied Mathematics subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both:

It is not possible to include both

- **Mathematical Methods**
(a General subject) and
- **Essential Mathematics**
(an Applied subject) in a student's ATAR.



Precluded Subjects and Subject Combinations

3. Only one result for the **same subject** taken as a **General subject** and via **Senior External Examination** can be included in the ATAR:

It is not possible to include both the General subject **Chinese** and the Senior External Examination subject Chinese in a student's ATAR.

Similarly, it is not possible to include both the General subject **Biology** and the Senior External Examination subject **Biology** in a student's ATAR.



Precluded Subject Clarification...

There are no other restrictions on the inclusion of subjects in the ATAR.

For example, a student may count the following General subject results in their ATAR:

both **English** and **Literature**

both **Mathematical Methods**
and **Specialist Mathematics**

both **Chinese** and **Chinese Extension**





4. Inter-subject Scaling

4. Inter-subject Scaling

Scaling – Overview

Scaling is necessary so that student results in different subjects can be compared fairly:

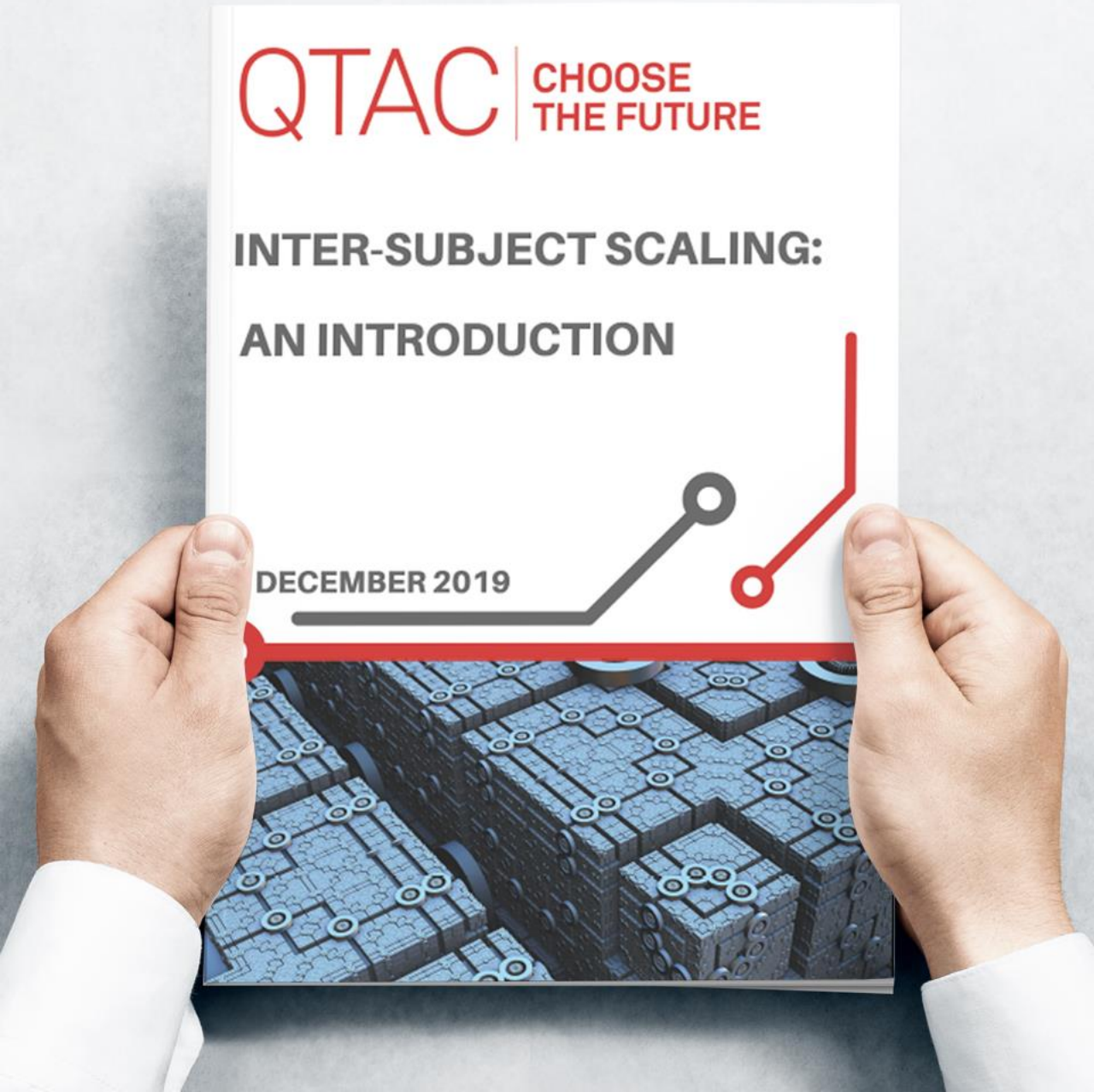
- Students can study thousands of different combinations of subjects in their senior schooling. Scaling ensures that students are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged based on the subjects they choose.
- The process adjusts the raw results in each subject to take account of how well students achieve in their subjects and how difficult it is to achieve a particular result in the subject relative to achievements in all other subjects.



