



2022 ATAR Presentation

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THE FUTURE

In this session, we will talk about...

Terminology in the QCE System

Overview of the ATAR

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Inter-subject Scaling

Calculation of the ATAR

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Subject Prerequisites and Vet Qualifications

Rumours, myths and legends



Who is
QTAC?

QTAC® | CHOOSE
THE FUTURE

Queensland
Tertiary
Admissions
Centre

QTAC

- A not-for-profit organisation
- Owned by seven Queensland Universities
- Processes around 75,000 applications per year
- Makes offers to over 1800 undergraduate courses on behalf of 17 Institutions
- Calculates and awards ATARs

“QTAC is here to help match applicants with an opportunity that is right for them.”

Terminology in the QCE System

Three QCE subject types

General subjects

General (Extension) subjects

Applied subjects

VET
QUALIFICATIONS

Certificate III and IV
Diploma
Advanced Diploma

How does what you study, reflect in your ATAR ?

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

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
- Unbreakable Pair

- Results from Unit 1 and 2 cannot be included into the ATAR calculation.
- It is usually not possible to just do Unit 3 **or** Unit 4 in a subject and have it included in the calculation of the ATAR.
- Usually need to complete **both** Unit 3 **and** Unit 4 (which means the assessment pieces) for it to count in calculation of your ATAR.

How are subjects graded?

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)

Differences Between the QCE and ATAR



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.

QCAA for Questions relating to Assessment and Subject Results.

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.

Meet Harry

Harry is a current Year 12 student, on track to receive a QLD ATAR.

His favourite subjects are Biology and Physics.

He has his sights set on going to university in Brisbane.

Harry's dream career is nursing.



To remain on track for ATAR, Harry needs to study:

5 General Subjects

OR

4 General Subjects *plus* either:

- Applied subject
- Completed Certificate III or Higher Level VET Qualification

The only compulsory subject for ATAR eligibility is English. Harry must successfully complete an English subject with a letter grade of C.

English is a compulsory subject

- ✓ English
- ✓ Literature
- ✓ English & Literature Extension
- ✓ English as an Additional Language
- ✓ Essential English (Applied Subject)

Minimum Grade of 'C'

Can be excluded from the ATAR Calculation



Tia

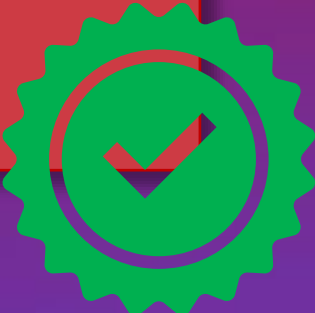


Sophie



Dan

English
 Mathematical Methods
 Specialist Mathematics
 Physics
 Chemistry



Essential English (A)
 Accounting
 Essential Mathematics (A)
 Modern History
 Japanese



Study of Religion
 AQF Cert III
 in Business
 Visual Art
 Dance
 Biology



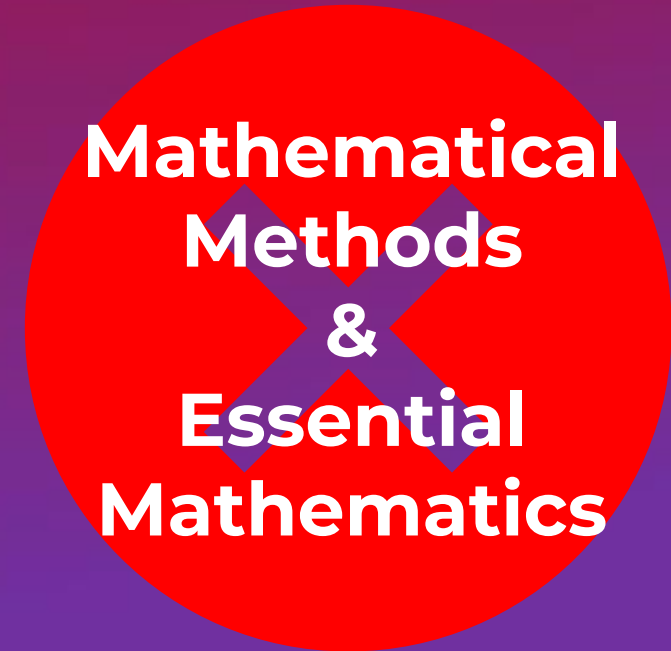
Accumulating Results

Did you know you can complete the ATAR over a 5 year period?

