

QTAC[®] ATAR & COVID-19



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

In 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an impact 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 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 17 December 2021 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 2021. 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.

For more information call us on **1300 193 173** or visit qtac.edu.au or email atar@qtac.edu.au

QCAA AND QCE-RELATED QUESTIONS FOR 2021

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

No¹. All questions about QCE results and assessment should 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.

¹QCAA information correct as at date of factsheet publication.

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 2022. 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 and other awarding bodies continue to consider the continuing impacts of COVID-19 and will make announcements as required. QTAC will provide updates of available IB information through our media releases.

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 2021 making offers to many applicants eligible for their highest preference. Further offers will be made on 13 January 2022. A full list of QTAC's offer round dates can be accessed at qtac.edu.au/key-dates/

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 2021 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 on the EAS page of the QTAC website at qtac.edu.au/educational-access-scheme/

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.



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

2020 HISTORICAL NOTE

In 2020 the QCAA made changes to the QCE assessment procedures. These included the reduction of one internal assessment item for the 2020 year 12 cohort (only).

The calculation of the ATAR was carried out as normal, using the year 12's final QCE results received from the QCAA in December 2020. The ATAR is a rank, not a score so the changes to assessment did not affect the calculation of the ATAR.

In 2020 the International Baccalaureate announced a range of measures to assist IB students and schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. These are described in the IB media releases and communications available on the QTAC website: qtac.edu.au/publications/