4. Inter-subject Scaling

Scaling – Documents

www.qtac.edu.au/atar



For:

Non-technical
readership

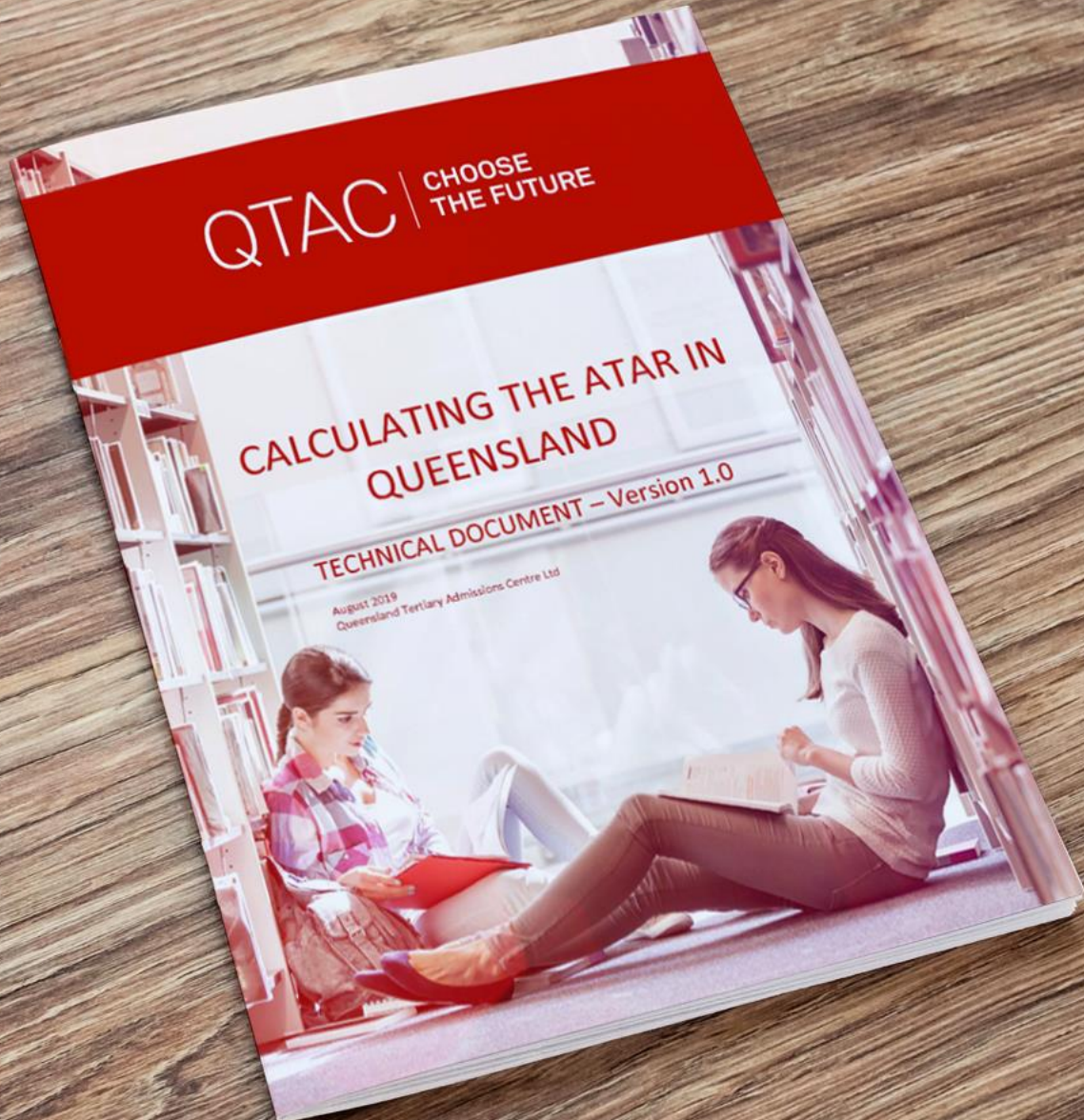
What is in it:

