



# 2021 ATAR Presentation

QTAC | CHOOSE  
THE FUTURE

# Topics

1. What is QTAC?
2. Terminology in the QCE System
3. Overview of the ATAR
4. Inter-subject Scaling
5. Calculation of ATARs
6. ATAR Publications
7. Subject Prerequisites
8. VET and Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions
9. Rumours, myths and legends
10. Contact Us



# 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 over 1,800 tertiary courses on behalf of 17 institutions
- Calculate and award ATARs.



A group of young people, likely students, are gathered around a laptop. They are all smiling and looking at the screen, suggesting a collaborative learning or meeting environment. The image has a warm, reddish-orange tint. A solid red horizontal bar is overlaid at the bottom, containing the section header text.

## 2. Terminology in the QCE System



## 2. Terminology in the QCE System

# Subjects in the QCE System

**General subjects**

**General (Extension) subjects**

**Applied subjects**

# Subjects in the 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)

## 2. Terminology in the QCE System

# The grading system in the QCE System

### **General subjects reported:**

Numerical mark (0 to 100)

Exit result (A to E, A highest)

### **Applied subjects reported:**

Final result reported as an Exit result

(A to E, A highest)

See [QCAA website](#)







## 2. Terminology in the 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 are not provided to QTAC.
- Are not included in the calculation of the ATAR.

## 2. Terminology in the QCE System

# Units of Study

### Unit 3 and Unit 4:

- Represent the summative years of study.
- Students undertake required assessment in Units 3 and 4.
- This leads to the overall raw subject result that is provided to QTAC from QCAA for scaling, and from which ATARs are calculated.



### 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.

For questions about the QCE, including assessment and subject results, please contact [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au)



## 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.

# How students access their QCE results from the QCAA

Students can access their QCE subject results via their **learning account** in the Student Portal on the QCAA [myQCE website](#).





### **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 are expressed as "30 or less".

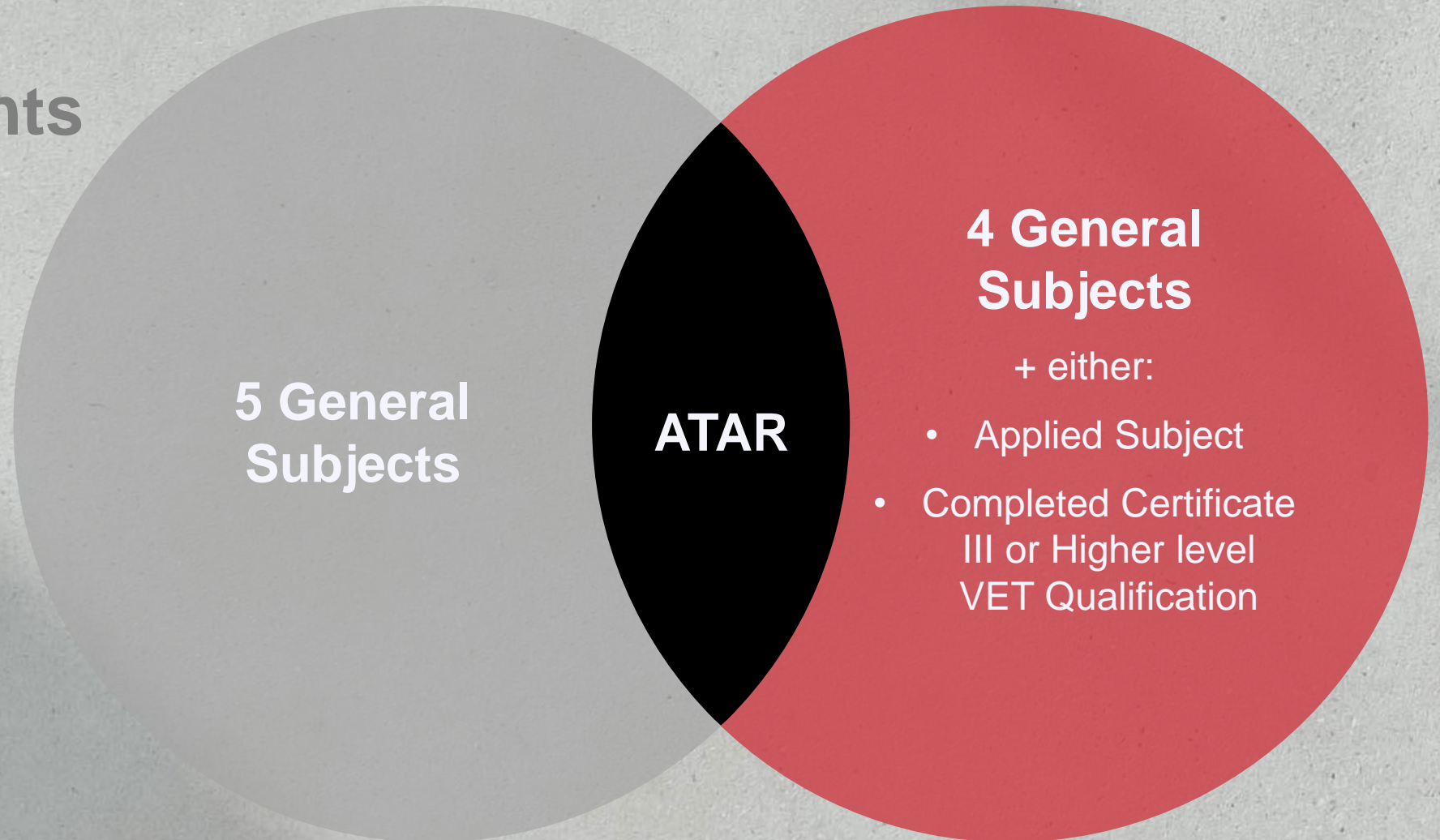
Is calculated by QTAC for entry into tertiary courses.

