

## QUALIFYING FOR A NEW ATAR

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

### BACKGROUND

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 following: Variable Progression Rate students; re-entry students doing additional subjects; accumulating results, repeating subjects and ATAR amendments. The factsheet also covers the practicalities of having more than one valid ATAR when applying for courses.

### MULTIPLE VALID ATARS

A student may qualify for more than one ATAR<sup>1</sup> 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 who have completed year 12 and 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.

<sup>1</sup> Note: 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.

## 1. VARIABLE PROGRESSION RATE (VPR)

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:

- a. Currency of Scaled Results for inclusion in the ATAR:** Scaled subject results can be used over no more than a five year period, including breaks in study.
- b. Saving scaled results for subjects completed prior to year 12 exit e.g. completed in year 11:** The results of students who complete QCE subjects before their year 12 exit year (e.g. accelerated students) will be received from the QCAA by QTAC in the year in which the subjects are completed and will be scaled with that cohort. Those scaled results are saved by QTAC and will be used in the calculation of the ATAR when the full set of QCE results is received at year 12 exit.
- c. 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.



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

**Re-entry Student:** A student who has returned to complete year 12 after a period of absence of three years or more following completion of year 10. Most re-entry students will be 18 years or older.

**Repeat Student:** A student who re-enrols in year 12 at any time following their completion of year 12, ie after a Senior Statement has been issued.

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:

### a. 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.

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

To be eligible for a new ATAR calculation, a student must complete and receive results from the QCAA for at least one additional General or Applied subject, OR have completed a Certificate III or higher level of VET qualification.

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

### Important Clarifying Notes:

A student who has previously met the eligibility criteria for an ATAR cannot be deemed ineligible solely on the basis of receiving a new subject result. If a student fails a new attempt at a General or Applied English subject, the scaled result from the attempt is used as an input to the new ATAR calculation. However, provided the student has successfully completed a General or Applied English subject at any point within the last five years, their ATAR eligibility remains valid.

A student may obtain more than one valid ATAR through multiple attempts at accumulating eligible subjects. This is subject to the student's QCE results satisfying the requirements for accumulating results towards a new ATAR is not deemed.

The final determination of which ATAR is used for admission purposes rests with the specific course requirements and the admissions policies of individual institutions.

All valid ATAR results will be recorded in the student's ATAR Portal account.

### c. Valid 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 ATAR<sup>2</sup>.

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



### 3. 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 are recalculated for the relevant students and students will be notified via email of any change in their ATAR. The new ATAR will **supersede** (replace) the original ATAR as the valid ATAR.

### 4. MULTIPLE VALID ATARS

A student may qualify for more than one ATAR<sup>3</sup> from multiple attempts at doing additional QCE subjects, including repeating subjects. Issuing of a new ATAR is dependent on the student's subject selections and QCE results meeting the eligibility requirements for accumulating results towards a new ATAR (as above).

All valid ATAR results are recorded in the student's ATAR Portal account.

#### FAQ: IF A STUDENT HAS MORE THAN ONE VALID ATAR, WILL THE HIGHEST ATAR BE CONSIDERED IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR TERTIARY STUDY, OR WILL THE MOST RECENT ATAR BE USED?

There is no single answer to this question. The final determination of which ATAR is used for admission purposes rests with the specific course requirements and the admission policies of individual institutions.

Any student wishing to study further to improve their ATAR for a specific course should check the institution's course entry requirements carefully. For example, a person who has already completed year 12 and then repeats/continues their QCE studies to achieve a new ATAR, may not be eligible for **current year 12 entry** into some courses, such as medicine.

3 Note: 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.