- 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.

Precluded Subject Combinations

Only General subjects or Applied subjects
can be included in the ATAR, but not both:



Precluded Subject Combinations

Only one result for the **same subject** taken as a **General subject** and via **Senior External Examination** can be included in the ATAR:



**Chinese
&
Senior External
Chinese**



**Biology
&
Senior External
Biology**

Precluded Subject Combinations

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:

**ENGLISH
&
LITERATURE**



**MATHEMATICAL
METHODS
&
SPECIALIST
MATHEMATICS**



**CHINESE
&
CHINESE
EXTENSION**



Inter-subject Scaling

Scaling – Overview

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



Inter-Subject Scaling : An Introduction

Non-technical readership

What is in it:

- Technical definitions
- The need to scale
- The 'how' of scaling

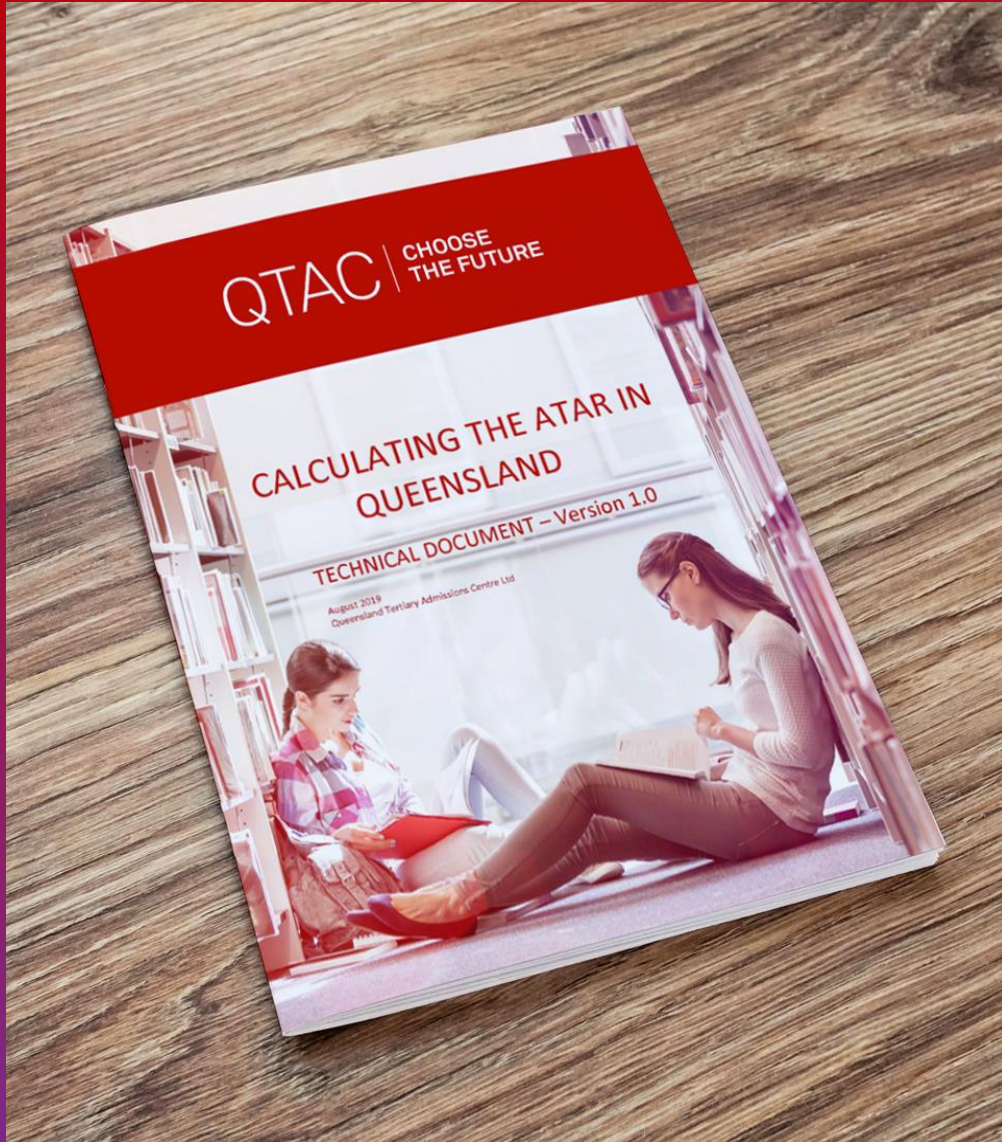
Calculating the ATAR: Technical Document