Is the standard pathway to tertiary study in QLD.



### 3. Overview of the ATAR

## 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** = minimum of 'C' letter grade (QCE)

No specific subjects are mandated inclusions in the ATAR.





# Examples of Study Patterns for an ATAR



Tia

English  
Mathematical Methods  
Specialist Mathematics  
Physics  
Chemistry



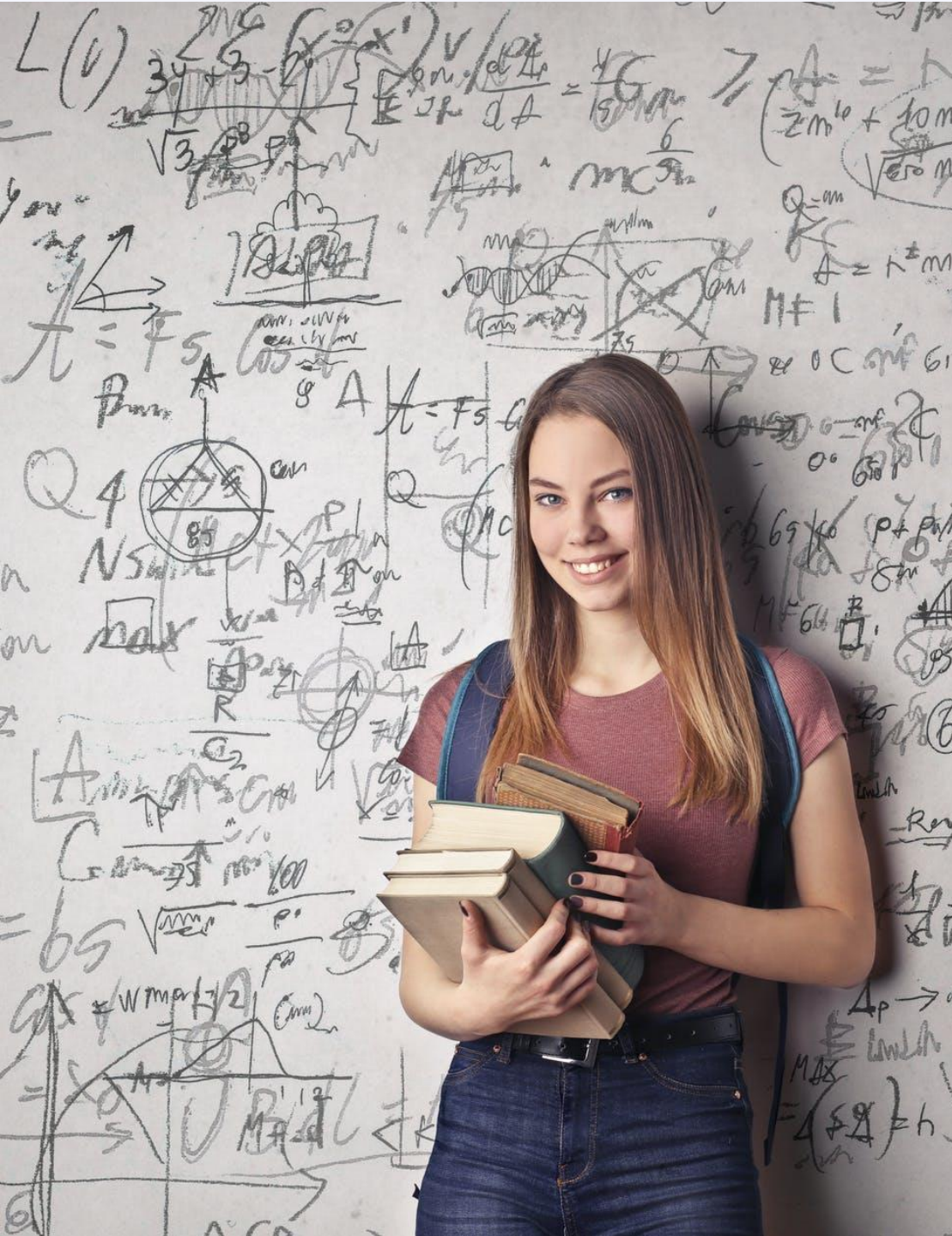
Essential English  
Accounting  
Modern History  
Japanese  
Music  
General Mathematics



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



Dan



### 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
- To cater for students who are unable to undertake all required subjects in one year, ATARs can be calculated based on results from five consecutive years
- One eligible subject a year over a five year period should qualify students for an ATAR.
- Factsheet “Qualifying for a new ATAR” available on website at <https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar>

