



Improved information about admission to higher education is on its way!

What students and parents need to know

What's happening?

The Australian Government, in partnership with institutions, is improving the way universities and other higher education providers explain their admission requirements and processes. The changes will make it easier to understand and compare the entry requirements for different courses and the processes for applying to study.

How will I benefit from these changes?

If you are planning to apply to study an undergraduate higher education course in 2019 and beyond, it will be easier to understand the admission requirements and processes for all courses across Australia. It will be easier to make choices about where and how to apply for a degree or diploma at university or a private college, based on all the facts.

Every higher education provider will set out their information about admissions in similar ways, so it will be easier to understand and compare.

Easier to find the information you need

Whether you are looking on the website of a university or another higher education provider, on a tertiary admission centre website or in a tertiary admission centre handbook, you'll find admission information set out using the new, clearer approach.

Every applicant is different. The aim of this new approach is to help each prospective student find the information you need to decide which course or provider best suits your ambitions, career goals and personal circumstances.



Key features of the new approach:

- admission criteria and processes will be clearly explained, covering all possible ways of getting into a course
- information will be targeted to the needs of different types of applicants, including;
 - school leavers
 - applicants with some vocational or higher education study since leaving school
 - applicants with work or life experience who left school more than two years ago
- more reliable information about the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) you will need for admission to courses, where relevant (Overall Position in Queensland)
- you can see the types of students who previously enrolled in the courses that interest you
- key admission-related terms will be used more consistently across Australia

A better approach to ATAR information

The terms “ATAR cut-off” and “clearly-in ATAR” are disappearing!

From now on, institutions that make offers to students based on their ATAR (or OP in Queensland) will share the range of ATARs they made offers to in the most recent intake period. In most cases, this will be the most recent semester one intake or the whole of the previous calendar year.

For each course or related group of courses, providers will show the lowest, highest and median (middle) ATAR to which an offer was made. These figures will be more useful than what is currently available. Unlike previous “cut-off” or “clearly-in”, the profile data include all offers made to applicants across all offer rounds in the intake period.

Table 1 – Example ATAR profile

(for ATAR-based offers only, across all offer rounds)

	ATAR* (Excluding adjustment factors)	Selection Rank* (includes adjustment factors)
Highest rank to receive an offer	94.1	97.4
Median rank to receive an offer	72.5	78.6
Lowest rank to receive an offer	50.7	60.3

Notes: * “<5” – indicates less than 5 ATAR-based offers were made

While the lowest ATAR shows the minimum required for an offer of a place in that previous intake, you can't assume this will be enough for an offer in future. The median ATAR is a good indication of the ‘typical’ ATAR of students previously offered a place in the course. This is the middle rank of all applicants who were offered a place; with half having ATARs at this level or higher, half with ATARs at this level or lower.

New national admissions information hub

Later in 2018, a new website will be launched that will bring together, in one place, relevant admission information for undergraduate courses across Australia. You will be able to research and compare the admission requirements and processes for many Australian higher education providers in one place.

You will be able to select up to six different courses at once across different providers and directly compare the key entry requirements and other information, including the likely ATAR required for entry, where relevant.

The first release in late 2018 will just be the start. Over time, the new information hub will grow to include more types of information and additional features.

Where can I get further help or advice?

- General information on the changes is available at www.education.gov.au/admissions-transparency-implementation-working-group-0.
- If still at school, you can talk to your career adviser or teachers for advice on tertiary study opportunities.
- Check out the following websites: www.myfuture.edu.au for career assistance, www.qilt.edu.au to compare experiences of past students, www.studyassist.gov.au for information on financing your tertiary study.
- Contact any university or other higher education provider admissions office directly about course options.
- Contact your local Tertiary Admission Centre (if applicable) www.actac.edu.au.