A technical readership

What is in it:

- Full end to end calculation of ATAR
- Includes inter-subject scaling

$$P_{m,s} = \sum_i r_{m-1,i,j} I_{i,j,s} / \sum_i I_{i,j,s}$$
$$S_{m,i,j} = \sum_s P'_{m,s} I_{i,j,s} / \sum_s I_{i,j,s}$$

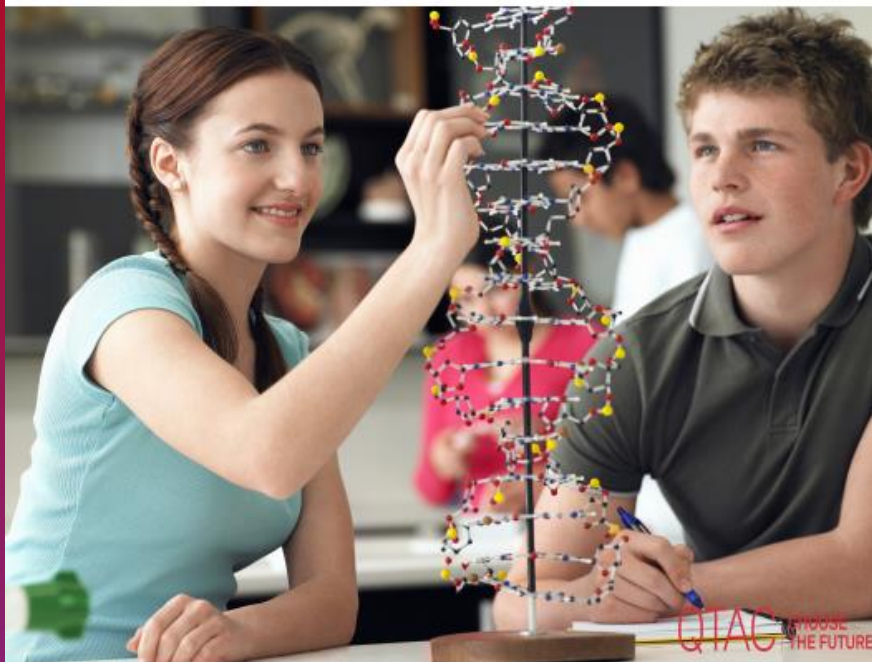


ATAR REPORT 2021

General readership

What is in it?

- Summary of subject enrolments
- Outcomes of inter-subject scaling
- Allocation of students to ATAR bands



ATAR Report 2021

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

© QTAC January 2022

www.qtac.edu.au/publications

Calculation of ATAR

Step 1: The results in Units 3 and 4 are added together by QCAA at the completion of each subject.

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Step 2: QCAA provides these overall raw subject results and completed VET qualifications to QTAC

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Step 3: QTAC undertakes the subject scaling process