### 3. Overview of the 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.



### 3. Overview of the 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.



### 3. Overview of the 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.



### 3. Overview of the 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.

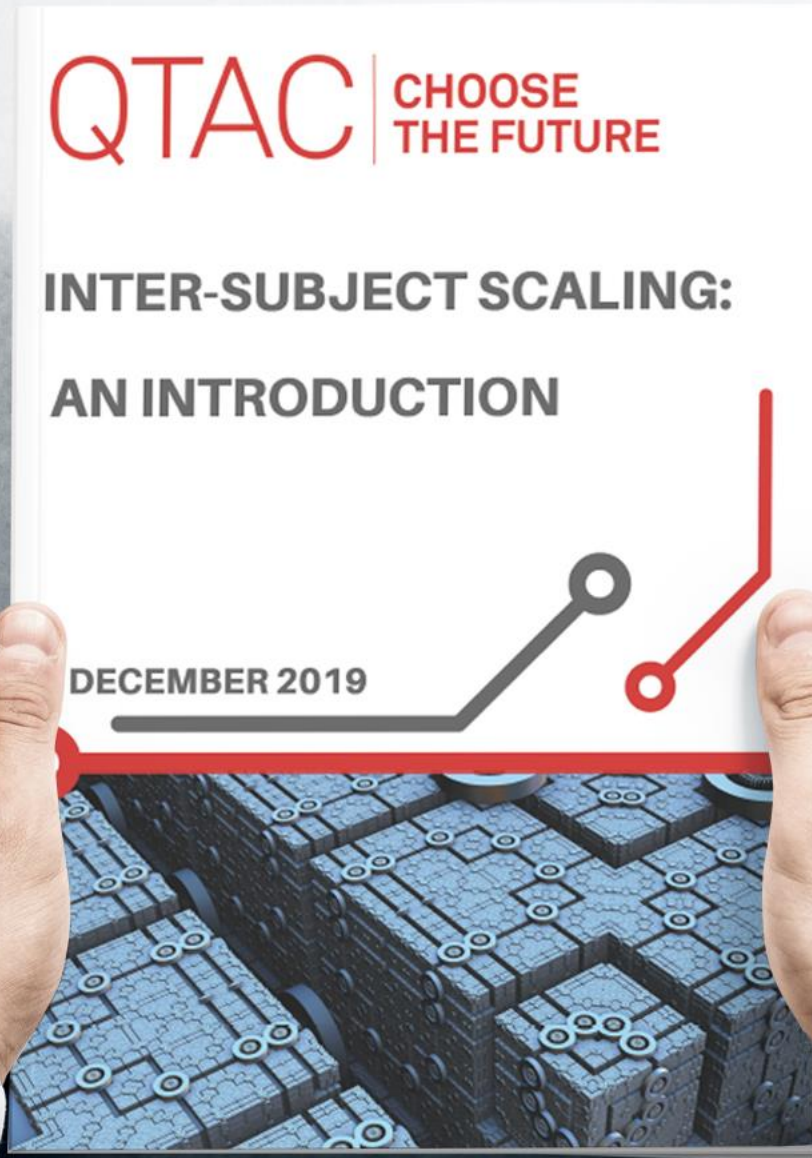




#### 4. Inter-subject Scaling

# ATAR calculation- Documents

[www.qtac.edu.au/atar](http://www.qtac.edu.au/atar)