Technical definitions
The need to scale
The 'how' of scaling

4. Inter-subject Scaling

Scaling – Documents

www.qtac.edu.au/atar



For:

A technical readership

$$P_{m,s} = \sum_i r_{m-1,i,j} I_{i,j,s} / \sum_i I_{i,j,s}$$

$$S_{m,i,j} = \sum_s P'_{m,s} I_{i,j,s} / \sum_s I_{i,j,s}$$

What is in it:

Full end-to-end calculation of ATAR

Includes inter-subject scaling



4. Inter-subject Scaling

Important

Students should continue to choose subjects

- they enjoy,
- that they are good at, and
- that are prerequisites for the courses they want to apply for



5. Calculation of ATARS

How are ATARs calculated and awarded?



5. Calculation of ATARs

Step 1: The results in Units 3 and 4 are added together by QCAA at the completion of each subject.

Step 2: QCAA provides these overall raw subject results and completed VET qualifications to QTAC

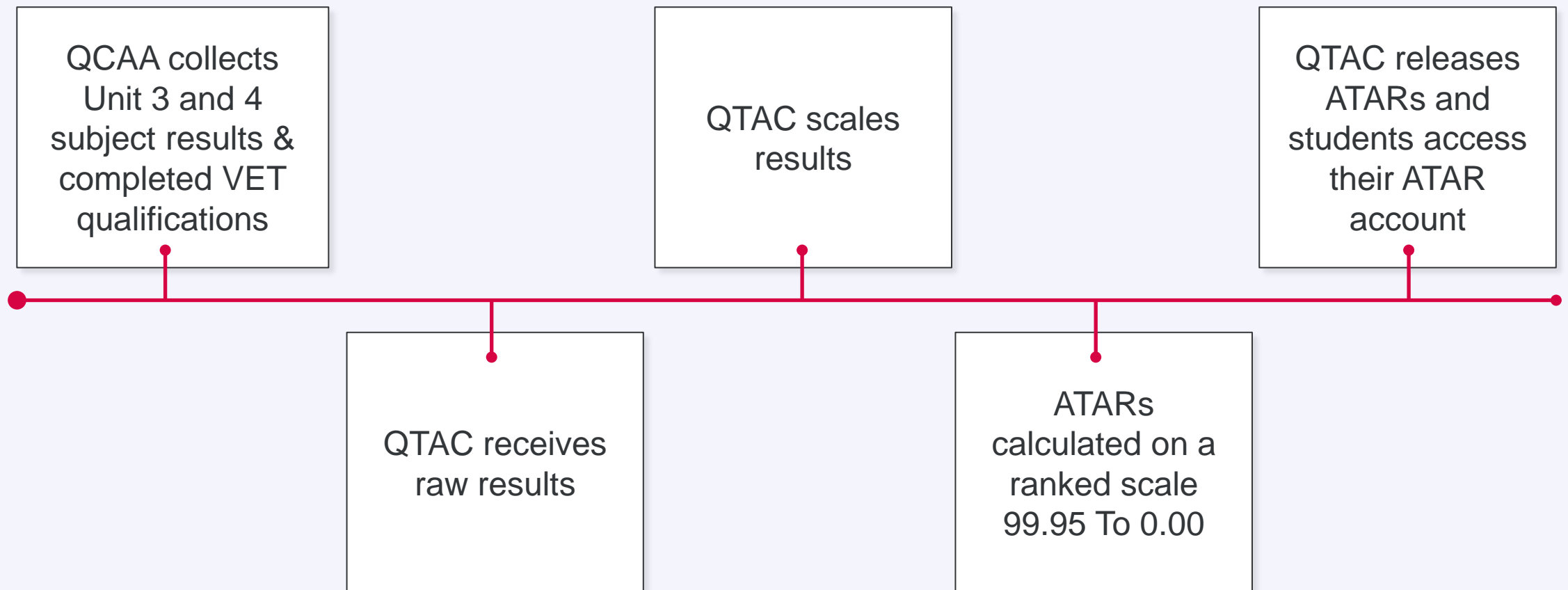
Step 3: QTAC undertakes the subject scaling process

Step 4: The best 5 scaled subject results (from eligible inputs) are added together for each student
= **Best 5 Subject Aggregate**

Step 5: Students are placed in a descending order of merit based on their Best 5 Subject Aggregates

Step 6: Students are allocated into the 2000 ATAR bands

Sequence of Events



5. Calculation of ATARs

Accessing the ATAR

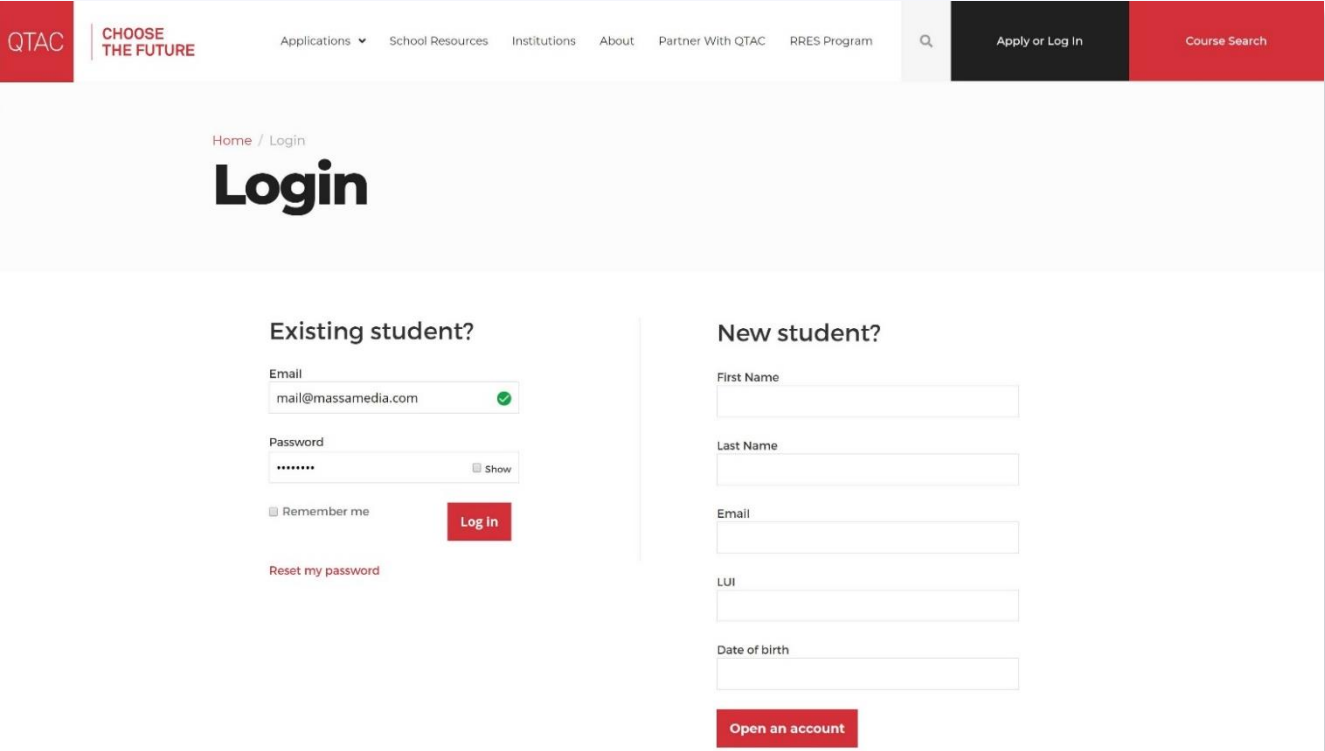
Each year, the ATAR will be communicated to eligible Yr 12 students using a purpose-built ATAR portal.