Calculation of ATAR

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**

Calculation of ATAR

- 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

Calculation of ATAR

- 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

Accessing ATARs

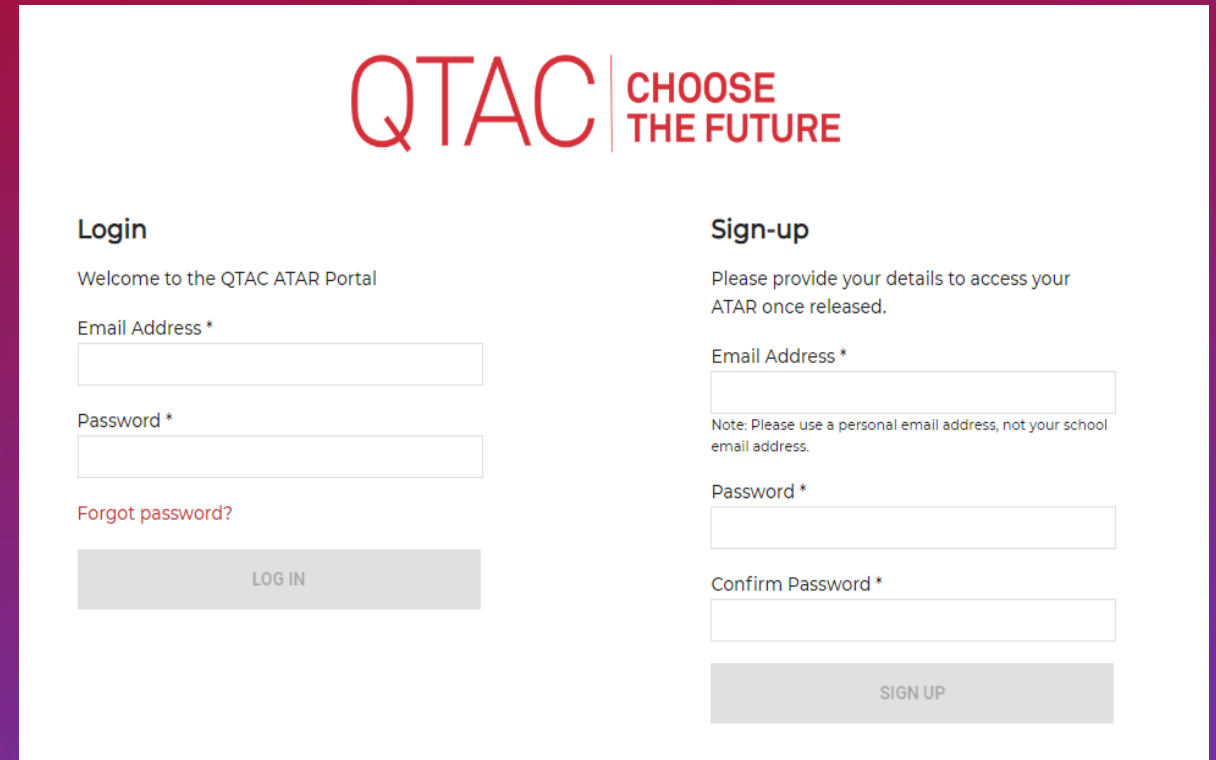
Each year, the ATAR will be communicated to eligible Yr. 12 students via the QTAC **ATAR portal**, accessible through the QTAC website.

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.



The screenshot displays the QTAC ATAR Portal interface. At the top right, the QTAC logo is shown next to the slogan "CHOOSE THE FUTURE". The page is divided into two main sections: "Login" and "Sign-up".

Login Section:

- Header: "Login"
- Welcome message: "Welcome to the QTAC ATAR Portal"
- Form fields: "Email Address *" and "Password *"
- Link: "Forgot password?"
- Button: "LOG IN"

Sign-up Section:

- Header: "Sign-up"
- Instruction: "Please provide your details to access your ATAR once released."
- Form fields: "Email Address *", "Password *", and "Confirm Password *"
- Note: "Note: Please use a personal email address, not your school email address."
- Button: "SIGN UP"