### For:

Non-technical  
readership

### What is in it:

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



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THE FUTURE

## ATAR Report 2020

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

© QTAC March 2021

### 4. Inter-subject Scaling

# ATAR calculation- Documents

#### For:

General readership

#### What is in it:

Summary of subject enrolments

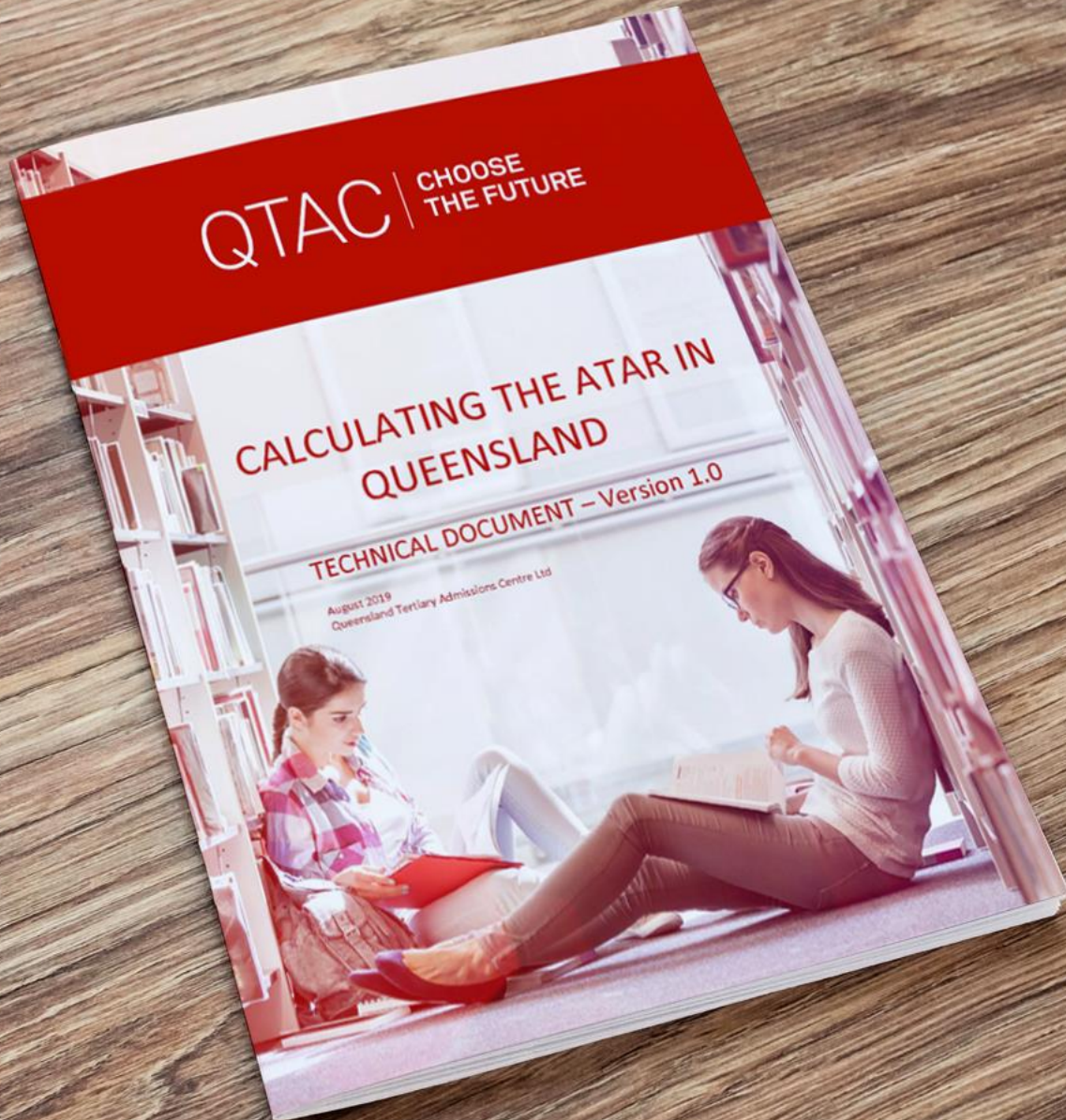
Outcomes of the inter-subject scaling process

Allocation of students to ATAR bands

#### 4. Inter-subject Scaling

# ATAR calculation- Documents

[www.qtac.edu.au/atar](http://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

# 2020 ATAR results

## Spotlight on High Achievers

Students receiving an ATAR of 99.95 did so with:

- 13 different subject combinations of subjects, and
- 16 distinct General subjects across humanities, languages and STEM

With the release of the ATARs each year, the combination and breadth of subjects contributing to various levels of achievement will change.

Each ATAR year has a different cohort of Yr 12 students, with differing subjects studied and differing abilities.





#### 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

# ATAR 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 possible ATAR.





## 5. Calculation of ATARS

## 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

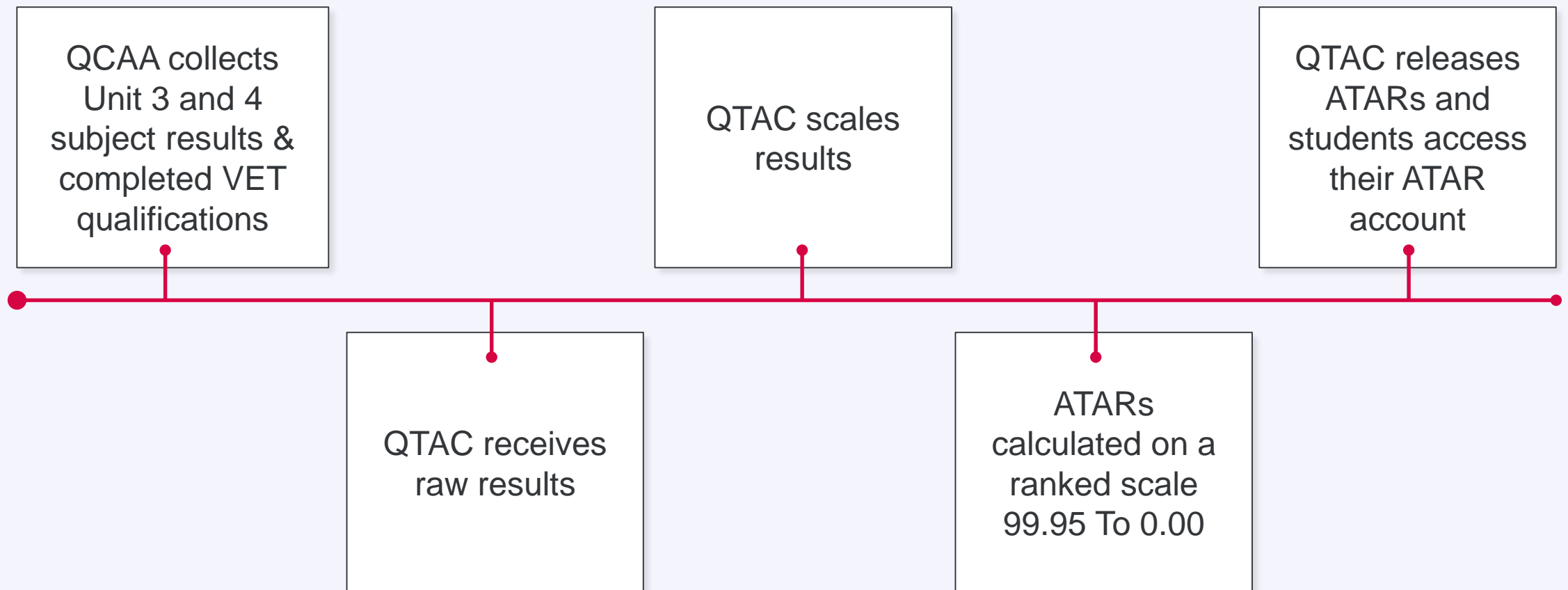
**Step 3:** QTAC undertakes the subject scaling process

