

Final Update - countdown to offers begins, still time to apply...

It is that time of year already, and we hope you enjoyed the school holidays and wish you all the best for a successful end of year. This is the last *QTAC Update* for the year. It includes updates and other relevant information since publication of the *QTAC Guide: Tertiary Courses Commencing August 2008 to July 2009*. As a matter of course, please advise students to check the QTAC website - www.qtac.edu.au – throughout the admissions period for up-to-date information on course offerings. A *List of Course Changes* can be accessed from QTAC's home page.

Download the Update

Copies of this and previous issues of the *QTAC Update* are available from the QTAC public website under Schools and Institutions as well as QTAC's Corporate site under QTAC Publications. Please feel free to photocopy any of the information in the *Update*; however, please ensure the information is not used out of context.

Late applications

Students are still able to lodge their Twelve To Tertiary (TTT) online applications. After the 30 September on-time due date, students are liable for a late fee, and the defer payment option is no longer available. Application processing fees can still be paid with a prepayment voucher or credit card. For late processing fees and payment methods, see the *QTAC Guide*, p. 10 and 6 respectively, or visit www.qtac.edu.au.

Changing preferences

Year 12 students wanting to change preferences or add courses not previously listed on their applications, can do so online via QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service, or in writing. The change of preference due date, for guaranteed inclusion in the mid January offer round, is **1 January 2009**. Please note that it is not possible to add courses with fixed closing dates that have passed. See the *QTAC Guide*, p. 71-72, for a comprehensive list of courses with fixed closing dates or visit the QTAC website.

Late course changes

Please note that schools and applicants can keep up to date with course changes through the QTAC website www.qtac.edu.au. Course changes will be updated online against the individual course entries and a list of *Course Changes* can also be accessed from the home page.

15 Jan - major offer round

Students will be able to access the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au from 1.00 am on Thursday, 15 January to find out if offered a place and to respond to an offer. A further, smaller offer round will be released on Thursday, 5 February with offer information available online from 1.00 am. Offers will also be published in major Queensland newspapers on Friday, 16 January (January offer round) and Friday, 6 February (February offer round).

Is a course being offered early?

QTAC's online Course Search tool allows you to check both the early and major offer round dates for your preferred courses. The Course Search tool can be accessed from the QTAC home page.

This search facility also allows you to locate courses and course information based on basic criteria such as key word, institution, and area of study. Advanced search options include mode of study (eg full or part-time), course level (eg diploma or undergraduate degree) and OP or QTAC selection rank range.

QTAC contact details

QTAC Address: Level 2, 33 Park Road, Milton, Q 4064

Postal: PO Box 1331 Milton Q 4064

Telephone: 1300 GO QTAC (1300 467 822)

Fax: (07) 3367 1164

Email: www.qtac.edu.au

Website: www.qtac.edu.au

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Deadline for submitting documentation

Students are requested to submit their *Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (SCD)*, *Additional Information For Year 12 Students* and *Early Indication of Support Needs for QTAC Applicants with Disabilities* forms as soon as possible. This ensures that QTAC has adequate time to process the documentation and is able to liaise with schools if necessary before the school holidays. Students are urged not to wait to submit these forms until the last minute, when it becomes difficult to get the information they need from school personnel. Documentation received at QTAC after **1 January** may not be considered in time for the mid January offer round.

Applicants can print the forms by logging into the *Current Applicant* online service, or, alternatively, school personnel registered for QTAC's Corporate site can access the forms on the Corporate site under QTAC Forms - School Users.

QTAC Guidance Officer Survey

QTAC regularly liaises with stakeholders to obtain feedback regarding information sources. To provide feedback on the *QTAC Guide* and *QTAC Update*, please complete our quick survey (page 6 of this *Update*).

Current Applicant online service

Changing student addresses

Please continue to encourage students to notify QTAC of any address changes in order to ensure that they receive their offer letters or other correspondence from QTAC. Students can change their address and contact details online through the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au. They should also inform QSA of address changes to ensure delivery of their Senior Certificates and Student Education Profiles.