Accessing ATARs

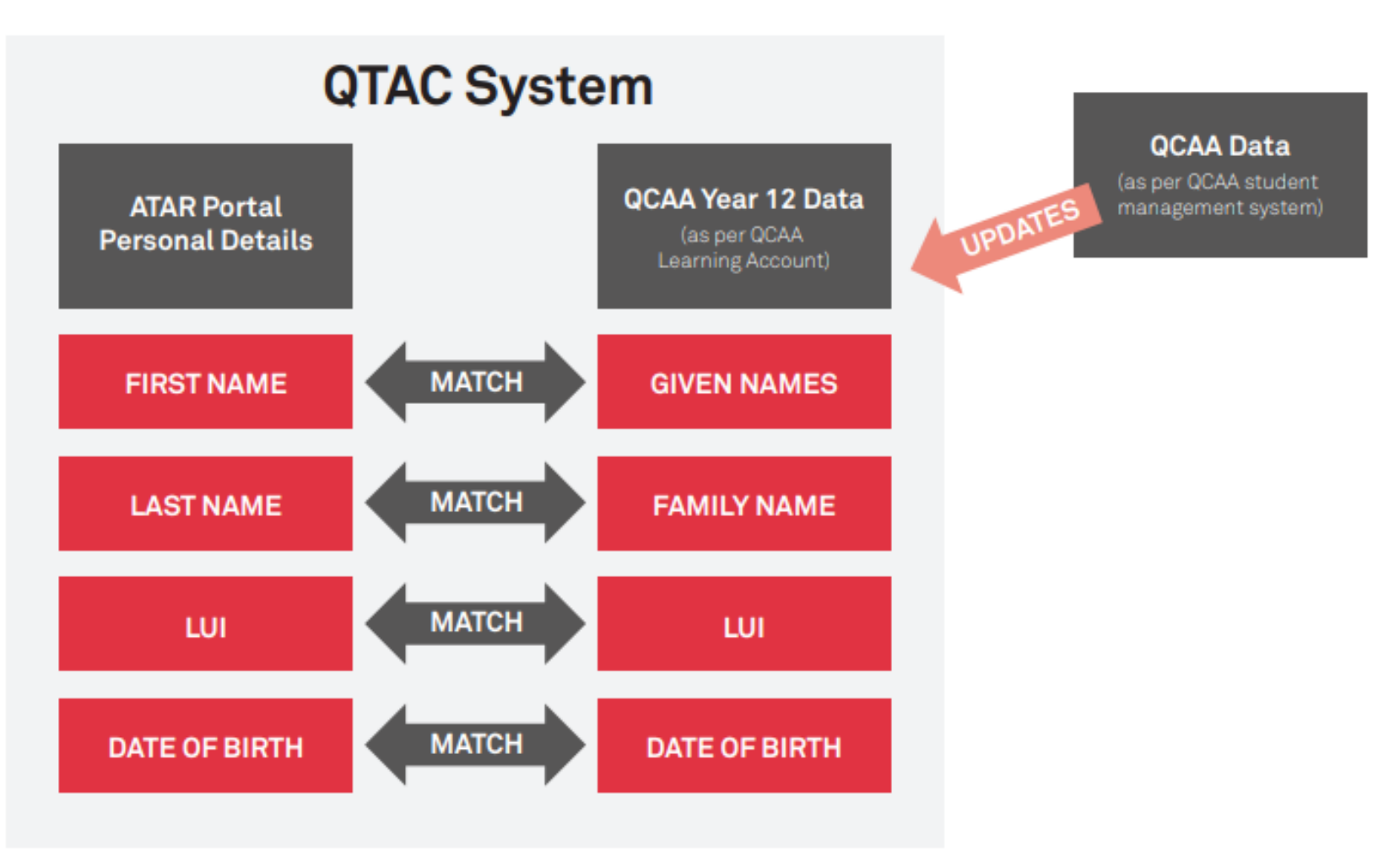
REGISTER or LOG IN to the ATAR PORTAL

Have the following personal details ready before you get started:

- ✓ Full name (as shown on your QCAA learning account)
- ✓ Date of birth
- ✓ LUI number
- ✓ Personal email address (do not use your school email)

<https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar/>

Details entered into the ATAR Portal must match the QCAA data



ATAR Portal Consent to share ATARs

- Students have the option to opt out of QTAC to sharing their ATAR with the school
- It is not an option to withhold a student's ATAR from tertiary institutions. This is mandatory.
- Consent can be changed at any time, before or after release of ATARs
- Applicants applying interstate also need to give consent for QTAC to share their ATAR with the relevant Tertiary Admissions Centre via the ATAR portal

Customer Declaration *

I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to be bound by the policies, terms and conditions set forth in the following as displayed on the **QTAC website**:

- QTAC's Documentation Guidelines
- QTAC's Applicant Rights and Responsibilities
- QTAC's Privacy Policy
- QTAC's Refund Policy
- QTAC Mandatory consents and acknowledgements

Optional consent

Please tick the box if you do not consent

I do not consent to my ATAR or ATAR eligibility as determined by QTAC being shared with the school I attended in year 12.

COMPLETE REGISTRATION

Selection Ranks & Adjustment factors

- ATARs are calculated **only** on the students' actual QCE subject results which have been scaled
- **Application Preference 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

Subject Prerequisites

What grade is required to meet a Prerequisite?

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)

If English is listed as a subject prerequisite, it can be satisfied by one of the following four **General** English subjects:

✓ **English**

✓ **Literature**

✓ **English & Literature Extension**

✓ **English as an Additional Language**

VET for tertiary entrance

Completed Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses can be used for tertiary entrance in **two ways**:

Incorporated
into your
ATAR

AND
OR

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.