**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



# Accessing ATARs

Each year, the ATAR will be communicated to eligible Yr 12 students via the QTAC **ATAR portal**, accessible through the QTAC website.

The ATAR release is an online release **ONLY**.

Students can download a copy of their ATAR results notice (certificate).

Each year, Yr 12s can sign up for their ATAR account with QTAC when admissions open in August.

ATARs are released in December, usually on the same day and time as the QCAA Results.

The screenshot shows the QTAC ATAR Portal interface. At the top right, the QTAC logo is displayed next to the slogan "CHOOSE THE FUTURE". The page is divided into two main sections: "Login" and "Sign-up".

**Login Section:**

- Header: "Login"
- Text: "Welcome to the QTAC ATAR Portal"
- Form fields: "Email Address \*" and "Password \*"
- Link: "Forgot password?"
- Button: "LOG IN"

**Sign-up Section:**

- Header: "Sign-up"
- Text: "Please provide your details to access your ATAR once released."
- Form fields: "Email Address \*", "Password \*", and "Confirm Password \*"
- Note: "Note: Please use a personal email address, not your school email address."
- Button: "SIGN UP"

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar/>

## 5. Calculation of ATARs

### 2021 QUEENSLAND YEAR 12 STUDENTS

#### 2021 ATAR REGISTRATION OPENS ON 3 AUGUST

Have the following personal details ready before you get started:

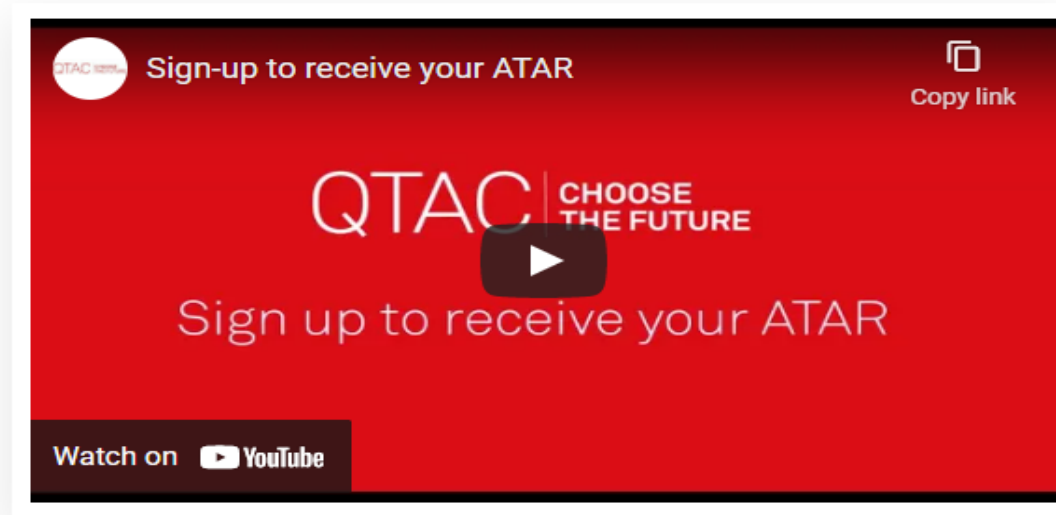
- ✓ Full name (as shown on your QCAA learning account)
- ✓ Date of birth
- ✓ LUI number
- ✓ Personal email address (do not use your school email)

Please Note: If you are planning to apply to tertiary study in 2022, you will also need to complete a [QTAC Application](#).

