

QTAC | ATAR AND VET QUALIFICATIONS



From 2020, Queensland Year 12 students will be certified for tertiary entrance with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

WHAT IS THE ATAR?

Across Australia, the ATAR is a standard measure of a student's overall academic achievement in relation to that of other students. It is intended to assist tertiary institutions to select applicants into their courses.

The ATAR is a percentile rank, not a mark. This rank indicates a student's position relative to other students in their age group in any given year.

It's expressed as a number on a 2000-point scale from 99.95 down to 0.00 in steps of 0.05.

An ATAR of 80.00 does not mean a student got 80%. It indicates that the student placed in the top 20% of students in Queensland in their Year 12 age group.

WHO CALCULATES AND RELEASES THE ATAR?

Responsibility for calculating and issuing the ATAR has been assigned to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) on behalf of Queensland tertiary institutions.

QTAC administers the application and offer process for tertiary institutions in Queensland (and a few institutions interstate) and has over four decades of experience in tertiary admissions.

WHAT IS VET?

VET (Vocational Education and Training) qualifications provide students with specific workplace related technical skills. The VET sector includes qualifications from Certificate I through to Advanced Diplomas.

VET qualifications are offered by Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) such as private providers and some schools. Each Australian state or territory registers these organisations.

VET IN SCHOOLS (VETIS)

Queensland students may be able to undertake VET qualifications at school:

- as part of their school studies
- as a school-based apprentice or trainee scheme
- by enrolling in a qualification with an external RTO

For more information, talk to your guidance officer, career counsellor, VET coordinator or head of senior schooling.

VET QUALIFICATIONS, THE ATAR AND TERTIARY SELECTION

Completed Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications may be used for tertiary selection in two ways:

- as one of the five inputs into a student's ATAR; and/or
- as a stand-alone basis for tertiary admission

HOW WILL VET QUALIFICATIONS BE INCLUDED IN THE ATAR?

Each VET qualification level will have a single scaled score that can be included in the ATAR calculation. For more information about ATAR eligibility and what inputs can be included in the ATAR calculation, please refer to the QTAC website.

Relevant VET qualification levels for the ATAR are Certificate III, Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma.

Each VET qualification at the same level will have the same scaled score, regardless of duration or content. This means, for example, that a completed a Certificate III in Hospitality will have the same scaled score as a completed Certificate III in Business.

Important! VET qualifications must be recorded as completed in your QCAA learning account to be included in the ATAR calculation.

VET QUALIFICATIONS FOR TERTIARY SELECTION

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

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 (for 2021 entry only school leavers must qualify for one of the following, an ATAR, a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD)) Southern Cross University TAFE Queensland The University of Queensland (for non-current school leavers) University of New England University of the Sunshine Coast University of Southern Queensland

PERFORMING ARTS QUALIFICATIONS FOR TERTIARY ENTRANCE

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 (with links to more information where available):

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
Institutions yet to advise policies	Southern Cross University University of New England
Institutions that will not accept performing arts qualifications as a basis of admission for any category of applicant	Bond University Queensland University of Technology

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ATAR?

For more information about the ATAR, refer to QTAC's website or contact QTAC at:

Phone: 1300 467 822

Email: atar@qtac.edu.au