

# QTAC™ | ATAR & COVID-19



What you need to know about tertiary admissions and your ATAR in this COVID-19 year.

QTAC is aware that events in 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted on the schooling and studies of many of our students. QTAC is committed to supporting students towards reaching their goals in post-school study and has been working closely with the QCAA, institutions, schools and our stakeholders to provide the support required.

This factsheet provides information and links to further resources to answer the many questions students, parents and teachers are asking about ATAR results, QTAC applications and how to support our students' future study plans.

## THE ATAR

The Queensland ATAR results will be released on 19 December as planned.

## ATAR CALCULATION PROCESSES

There will be no changes to the way in which the Queensland ATAR will be calculated. The calculation of the ATAR will be done using the final QCE results received from the QCAA in December. Any accommodation of COVID-19 circumstances on student assessment should have been made by schools and the QCAA prior to the release of QCE results. There will be no whole-of-cohort adjustments applied to ATARs after they have been calculated.

## **QCAA AND QCE-RELATED QUESTIONS**

### *Will changes to QCAA assessment processes affect the calculation of the ATAR?*

QTAC will calculate the ATARs of the 2020 year 12 cohort using the final results provided by the QCAA. The ATAR is a rank not a score, so any changes to assessment, such as the reduction by the QCAA of one internal assessment item for current year 12s, will not affect the calculation of the ATAR.

### *Will special adjustments be made to students' QCE results because of COVID-19?*

All questions about QCE results, assessment changes and adjustments need to be directed to the QCAA. Information about changes to QCAA assessment and [subject result calculations](#) as a result of COVID-19 can be found on the QCAA website under Coronavirus Updates.

<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/coronavirus-updates>

## **TERTIARY ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS**

QTAC is working with interstate admission Centres (the Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres, ACTAC) to ensure that all prospective students have a pathway to tertiary study in 2021. While individual institutions may adopt specific admissions schemes in response to COVID-19, the ATAR is still the primary basis for admissions across all admissions centres nationally.

## **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) AND COVID-19**

The IB has announced a range of measures to assist IB students and schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures and common queries are described in the IB media releases and communications available on the QTAC website.

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/about-us/media-centre>

## **WHAT IF I AM NOT ON AN ATAR PATHWAY?**

There are many pathways to tertiary study. While the ATAR is the primary mechanism, institutions allow a variety of alternate pathways. These may include VET studies, bridging programs and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

## **QTAC APPLICATIONS AND OFFERS**

QTAC tertiary study offers will continue as planned with the pre-Christmas offer round on 23 December providing early offers to many applicants eligible for their highest preference. Further offers will be made on 14 January 2021.

## EDUCATIONAL ACCESS SCHEME (EAS)

QTAC's [Educational Access Scheme](#) (EAS) may be of assistance to students when applying for further study if they have experienced circumstances during COVID-19 that may have negatively affected their most recent studies.

EAS provides rank adjustments for educational disadvantage through a range of categories. No COVID-19 specific categories will be created. However, the impact of COVID-19 on students' education will continue to be monitored closely. Find out more about EAS on the QTAC website [here](#).

If you are assessed as eligible for adjustment factors, any rank adjustment will be applied to your QTAC selection rank under EAS, your original ATAR does not change. Please check with the institution to which you are applying in order to find out about the maximum adjustments allowable.

## QUALIFYING FOR A NEW ATAR: REPEATING AND DOING ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

A student can qualify for a new ATAR after their first ATAR is released at the completion of their year 12 studies. This can be done by doing additional subjects towards their ATAR, including repeating subjects. Qualification for a new ATAR is dependent on the student's subject selections and QCE results meeting the requirements for accumulating results towards a new ATAR.

For more guidance, read the factsheet: [Qualifying for a new ATAR, ATAR amendments and Variable Progression Rates](#)