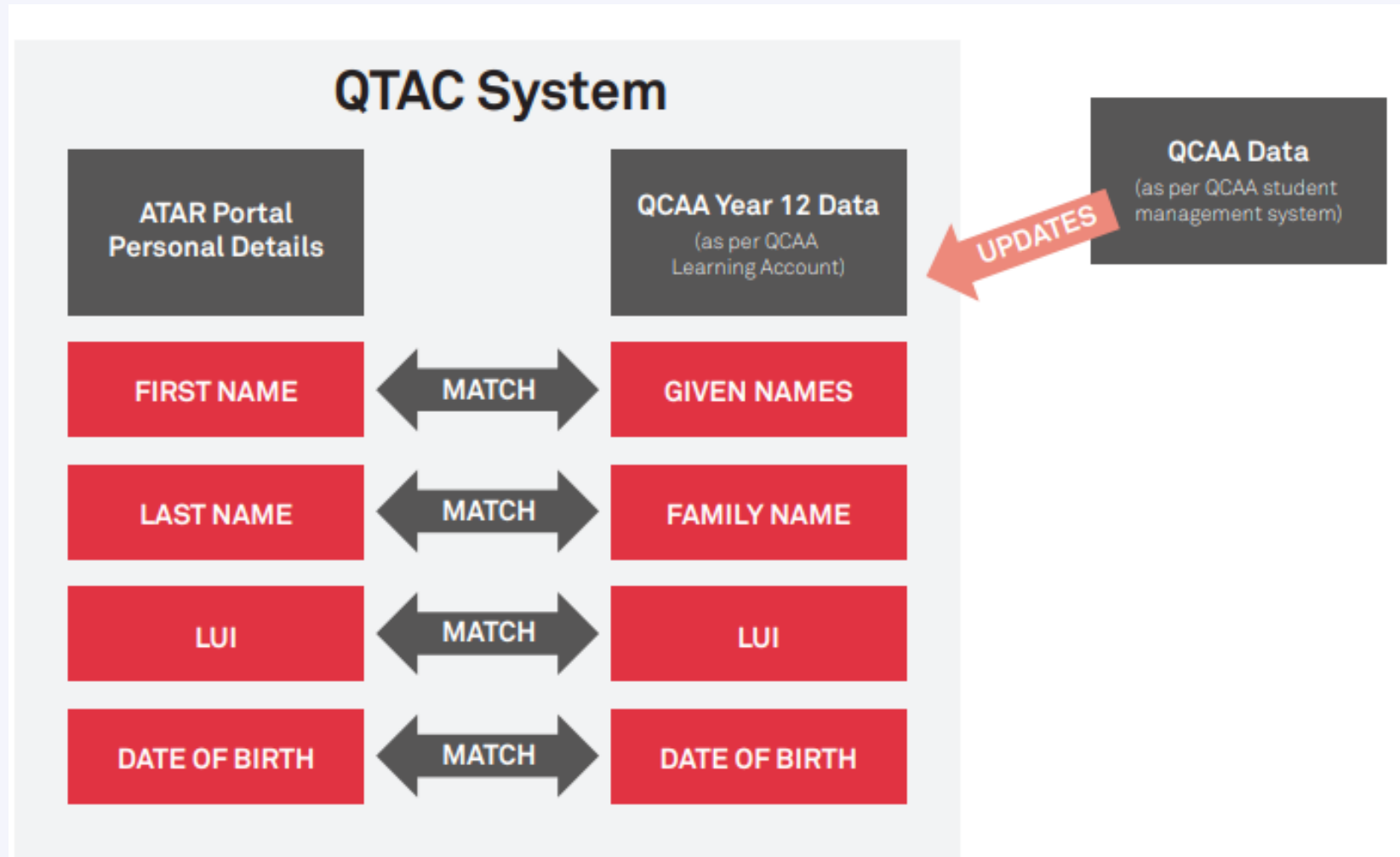
2021 Year 12 ATAR accounts created prior to 3 August 2021 will not be confirmed with the QCAA data until the 3rd August.

2020 ATAR account holders can still log into the ATAR Portal.

[REGISTER](#) or [LOG IN](#) to the ATAR PORTAL



# Details entered into the ATAR Portal must match the QCAA data



# Check that your ATAR account and QCAA Data match

Student view ATAR Portal

**Your Data**

Exit Year	QCAA Data	ATAR Data
2020	Confirmed	Confirmed

When your account cannot be matched to both QCAA or ATAR data you will be unable to receive your ATAR for your graduating year. If you have no matches on QCAA or ATAR data and the data has been released please **contact us**.

If your details are incorrect, you may not be matched correctly with your QCAA student data or ATAR results.

Student view ATAR Portal

**Your Data**

Exit Year	QCAA Data	ATAR Data
No Match Found		

When your account cannot be matched to both QCAA or ATAR data you will be unable to receive your ATAR for your graduating year. If you have no matches on QCAA or ATAR data and the data has been released please **contact us**.

Read the policies, terms & conditions

# ATAR Portal Consent to share ATARs

- Students can consent to share their ATAR information with their school
- Consent can be changed at any time, before or after release of ATARs
- Consent is also selected through their Application because QTAC needs consent to share ATARs with institutions

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/privacy-and-legal/>

Customer Declaration \*

I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by the policies, terms and conditions set forth in the following as displayed on the **QTAC website**:

- QTAC's Documentation Guidelines
- QTAC's Applicant Rights and Responsibilities
- QTAC's Privacy Policy
- QTAC's Refund Policy
- QTAC Mandatory consents and acknowledgements

---

Optional consent  
Please tick the box if you do not consent

I do not consent to my ATAR or ATAR eligibility as determined by QTAC being shared with the school I attended in year 12.

