QTAC | ATAR AND VET QUALIFICATIONS

From 2020, Queensland Year 12 students will be certified for tertiary entrance with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

WHAT IS THE ATAR?

Across Australia, the ATAR is a standard measure of a student's overall academic achievement in relation to that of other students. It is intended to assist tertiary institutions to select applicants into their courses.

The ATAR is a percentile rank, not a score or mark. This rank indicates a student's position relative to other students in their age group at any given year. It is expressed as a number on a 2000-point scale from 99.95 down to 0.00 in steps of 0.05.

An ATAR of 80.00 does not mean a student got 80%. It indicates that the student placed in the top 20% of students in Queensland in their Year 12 age group.

WHO CALCULATES AND RELEASES THE ATAR?

Responsibility for calculating and issuing the ATAR has been assigned to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) on behalf of Queensland tertiary institutions.

QTAC administers the application and offer process for tertiary institutions in Queensland (and a few institutions interstate) and has over four decades of experience in tertiary admissions.

WHAT IS VET?

VET (Vocational Education and Training) qualifications provide students with specific workplace related technical skills. The VET sector offers qualifications from Certificate I through to Graduate Diploma.

Registered training organisations (RTO's) like TAFE Queensland, private providers and some schools are education providers approved by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to deliver VET courses in each state.

VET IN SCHOOLS (VETIS)

Queensland students may be able to undertake VET qualifications at school:

- as part of their school studies,
- as a school-based apprentice or trainee scheme, or
- by enrolling in a qualification with an external RTO.

For more information, talk to your guidance officer, career counsellor, VET coordinator or head of senior schooling.

VET QUALIFICATIONS, THE ATAR AND TERTIARY SELECTION

Completed Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications may be used for tertiary selection in two ways:

- as one of the five inputs into a student's ATAR; and/or
- as a stand-alone basis for tertiary admission

HOW WILL VET QUALIFICATIONS BE INCLUDED IN THE ATAR?

VET qualification levels that count towards ATAR eligibility are completed Certificate III, Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diplomas. For more information about ATAR eligibility and what inputs can be included in the ATAR calculation, please refer to the QTAC website.

Each year, completed VET qualifications at the same Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level will have the same scaled score, regardless of duration, content or provider. This means, for example, that a completed Certificate III in Hospitality will have the same scaled score as a completed Certificate III in Business. The scaled scores of VET qualifications at each level are expected to change from year to year with each new year 12 cohort.

Individual students' VET results received by QTAC from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) are simply recorded with a completion status of Yes/No.

For more detailed information on VET scaling, see QTAC's Technical Document: Calculating the ATAR in Queensland (Section 3.2).

SCALING OF VET QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ATAR

Different VET providers have different grading systems and all VET subjects are recorded with simply a completion of status of Yes/No and there is no grading.

In calculating the ATAR, VET subjects are scaled at the specific AQF level by initialising with a default value and averaging the polyranks of the students in the year 12 cohort who have completed the particular qualification at the AQF level e.g. Cert III, Cert IV. (See QTAC's *Technical Document: Calculating the ATAR in Queensland* for more detailed information.)

TIPS FOR MAKING SURE VET QUALIFICATIONS CAN BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ATAR CALCULATION

- Check that all VET qualifications are recorded as 'Completed' in your QCAA learning account by the end of November. This ensures that the QCAA can provide those VET results to QTAC for inclusion in the December ATAR calculation.

- Contact the QCAA directly for issues related to the inclusion of VET qualifications in learning accounts and the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) results.

- Completed VET qualifications that may not have been recorded in a student's learning account prior to the December ATAR calculation are processed by the QCAA and passed on to QTAC as **amendments**. QTAC will notify students if there is a change in their ATAR.

VET QUALIFICATIONS FOR TERTIARY SELECTION

Institutions offering courses through QTAC may also consider completed VET qualifications at Certificate III level and higher as a stand-alone basis of tertiary admission (including for non-school leavers applying for tertiary study).

Click on the institution below to find individual policy information, or find the list online at qtac.edu.au/applications/

PERFORMING ARTS QUALIFICATIONS FOR TERTIARY ENTRANCE

Non-AQF Performing Arts qualifications such as Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) awards are not included in the ATAR calculation. However, some institutions may consider these qualifications as a basis of admission to tertiary study.

Click on the institution below to find individual policy information, or find the list online at qtac.edu.au/applications/

Note: Bond University & QUT will not accept performing arts qualifications as a basis of admission for any category of applicant. Southern Cross Univeristy & Univerrsity of New England are yet to advise of policies at time of publication.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ATAR?

For more information about the ATAR please refer to QTAC's website (qtac.edu.au/ATAR/), or contact QTAC at:

ATAR Hotline: 1300 193 173
Email: atar@qtac.edu.au

Useful links:
qtac.edu.au/atar/
qtac.edu.au/applications/

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