Equity Scholarships

QTAC is currently assessing scholarship applications for prospective and current students on low incomes. Applications can be submitted via www.qtac.edu.au and, preferably, should be lodged by the end of October. Scholarship offers will be released shortly after tertiary offers are made in January. More information can be found on the QTAC website under Scholarships.

Applicants who lodged their QTAC tertiary study application before scholarship applications opened will be contacted by QTAC and invited to apply.

Authorise someone to act on your behalf

Applicants who will be away during the admissions period can authorise a trusted person to act on their behalf. Applicants can do this at the time they make their online application or subsequently through QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service.

QTAC Tertiary Entrance Seminars

- for school and institution personnel

A number of QTAC seminars covering the tertiary entry process will be held between March and August 2009. The seminars provide fundamental practices for those new to QTAC as well as advanced training in tertiary entry processes, helping participants keep up-to-date with current industry trends, requirements and service enhancements.

Seminars fill quickly, so secure your place by completing the registration form on page 5 of this *Update* (also available via the QTAC website under Schools and Institutions).

QSA and QTAC PINS

Registered Year 12 students use their QSA student number and QSA PIN to access QSA's Smart OP service to find out their OP in December.

Year 12 students who have applied for tertiary study through QTAC use their QSA student number (or QTAC application number) and QTAC PIN to access QTAC's online services at www.qtac.edu.au to review their application, change preferences, find out if they have an offer, and respond to an offer, etc. An applicant's QTAC PIN is initially set to their date and month of birth.

Students may wish to change their QTAC and QSA PINs to be the same to make it easier to remember. Please note that changing the QSA PIN does not change the QTAC PIN and vice versa.

QTAC School Web Service

To monitor your students' tertiary study applications as well as access lists of students who have not yet applied, you can log into the *QTAC School Web Service*. This free service can be accessed through the Corporate site logon page at www.qtac.edu.au. Simply enter your school logon and password to obtain a wide range of publication and application information.

Registered, but lost your password? By accessing the above mentioned Web page you will be able to easily enquire about your password through the 'lost password' email service.

Ordering Preferences

For the first time this year, applicants must consider when offers are being made in determining the order of their preferences.

At the time of a major offer round, applicants should ensure that the courses which are being offered in that major offer round are preferred higher than courses offered in a later major offer round. If an applicant receives an offer but wishes to be considered for a course offered in a subsequent offer round, they can respond to their initial offer on a 'conditional basis' and rearrange their preferences. This will ensure they are also considered for courses offered in the later offer round. The QTAC website www.qtac.edu.au lists the major offer round date and course start months for all courses.

QTAC understands that ordering preferences correctly is critical to securing the desired tertiary place. Therefore, QTAC will contact applicants who list courses offered in the next major offer round lower than courses offered in a subsequent major offer round. Information will be given on how to order and change preferences for consideration in the upcoming major offer round.

Please note that information on ordering preferences can be found on page 7 of the *QTAC Guide* or on the QTAC website. Alternatively, please phone QTAC on 1300 GO QTAC (1300 467 822) or email via the website at www.qtac.edu.au for more details.

LIST OF CHANGES TO THE 'PATHWAYS TO TERTIARY STUDY' COMPONENT OF THE QTAC GUIDE

Since the last *QTAC Update* (July 2008), QTAC has been advised of the following institution policy changes:

Institution Deferment Policies (*QTAC Guide*, page 18)

The University of Queensland only permits deferment for a period of one calendar year to students who are offered a Commonwealth supported place at the beginning of the year. To request deferment you must respond to your QTAC offer using the deferment option by the offer response date specified in your QTAC offer. Your deferment will be automatically approved and UQ will write to you with details on how to take up your deferred place for the following year. However, your deferment will be rescinded if you undertake any tertiary studies at a bachelor level or higher during the period of deferment. You will not need to re-apply through QTAC to take up your deferred course unless you wish to apply for other QTAC preferences as well. If you wish to postpone your semester 1 offer and commence your program in semester 2 in the same year, you will need to contact the relevant faculty office administering the program. If your offered program is normally available for commencement in semester 2, you will simply be able to enrol for semester 2. Deferments are not available for students who are offered a place for second semester.