COMPLETE REGISTRATION

# Schools Portal access to ATAR & Application Reporting

## ***Students' Consent to share their ATAR must be:***

- Informed
- Voluntary
- Current & specific

*“Consent is voluntary if an individual has a genuine opportunity to provide or withhold consent. Consent is not voluntary where there is ...coercion or pressure that could overpower the person's will.”*

*[Australian Privacy Principles]*

QTAC | for schools

- Schools are bound by QTAC's *Corporate Privacy Policy* in adhering to the agreed **Authorised purposes** for which they can use their students' personal information (ATARs & Applications)
- For access to the Schools Portal email [go.enquiries@qtac.edu.au](mailto:go.enquiries@qtac.edu.au)

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/privacy-and-legal/>



# ATAR Services

## ATAR Appeals

- ATAR recipients can request a review of their final ATAR result calculation
- Lodge the Appeal online
- \$33 fee (refundable)

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar-appeals/>

## ATAR Verification Service

**Printed verification:** Students can request a printed and verified copy of their ATAR certificate  
Fee - \$27.50

**Electronic verification:** Request a verified electronic copy of their ATAR results to be transferred to up to three (3) nominated institutions, employer or other entities. Fee \$16.50

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar-verification>



## 5. Calculation of ATARs

# Selection Ranks & Adjustment factors

ATARs are calculated only on the students' actual QCE **subject results** which have been scaled

Application Selection Rank = ATAR plus Adjustment factors

Adjustment Factors (EAS, subject, etc) are applied after the ATAR is calculated

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





## 6. ATAR Publications ([www.qtac.edu.au/atar](http://www.qtac.edu.au/atar))

# ALL ABOUT YOUR ATAR

A guide for Queensland Year 11 and 12 students



2021

CHANGING TERTIARY ENTRANCE  
QTAC.EDU.AU

## 6. ATAR Publications ([www.qtac.edu.au/atar](http://www.qtac.edu.au/atar))

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## 6. ATAR Publications

# ATAR quick factsheets

ATAR: An overview

ATAR and subject prerequisites for tertiary entrance

ATAR and VET qualifications

ATAR and Senior External Examinations

Tertiary Entrance in 2022 – Quick reference for students and parents

Qualifying for a New ATAR

Troubleshooting ATAR accounts

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar/>





## 7. Subject Prerequisites

## 7. Subject Prerequisites

# 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**

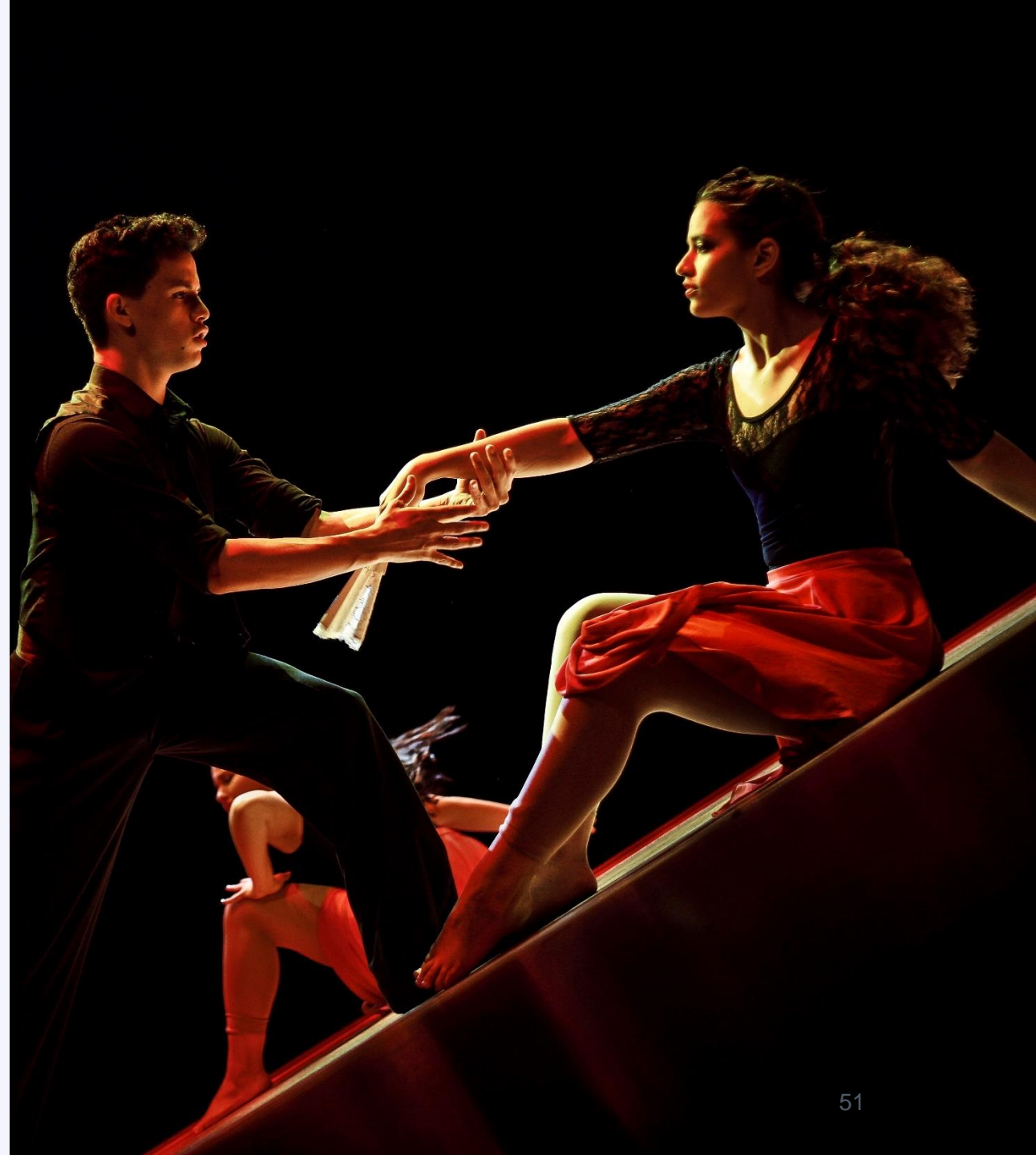
A woman with long, wavy hair is captured in a dynamic dance pose, wearing a white, flowing dress. She is looking upwards and to the right, with her arms extended. The background is dark, and the scene is lit with a warm, reddish-pink glow. A solid red horizontal band is positioned across the lower third of the image, containing the section header text.