The ATAR release is an online release ONLY.

There will be a facility to print the ATAR results notice.

For 2020 Yr 12s:

- Yr 12s can open their ATAR account with QTAC when admissions open on 4th August.
- the ATAR will be released on 19 December, the same day and time as the QCAA Results.



The screenshot shows the QTAC website's login page. The header includes the QTAC logo, the slogan 'CHOOSE THE FUTURE', and a navigation menu with links for Applications, School Resources, Institutions, About, Partner With QTAC, and RRES Program. There are also buttons for 'Apply or Log In' and 'Course Search'. The main content area is titled 'Home / Login' and features a large 'Login' heading. Below this, there are two columns: 'Existing student?' and 'New student?'. The 'Existing student?' column has fields for Email (with a green checkmark icon) and Password (with a 'Show' button), a 'Remember me' checkbox, a 'Log In' button, and a 'Reset my password' link. The 'New student?' column has fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, LUI, and Date of birth, followed by an 'Open an account' button.

5. Calculation of ATARs

Adjustment factors

ATARs will be based on the actual subject results achieved by students which have been scaled

Adjustment Factors (EAS, subject, etc) will continue to be applied after the ATAR is calculated

QTAC will continue to administer Adjustment Factor schemes which have been determined by individual institutions





6. ATAR Publications (www.qtac.edu.au/atar)



6. ATAR Publications (www.qtac.edu.au/atar)

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6. ATAR Publications

ATAR quick factsheets

ATAR: An overview (PDF_656.3KB)

ATAR and subject prerequisites for tertiary entrance (PDF_765.4KB)

ATAR and VET qualifications (PDF_503.2KB)

ATAR and Senior External Examinations (PDF_660.6KB)

OP to ATAR conversion table (PDF_772.3KB)

Tertiary Entrance in 2021 – Quick reference for students and parents (PDF_696KB)



OP to ATAR Conversion

For the 2019–2020 admissions period, offers were made for the last time based on an Overall Position (OP).

This is reported as the ‘Lowest OP offered’ in the course entries in the QTAC Guide. In 2020, ATAR will replace OP as the standard pathway to tertiary entry in Queensland for 2021 admissions.

There is no possible direct translation of OP to ATAR because the two are derived from different sets of information and by different statistical methods.

As a rough guide, the table on the right provides details of the lowest ATARs awarded within each OP band for OPs awarded in 2019. *

Online Calculators

QTAC does not endorse or support the use of “ATAR calculators” due to the changing nature of the student cohort from year to year. ATAR calculators do not use current data so cannot accurately predict a student’s ATAR.

