

QTAC™ | QUALIFYING FOR A NEW ATAR



Qualifying for a new ATAR, ATAR amendments and Variable Progression Rates.

There are a number of situations where a student may qualify for a new ATAR after their first ATAR is released at the completion of their year 12 studies. This factsheet provides information to guide students, teachers and parents through the options: Re-entry students doing additional subjects, accumulating results, repeating subjects, ATAR amendments and appeals. The information also covers Variable Progression Rate students.

MULTIPLE VALID ATARS

A student may qualify for more than one ATAR¹ from multiple attempts at doing additional subjects towards their ATAR, including repeating subjects. This is dependent on the student's subject selections and QCE results meeting the requirements for accumulating results towards a new ATAR.

MY ATAR RESULT SAYS 'ATAR INELIGIBLE'. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The ATAR is calculated from the QCE subjects results provided to QTAC by the QCAA. Students whose QCE subject results do not meet the ATAR eligibility criteria **(yet)** will receive a result of "ATAR ineligible" when ATAR results are released at the end of the year.



¹Note: The QTAC Application Customer Declaration requires applicants to declare all attempts at study. This includes all ATAR attempts. Applicants also need to be mindful of institution rules about which ATAR rank to accept for a particular program of study e.g. the highest or the most recent.

I. VARIABLE PROGRESSION RATE (VPR)

Variable Progression Rate (VPR) – A study program for accumulating QCE subject results over more than one year towards gaining ATAR eligibility.

The Variable Progression Rate is a special category which involves a study program for accumulating QCE subject results over more than one year towards gaining ATAR eligibility. Eligibility will be dependent on the subject selections meeting the normal ATAR subject combinations and other key criteria, as below:

- i. Time Limit on accumulating scaled results:** Scaled subject results can be used over no more than a five year period, including breaks.
- ii. Banking Results:** Scaled scores are calculated in the year that the subject is completed which is when QTAC receives the results from QCAA. QTAC will bank students' scaled results along with the underlying unscaled subject results provided by the QCAA.
- iii. Minimum number of subjects for a first ATAR:** There is no minimum number of subjects to be studied in a single year for a student's first ATAR to be calculated.

Students on a VPR program will receive an ATAR notification of 'ATAR Ineligible' in the ATAR Portal for each year that they are accumulating subjects, until they successfully complete all subjects required for ATAR eligibility.

A student can accumulate (bank) scaled subject results over a number of years.



II. DOING ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS AND ACCUMULATING RESULTS TO QUALIFY FOR A NEW ATAR

Re-entry students – Students who have already qualified for an ATAR and are returning to further year 12 study.

Students may seek to improve on their original ATAR by repeating or doing additional QCE subjects in the year/s following the issue of their original ATAR. The following rules apply to qualifying for a new ATAR:

i. Repeating subjects: most recent result used

Where a student has repeated a subject, the scaled result of the most recent attempt is used in the calculation of the new ATAR even if this result is lower than an earlier attempt.

ii. Minimum number of additional (new) subjects for a new ATAR

For a new ATAR to be calculated, a student must complete and receive scores from QCAA in a minimum of:

- 3 General subjects at Units 3 & 4, OR
- 2 General subjects at Units 3 & 4 plus one Applied subject or completed Certificate III or higher level VET qualification.

For each additional year that a student satisfies this requirement within a five year period, a new ATAR will be calculated for the student.

The results of the 3 (or more) **new** subjects **must** be included in the calculation of the new ATAR.

The best two scaled results from previous years are also used in the calculation of the new ATAR. If a student fails a new attempt at a General or Applied English subject, the scaled result will be used as an input to the new ATAR. However, provided they have passed a General or Applied English subject at some time in the last 5 years, they will still be ATAR eligible.

iii. Subject combinations

There are some subject study patterns and choices which can lead to subjects 'cancelling' each other out, thereby rendering a student with 3 new subjects ineligible for a new ATAR. The following precluded subject combinations are applicable for individual students in their ATAR calculations:

1. Only General English subjects or Applied English subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both. For example, it is not possible to include both English (a General subject) and Essential English (an Applied subject) in a student's ATAR.
2. Only General Mathematics subjects or Applied Mathematics subjects can be included in the ATAR, but not both. For example, it is not possible to include both Mathematical Methods (a General subject) and Essential Mathematics (an Applied subject) in a student's ATAR.
3. Only one result for the same subject taken as a General subject and via Senior External Examination can be included in the ATAR. For example, 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 ATAR².

²There is no restriction on the inclusion of the General subject Chinese Extension in the ATAR calculation.



III. ATAR AMENDMENTS

After the December ATAR calculation date, changes in QCE results for students with an existing ATAR are received from the QCAA by QTAC as *amendments*. These results will be processed as *amended ATARs*.

When amended QCE results are received by QTAC, the ATARs will be recalculated for the relevant students and the students notified of their new ATAR via email. The new ATAR will *supersede* (replace) the original ATAR as the valid ATAR.

Amendments do not include additional study completed after the ATAR was calculated in December. Any subjects completed after the ATAR calculation date will be included in the ATAR calculation the following year.



COVID-19 AND YOUR ATAR

After a challenging year of study in 2020, many year 12 students may be concerned about how the COVID-19 situation might impact on their QCE results, and that their final ATAR might affect their choice of tertiary study.

More information and FAQs can be found on the factsheet: [What you need to know about tertiary admissions and your ATAR in this COVID-19 year](#)