Topics

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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.
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)
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](#)
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.
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](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au)
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

- 5 General Subjects
- ATAR

4 General Subjects
+ either:
  - Applied Subject
  - Completed Certificate III or Higher level VET Qualification
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

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
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
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.
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.
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
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.
For: Non-technical readership

What is in it:
- Technical definitions
- The need to scale
- The ‘how’ of scaling

4. Inter-subject Scaling

ATAR calculation- Documents
www.qtac.edu.au/atar
For:
General readership

What is in it:
Summary of subject enrolments
Outcomes of the inter-subject scaling process
Allocation of students to ATAR bands

ATAR calculation - Documents

4. Inter-subject Scaling
4. Inter-subject Scaling

ATAR calculation - Documents

www.qtac.edu.au/atar

For:

A technical readership

What is in it:

Full end-to-end calculation of ATAR

Includes inter-subject scaling

\[
P_{m,s} = \sum_i r_{m-1,i,j} \frac{l_{i,j,s}}{\sum_i l_{i,j,s}}
\]

\[
s_{m,i,j} = \sum_s p'_{m,s} \frac{l_{i,j,s}}{\sum_s l_{i,j,s}}
\]
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
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
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.

For more information about the allocation model used, please refer to Calculating the ATAR in Queensland found at www.qtac.edu.au/atar.
5. Calculation of ATARs

Sequence of Events

QCAA collects Unit 3 and 4 subject results & completed VET qualifications

QTAC receives raw results

QTAC scales results

QTAC releases ATARs and students access their ATAR account

ATARs calculated on a ranked scale 99.95 To 0.00
5. Calculation of ATARs

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.

https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar/
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
- LU1 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 LOGIN to the ATAR PORTAL
Details entered into the ATAR Portal must match the QCAA data
Check that your ATAR account and QCAA Data match

5. Calculation of ATARs

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.
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

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]

- 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

5. Calculation of ATARs

**ATAR Services**

**ATAR Appeals**

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


**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

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

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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
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
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.
8. VET & Performing Arts Qualifications for Admissions

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
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution specific schedules</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bond University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christian Heritage College</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CQUniversity Australia</td>
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<td>Griffith College</td>
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<td>Griffith University</td>
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<td>James Cook University</td>
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<td>Queensland University of Technology (school leavers must also qualify for an</td>
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<td>ATAR- see note below about course entry for 2022.)</td>
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<td>TAFE Queensland</td>
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<td>The University of Queensland (for non-current school leavers)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of the Sunshine Coast</td>
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<td>University of Southern Queensland</td>
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<td>University of New England</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Southern Cross University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>For course entry in 2022- school leavers with Cert IV &amp; above &amp; who also</td>
</tr>
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<td>graduate with a QCE, ATAR or IBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Institution specific schedules | Australian Catholic University  
Christian Heritage College  
CQUUniversity 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Bond University  
Queensland University of Technology |
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.
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.
Myths & Legends:
Certain subjects like Physics will always increase a student’s ATAR.

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.

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 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.
Contact us

Website
www.qtac.edu.au

Phone
1300 467 822

@qtacinfo