VET as a basis for admission.

- Each institution determines their own policy for accepting VET qualifications.
- They assign their own institution rank.
- Check the institution website to determine what rank will be assigned

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.

Helpful ATAR Publications

ALL ABOUT YOUR ATAR

A guide for Queensland Year 11 and 12 students



2021

CHANGING TERTIARY ENTRANCE
QTAC.EDU.AU

- What is the ATAR
- How is it calculated
- A Brief introduction to Scaling
- VET Qualifications

ATAR Quick Factsheets

- ATAR: An overview
- ATAR and subject prerequisites for tertiary entrance
- ATAR and VET qualifications
- ATAR and Senior External Examinations
- Qualifying for a New ATAR
- Troubleshooting ATAR accounts



Rumours, myths and legends...

Rumour:

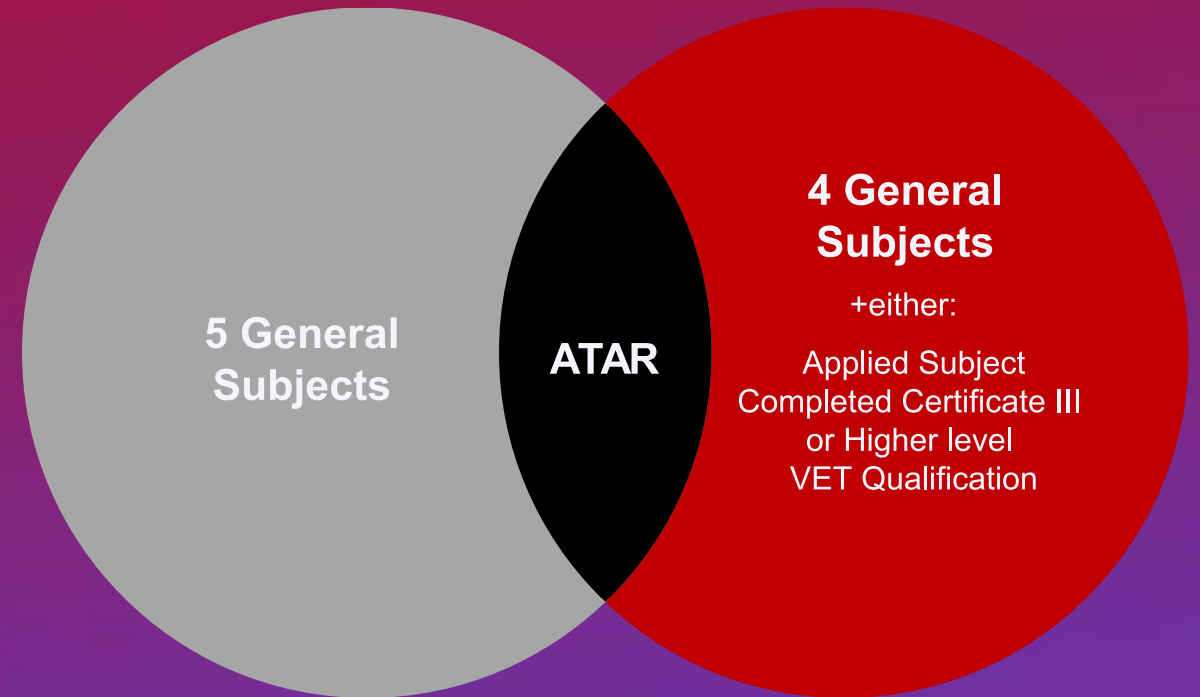
The Queensland ATAR can include other inputs like IB subjects, Music and Dance qualifications, Certificate I and II qualifications, traineeships...

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).

Rumour:

The maximum ATAR possible with the 4 + 1 model (4 General + 1 VET or Applied) is 75.00

Rumour:

I passed all my QCE subjects so my ATAR will be above 50.00

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.

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.

Myths & Legends:

What pattern of subjects will guarantee an ATAR of 99.95?

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.

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.

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.



Question Time

Contact Us:

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[@qtacinfo](#)

Links

www.qtac.edu.au

www.qtac.edu.au/atar

www.qtac.edu.au/publications

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Got a general question?

Try asking your Alexa or Google Home device!

Ask the QTAC Chatbot for answers to general questions about ATAR, Applications, Dates and more.