At Least One Year's Full-time Tertiary Study (Graded) (*QTAC Guide*, page 28)

The University of Queensland no longer caps the rank for an incomplete AQF Advanced Diploma and AQF Associate Degree to 96.

Completed AQF Certificate III, Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma (Graded) (*QTAC Guide*, page 29)

The University of Queensland no longer caps the rank for a Certificate III to 70, Certificate IV to 74 or Advanced Diploma to 96.

Completed AQF Certificate III, Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma (Competency-based) (*QTAC Guide*, page 29)

The University of Queensland no longer caps the rank for a Certificate III to 70 or a Certificate IV to 74.

Special Admissions Schemes (*QTAC Guide*, page 41-42)

QUT has introduced a bonus scheme for current Year 12 students, which may improve their chances of selection for tertiary study courses. Students applying for QUT will be awarded bonus ranks for passing Maths C, a language other than English, and or selected tertiary study. Applicants applying to QUT's Bachelor of Engineering will also receive bonus ranks if they study 'Engineering Technology' in Year 12. These bonus ranks may make applicants competitive for courses with higher OP requirements. The bonus ranks will be applied automatically based on a QTAC application, with applicants not required to complete additional processes. For more information contact QUT on (07) 3138 2000.

For the full list of policy changes, please look under 'Courses' on the QTAC website www.qtac.edu.au.

Ranks for current OP ineligible Year 12 applicants available online

QTAC selection ranks for current Year 12 applicants who are OP ineligible will be available via QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service from Wednesday, 31 December. This information (see sample screen below) can be downloaded and printed.

The screenshot shows the QTAC Current Applicant interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Application Summary, Preferences, Cover Sheets, Electronic Correspondence, and OP Ineligible Rank. The OP Ineligible Rank link is highlighted in red. Below the navigation menu, the user's name is Mr Test Test Test, their QTAC Application Number is displayed, and their application is for the 2008/2009 Admissions Entry. The main content area states that the user's OP ineligible QTAC Selection rank is 78. A button labeled 'View Rank to OP Comparability Table' is provided. Below this, a 'Please note:' section contains two numbered points: 1. If you have supplied QTAC with information about any additional qualifications you may also have been allocated another QTAC selection rank based on these qualifications. 2. Your QTAC selection rank(s) are considered on the basis of QTAC participating institution rules. Do not assume that interstate institutions participating in NSW, VIC, SA or WA admissions centres will accept these qualifications and ranks. Be sure to check with the interstate institution concerned regarding the acceptability of the qualification.

UQ Dual Degrees

Since publication of the *QTAC Guide*, the University of Queensland has introduced separate course entries for some of their dual degrees. As such, it is preferred that applicants select these specific dual degree courses when applying for dual degrees. However, if an applicant follows the instructions in the *QTAC Guide* and applies for a single degree, they will still be able to enrol in a dual degree after offers have been made, if all relevant course requirements are met. Please check the QTAC website for details about the new dual degrees.

Bonus Point Schemes

QUT: like Griffith University and the University of Queensland (as noted in the last *QTAC Update*), QUT now has a bonus scheme for Year 12 students who are studying Maths C, a language other than English, and/or selected tertiary study. See page 3 of this *Update* for more information.

Please note that bonus points do not change a student's OP. Bonus points will, however, be taken into account in the assessment of an application and therefore may make an applicant more competitive for a course.