OP	ATAR
1	98.85
2	97.30
3	95.50
4	93.40
5	91.15
6	88.75
7	86.25
8	83.50
9	80.70
10	77.85
11	75.05
12	72.15
13	69.15
14	66.00
15	62.55
16	58.90
17	55.10
18	51.20
19	47.20
20	41.00
21	30.00
22	30.00
23	30.00
24	30.00
25	30.00

*Using ATAR information provided by the QCAA.

A photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair, smiling and looking to her left. She is holding several sheets of paper. The image has a red overlay at the bottom, which contains the section header.

7. Subject Prerequisites

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Subject Prerequisites – Course Entries

Subject (Units 3 and 4, Letter Grade).

For example:

English (Units 3 and 4, C)

Physics (Units 3 and 4, C)

Mathematical Methods (Units 3 and 4, C)





7. Subject Prerequisites

If English is listed as a subject prerequisite, it can be satisfied by one of the following **General English** subjects:



English



Literature



English & Literature Extension



English as an Additional Language



7. Subject Prerequisites

Science for initial teacher education programs in early childhood and primary can be satisfied by one of the following General subjects:



Agricultural Science



Marine Science



Biology



Physics



Chemistry



Psychology



Earth & Environmental Science

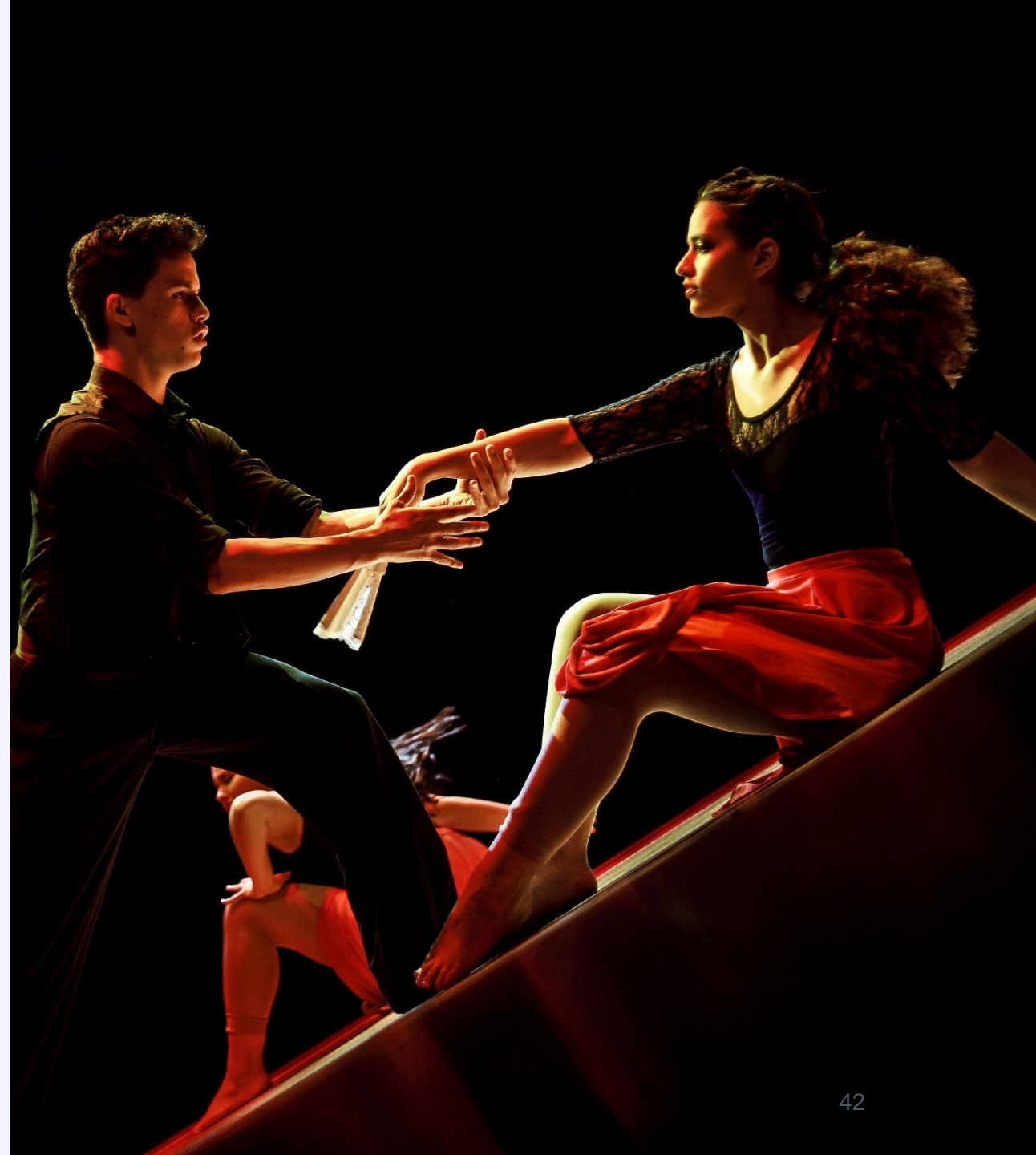


8. VET & Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions from 2021

VET for tertiary entrance

Completed Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses will continue to be used for tertiary entrance in two ways:

1. VET incorporation into ATAR; and/or
2. VET as the basis of admission



How will VET be included in the ATAR?

Each VET qualification level will have a single scaled score that can be included in the student's ATAR.

Cert III in Hospitality and Cert III in Lab Skills will have the same scaled score, regardless of duration or content.

A scaled score for a VET Diploma will be higher than a Certificate IV, which in turn will be higher than a Certificate III.

VET as a Standalone Qualification

Institutions determine if, and how, VET qualifications such as AQF Certificates III and IV, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas can be used as a basis of admission to a course.