## 8. VET & Performing Arts Qualifications

## VET for tertiary entrance

Completed Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses can be used for tertiary entrance in **two ways**:

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



## How is VET included in the ATAR?

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

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

It is expected that 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

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 2022.) 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 2022- school leavers with Cert IV & above & who also graduate with a QCE, ATAR or IBD

## 8. VET & Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions

**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...



## 9. Rumours, myths and legends...

### Rumour:

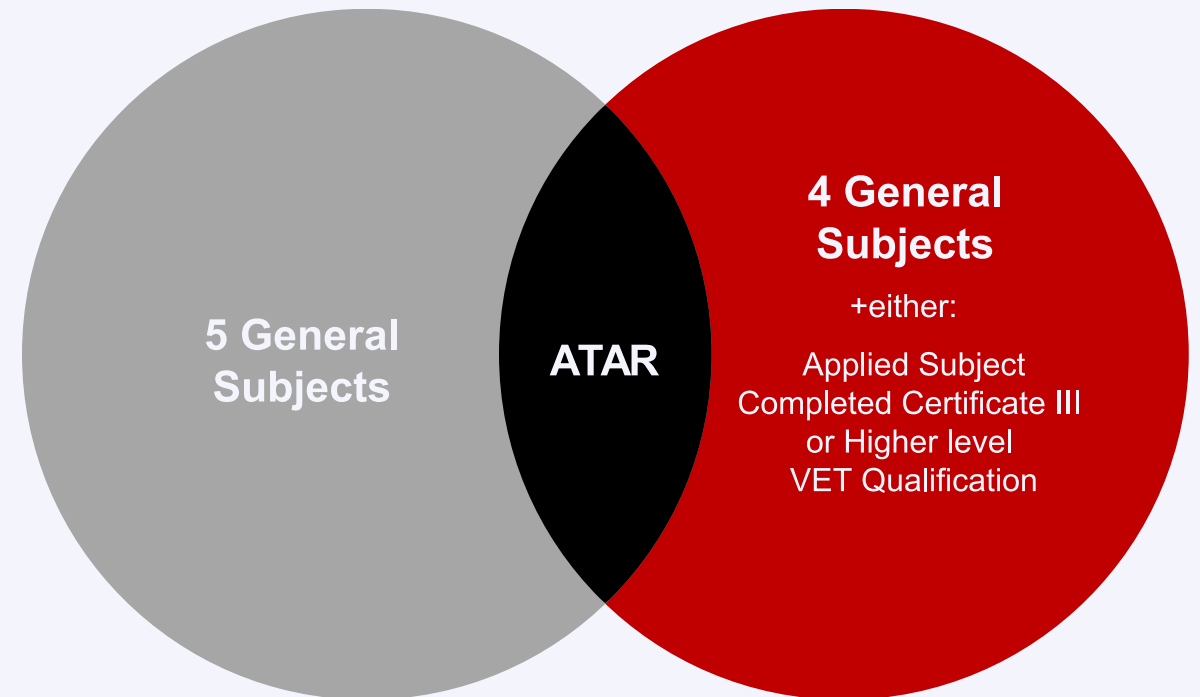
The Queensland ATAR can include other inputs like IB subjects, Music and Dance qualifications, Certificate I and II qualifications, traineeships...

### 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 is not directly related to how well it will scale!

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

## 9. Rumours, myths and legends...

### Rumour:

The maximum ATAR possible with the 4 + 1 model (4 General + 1 VET or Applied) is 75.00

### Reality:

There is no set maximum or minimum ATAR for any model. The ATAR calculation is based on data: the subjects studied and results achieved and this will vary by cohort, year to year.

### Rumour:

I passed all my QCE subjects so my ATAR will be above 50.00

### Reality:

The ATAR is a rank not a score or percentage. As a rank, the ATAR figure can sometimes appear lower or even higher than the raw QCE results.

## 9. Rumours, myths and legends...

### Myths & Legends:

Certain subjects like Physics will always increase a student's ATAR.

### Myths & Legends:

What pattern of subjects will guarantee an ATAR of 99.95?

### Reality: **NO**

A student will be able to maximise their ATAR by performing well in their chosen subjects. The competitiveness of the subject cohort is a key factor.

### Reality: **No pattern will**

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

## Need help?



### Need more information?

Call the ATAR hotline 1300 193 173

For more details about changes to subjects and curriculum, visit the [QCAA](#) website.

For specific questions about the ATAR, email [atar@qtac.edu.au](mailto:atar@qtac.edu.au).

# Contact us

**Website**

[www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au)

**Phone**

**1300 467 822**



**@qtacinfo**