Payment options & HECS-HELP for Australian and New Zealand citizens

Student contributions are charged for each unit of study you enrol in on a Commonwealth supported basis. Most Commonwealth supported students can either:

- pay their student contribution amount upfront and receive a 20% HECS-HELP discount; or
- defer payment, request a HECS-HELP loan and pay later through the tax system.

The following table gives the payment options available to you.

If you are a ...	Then you ...	You will ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian citizen • permanent humanitarian visa holder 	may make a full upfront payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have to pay 80% of the student contribution amount on or before the census date • receive a 20% discount on your contribution, paid to your provider • have no HECS-HELP debt
	may make partial upfront payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pay part of your student contribution upfront - on or before the census date • receive a 20% discount for upfront payments of \$500 or more • have a HECS-HELP debt for the remainder • start repayments of your debt when your income is above the minimum threshold
	may defer payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a HECS-HELP debt for the full amount • start repayments when your income is above the minimum threshold
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand citizen • holder of other permanent visa 	pay 100% of your contribution upfront	You are not eligible for a HECS-HELP loan or discount

2009 student contributions

The Australian Government contributes towards course costs for Commonwealth supported students and these students also pay a 'student contribution'. Each higher education provider sets its own student contributions so these may vary between providers and courses. The student contributions must, however, be within a range set by the government. See the table below for the recently released 2009 student contribution ranges as an indication to the cost of a standard full-time year of tertiary study.

Band	Student contribution range for 2009
National Priorities education, nursing, mathematics, statistics and science	\$0 to \$4,162
Band 1 humanities, behavioural science, social studies, foreign languages, visual and performing arts	\$0 to \$5,201
Band 2 computing, built environment, health, engineering, surveying, agriculture	\$0 to \$7,412
Band 3 law, dentistry, medicine, veterinary science, accounting, administration, economics, commerce	\$0 to \$8,677

Please refer to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, website www.goingtouni.gov.au for more information on student contributions and HELP loans.

QTAC Guidance Officer Survey

Name (optional): _____ School (optional): _____

QTAC Guide

1. Did you read course descriptions in the QTAC Guide? Yes / No
2. If yes, were the course descriptions in the QTAC Guide sufficient? Yes / No
3. Did you read course descriptions on the QTAC Website? Yes / No
4. If yes, were the course descriptions on the QTAC Website sufficient? Yes / No
5. If you read the course descriptions on the QTAC website instead of or as a complement to the Guide, what course information were you specifically looking for? Please tick:
 Updated course information
 Recommended Study (vs Prerequisites & Assumed Knowledge, which are listed in the Guide)
 Course cut-offs for the previous 2 years
 Membership and Registration details
 More in-depth course outlines
6. Have you previously purchased the "Pathways to Tertiary Study" publication? Yes / No
7. How useful was the "Pathways" section in the QTAC Guide? Please tick:
 Not useful Somewhat unuseful No Opinion
 Somewhat useful Extremely useful
8. Was there any useful information missing from the Pathways section? _____

9. What are the common questions you receive after students have been given the Guide? Is what is missing/not clearly explained in the Guide? _____

QTAC Update

10. How useful do you find the QTAC Update?
 Not useful Somewhat unuseful No Opinion
 Somewhat useful Extremely useful
11. How did you hear about the QTAC update?
 QTAC Email QTAC staff member
 QTAC Publication Referral from a colleague
 Found it on website while looking for something else
 Other (please specify) _____
12. The QTAC Update is currently produced three times a year. How often would you like it produced?
Please tick: 3 times per year More often Less often
13. The QTAC Update is currently published as a PDF document. What format would you prefer?
Please tick: PDF document Web page No opinion
14. Do you print this publication? Yes / No
If yes, who do you print it for? Yourself Students Colleagues
15. How could this publication be improved? _____

Thank you for your feedback and helping QTAC improve its services.

Please return this survey to QTAC via post or fax:

Post: Attention - Information Services, QTAC, PO Box 1331, Milton Qld 4064

Fax: Attention - Information Services, 07 33682263