SIT 31007 Certificate III in Hospitality
(Catering Operations)

SIS40210
Certificate IV in Fitness

BSB50407 Diploma of
Business Administration



8. VET & Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions from 2021

Institutions may also consider completed **VET qualifications (at Certificate III level and higher)** as a basis of tertiary admission on their own (including non-school leavers applying for tertiary study) as summarised below:

Policy	Institution
Institution specific schedules	Australian Catholic University Bond University Christian Heritage College CQUniversity Australia Griffith College Griffith University James Cook University Queensland University of Technology (school leavers must also qualify for an ATAR- see note below about course entry for 2021.) TAFE Queensland The University of Queensland (for non-current school leavers) University of the Sunshine Coast University of Southern Queensland University of New England Southern Cross University
Queensland University of Technology	For course entry in 2021- school leavers with Cert IV & above & who also graduate with a QCE, ATAR or IBD

8. VET & Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions from 2021

Non-AQF performing arts qualifications (such as AMEB awards) are not included in the ATAR calculation. However, some institutions may consider these qualifications on their own (including for non-school leavers) as a basis of admission to tertiary study, as summarised below.

Policy	Institution
Institution specific schedules	Australian Catholic University Christian Heritage College CQUniversity Australia Griffith College Griffith University James Cook University TAFE Queensland The University of Queensland (for non-current school leavers) University of the Sunshine Coast University of Southern Queensland University of New England Southern Cross University
Institutions that will not accept performing arts qualifications as a basis of admission for any category of applicant	Bond University Queensland University of Technology



9. Rumours, myths and legends...

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Rumour:

