

APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY

All the information needed to research courses, understand the application process and make applications is available at <http://www.vtac.edu.au>. All students should explore this site in detail.

Information

- The Careers and Tertiary Advisor, **Ms Oglesby, is** always available to help you and answer your questions. Career and University information is published in *CareerNews 2013*, up-dated fortnightly and available from **G:Careers/CareerNews**. Information is also published in the weekly **in Study Smart** and displayed on **Notice Boards outside the Careers Centre**. All students must **check these sources of information every week** for items relevant to them.

Careers Program

- All Year 12 students receive a **Careers Folio** to file Careers related material in.
- All Year 12 students will participate in the following activities :

Prepare

Explore

Pathways

Apply

Plan

Victorian University Applications

- **Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC)** runs the selection system for most universities, TAFE institutes and independent tertiary colleges in Victoria.
- **VTAC Guide:** Distributed during Careers Day. Information about courses and the rules for applying and selection are published in this Guide.
- **Prerequisites and Extra Requirements:** Students who do not satisfy the Prerequisites and Extra Requirement for a University course as published in the VTAC Guide will not be considered. E.g. B. Commerce at the University of Melbourne has a prerequisite of Mathematical Methods so students who have only studied Further Mathematics will not be considered. Monash University Medicine/Surgery requires international students to attend an interview in October. E.g. Students who do not attend the interview will not be considered.
- **Preferences:** Students choose up to twelve courses they wish to study at University and put them in order of preference. Number 1 is first choice; Number 2 is second choice ... to Number 12. Preferences should include at least two courses with an ATAR less than 60. VTAC forwards the student's information on to all the student's preference universities.
The Insight Game, JobExplorer and *CourseLink Workshops* help students select preferences.
- **Applications:** All VCE Year 12 students apply for tertiary study on line at the *University Application Workshops*. There are some differences between International and Local Students' application procedures.

VTAC Applications close on 5pm on 27 September.

- **Change of Preference:** Students have an opportunity to change their preferences in October and then when their results are known in December. **We run *Change of Preference Workshops*** to assist.
- **Selection:** Applicants are ranked for each course in order, from highest to lowest. The VTAC computer system does not take into account where the applicant has placed the course in his/her own preference list. The computer system works down the preference list for each course until all places are filled. The ranking is based on:
 - ⇒ The ATAR, OR
 - ⇒ Derived from the Range of Criteria (**RC**) described in the VTAC Guide, which may include VCE results, interviews, folios, pre-selection tests and other criteria.
 - ⇒ International students only get one offer in total. There is only one round of offers for International Students.
 - ⇒ Local Students may get a higher preference offer in a latter Round once other students have rejected or deferred their offer.
- **Offers:** A student can receive only one Offer per Round
- VTAC sends an offer letter to the student for the course highest on the preference list for which they have been selected. International students who do not get a VTAC offer should contact the institution's International Students' Office directly.
- A copy of **The ABC of Applying** will be given to all VCE Year 12 students at the *Careers Day*.

Interstate University Applications

- Students who want to study interstate must apply on-line to the relevant centre.
 - ⇒ New South Wales (including UNU): UAC at <http://www.uac.edu.au>
 - ⇒ South Australia: SATAC at <http://www.satac.edu.au>
 - ⇒ Queensland: QTAC <http://www.qtac.edu.au>
 - ⇒ Western Australia: TISC at <http://www.tisc.edu.au>
 - ⇒ Tasmanian: apply directly
- We run a *University Application Workshop* for our students for each state to assist.

Technical and Further Education (TAFE)

- TAFE's offer Diploma courses.
- **Pathways:** Many Diploma courses offer a **pathway** to University degree courses
 - ⇒ Students receive credit for studies completed
 - ⇒ Students who miss out on a University place should consider TAFE
- International students do not apply through VTAC for TAFE. They must apply directly to the International Office of the TAFE.

Medicine and Health Sciences

- Because entry to all undergraduate Australian medical degrees and some health science courses is extremely competitive and difficult, applicants are advised to consider applying to all medical schools:
 - ⇒ *Victoria* Monash University
 - ⇒ *NSW* University of NSW, University of Newcastle
 - ⇒ *Queensland* Bond University, James Cook University
 - ⇒ *SA* University of Adelaide
 - ⇒ *WA* University of WA, Notre Dame University
 - ⇒ *Tasmania* University of Tasmania
- Students should also consider applying to New Zealand universities for first year Health Science.
- Students must satisfy all the published conditions, by the due dates. These can include:
 - ⇒ Applying by the correct method
 - ⇒ Meeting the academic requirements
 - ⇒ Sitting extra tests such as the UMAT, ISAT or PQA
 - ⇒ Submitting additional forms
 - ⇒ Attending interviews
- Students who do not satisfy these conditions will not be considered. It is essential to thoroughly read each course's Website, Brochure and Guide entry as early as possible to avoid disappointment.
- Many Medical Schools in Australia have moved to Graduate Entry. This means you must already have completed a Degree to gain entry. Some Schools want a Science or Biomedical related degree, some specify first and second year subjects that must have been completed in the first degree.

Scaling and the ATAR

Scaling

- The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) awards study scores out of 50 for each subject studied.
- VTAC then scales these study scores to give ATAR study scores.
- Scaling ensures that students can be neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by their subject selection.
- To maximise your ATAR, select subjects you are good at and enjoy.
 - ⇒ Do not select subjects just because they are scaled up.
 - ⇒ Subjects are scaled because it is very difficult to get a good VCAA study score

The ATAR

- VTAC calculates an **E**quivalent **N**ational **T**ertiary **E**ntrance **R**ank (ATAR) for all eligible VCE students.
- **The ATAR** is a percentile ranking developed from an aggregate produced for each student by adding:
 - ⇒ ATAR subject score in English, English Language, Literature or ESL
 - ⇒ The next best three ATAR subject scores
 - ⇒ 10% of the 5th and 6th ATAR subject score if available (or 20% of the 5th ATAR subject score for students who commenced the VCE in Year 12 taking 5 subjects)

- ⇒ An extension study can be used as 6th subject
- The top 0.05% of students receive an ATAR of 99.95, the next 0.05% receive an ATAR of 99.90 and so on, with the bottom 0.05% receiving an ATAR of 0.00.
 - Note that 50% of students receive an ATAR of 50.00 or more and 50% receive an ATAR less than 50.00.
 - Students wanting detailed information about Scaling and the ATAR should go to www.vtac.edu.au/publications/index.html and select the relevant publications.
 - **Results:** VCAA results and the ATAR can be accessed at results.vcaa.vic.edu.au during the prescribed period in December.