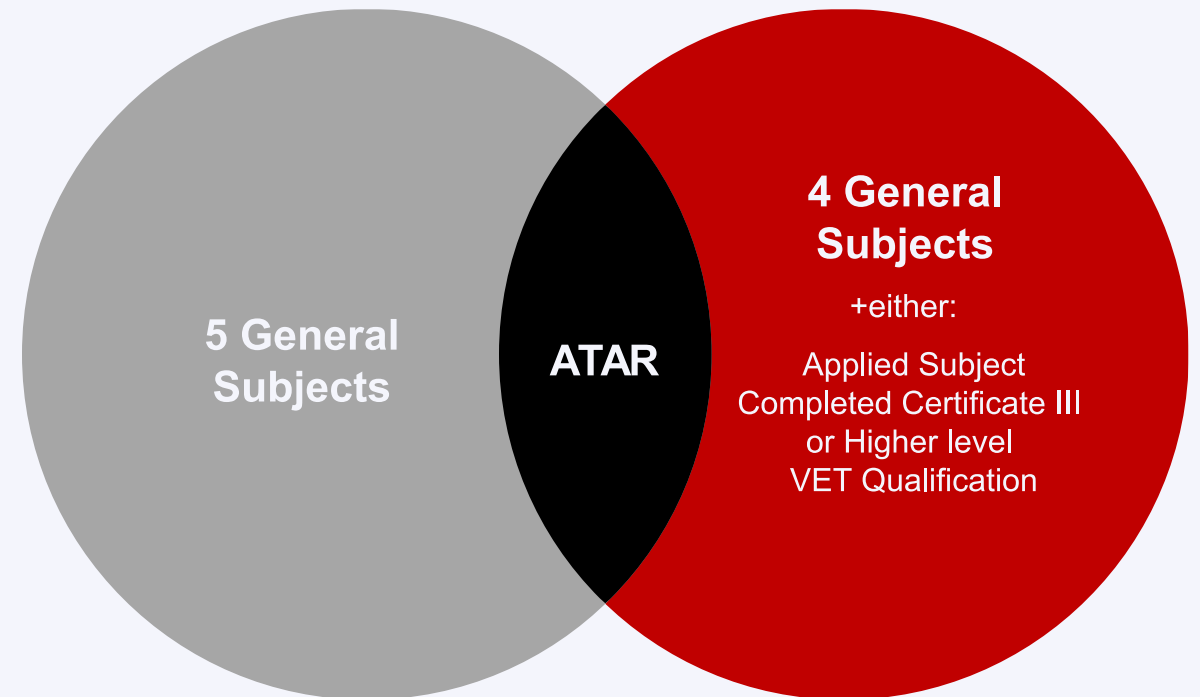
The Queensland ATAR can include other inputs like IB subjects, Music and Dance qualifications, Certificate I and II qualifications...

Reality:

The ATAR can only include:

- General subjects
- Applied Subjects, and
- Completed VET qualifications at Certificate III level and higher.

The ATAR must include at least 4 General subjects.



9. Rumours, myths and legends...

Rumour:

Less challenging Mathematics subjects scale better for ATARs.

Reality:

The difficulty of a subject has nothing to do with how well it will scale!

How a subject scales is dependent on the achievement of students in all their subjects (including their Mathematics subject).



9. Rumours, myths and legends...

Rumour:

It is possible to game the system to get the highest ATAR

Reality:

The ATAR is entirely data-driven.

ATAR is a rank, so if a student's results places them in the top percentile then they will get the top ATAR.

Myths & Legends:

Can certain subjects like Physics increase a student's ATAR?

Reality: NO

A student can only maximise their ATAR by performing well in their subjects.

Myths & Legends:

What pattern of subjects will guarantee an ATAR of 99.95?

Reality: No pattern will

The ATAR is entirely data driven, so if a student's results place them in the top percentile, then they will get the top ATAR.

9. Rumours, myths and legends...

Myths & Legends:

I will only get an ATAR if I apply to QTAC for tertiary entry.

Reality: **NO**

QTAC will calculate an ATAR for all students who have qualified for an ATAR even if they are not applying for tertiary entry.

Myths & Legends:

I will not qualify for an ATAR so higher education is closed off to me.

Reality:

Some tertiary courses are accessible without a formal tertiary ranking like ATAR. There are other pathways to tertiary study, including via VET.

Contact us

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