

Bringing you up to date with the latest QTAC information...

Welcome to the latest edition of the *QTAC Update*. The main tertiary admissions period for Year 12s is already upon us, and to help in that process the *QTAC Update 2* is provided for the use of school and institution personnel to inform them of the changes that have taken place since publication of the *QTAC Guide: Tertiary Courses Commencing August 2008 to July 2009*. The *Update* also alerts school and institution personnel to QTAC contact services, and discusses current issues pertinent to schools. The third and final edition of the *QTAC Update* for 2008 will be available on our website in October.

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. As a quick reference, a *Consolidated List of Course Changes* is available on the QTAC website under 'Courses'.

Download the Update

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

New in 2008...

- Public universities no longer offer full-fee paying places to domestic students (Dfee)
- QTAC is processing applications for Christian Heritage College
- QTAC's new look website has been launched, check it out at www.qtac.edu.au
- QTAC is processing scholarships for students on low incomes (see page 4)

QTAC applications due Tuesday, 30 September

The due date for applications is Tuesday, 30 September. Students may continue to apply through the TTT online service after this date, but will incur additional processing charges (see the *QTAC Guide*, page 10). The deferred payment option will not be available after 30 September. Other payment options including credit card and prepayment vouchers will continue to be available throughout the admissions period.

Applications to interstate admissions centres are also due on 30 September.

Year 12s can apply now

Applications have already opened, and current Year 12 students can lodge their QTAC application for up to six different courses across 18 tertiary education providers via the Twelve To Tertiary (TTT) online application service at www.qtac.edu.au. See page 5 in this *Update* for more details.

Key Date Amendments

- The Major offer round for Bond University's B Medicine/B Surgery is 13 March (not 4 March)
- TTT Applications close on 28 February 2009 (not 24 February)

How to contact us

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Office hours: 8.30am - 4.30pm (Monday-Friday)

CONTENTS this issue

Consolidated List of Course Changes	2
QTAC service enhancements	2
Track students through the School Web Service.....	2
Changes to student details	3
QTAC information sessions	3
Ordering preferences.....	4
Scholarships.....	4
QTAC Prepayment Voucher	4
December offer round.....	4
Year 12 application quick-help & key dates	5
Consolidated list of 'Pathways' changes	6

Consolidated List of Course Changes

In previous years, the *QTAC Update* has contained a *Consolidated List of Course Changes* - for amendments to course offerings since publication of the *QTAC Guide*.

The consolidated list is now available on the QTAC website under **Courses** and is updated regularly. This list highlights the major changes to course offerings, but as always, refer to the specific course entries online for more detailed information.

QTAC Service Enhancements

QTAC this year will become the first admissions centre in Australia to offer year round applications with substantial service enhancements providing a more informative service to applicants.

Key features of the new service include:

- Year round applications covering multiple admission periods including the ability to preference across semester start dates.
- Progressive assessment and reporting to applicants on whether they have met the minimum entry requirements for each of their preferences. The feedback to applicants (via the *Current Applicant* online service) will allow applicants to address weaknesses in their applications by encouraging them to submit further documentation or undertake bridging courses.
- Where applications are complete, and for institutions that elect to do so, QTAC will be able to make early offers to applicants in their highest eligible preference. It is expected that institutions may make a greater use of early offer rounds to offer early places for finalised applications. The ability to make offers to different applicant groups at different times whilst maintaining a fairness and equity is not new. UAC (NSW and ACT) has for years used the December offer round to make offers to non-Year 12 applicants whose assessment is complete. This has been achieved through the effective management of cut-offs and quotas.
- Where institutions choose to make early offers, these will in no way disadvantage Year 12 or other applicants awaiting results. Institutions will offer courses to 'at least' the same cut-off in the major offer round and may well go lower in order to finalise offers. So, for example, having pre-notified the offer status of the applicant on a rank of 90, institutions would not be able to tighten their criteria to 94, thereby eliminating later applicants with ranks of 90 to 93. Progressive offers will in no way undermine the integrity of the offer process.
- QTAC publications will outline year round applications and offerings.

QTAC - www.qtac.edu.au

Track students through the School Web Service

Make sure you keep up to date with QTAC resources and that you track your students' application progress through the School Web Service on QTAC's Corporate website. If you have not registered for this free service, do so now by logging onto the public website www.qtac.edu.au - and clicking on Corporate. When this page opens you will be able to click on the 'Register for Access' link to register your school as a user of the QTAC School Web Service.

Registered, but lost your password? Don't worry, by logging onto the same website you will be able to easily enquire about your password through our 'password enquiry' email service.

DOWNLOAD FORMS FOR QTAC APPLICANTS

Applicants using the online application service can print proformas relevant to their application either while applying or after they have applied via the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au.

Please note that registered users of the School Web Service on QTAC's Corporate website can also download the following forms for students from the QTAC Corporate site under 'QTAC Forms – School Users':

- Additional Information For Year 12 Students
- Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage
- Early Indication of Support Needs for QTAC Applicants with Disabilities

Changes to student details

In July, QTAC uploaded Year 12 student information (Year 12 number, name, date of birth and school) from QSA or the interstate equivalent. If student details change after this, please report the changes to QTAC as we do not continue to upload student information from the education authorities.

In particular, QTAC needs to know if the spelling of a name or date of birth has changed from what was originally reported. Additionally, if a new student comes to your school, please advise QTAC.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

QTAC has made it possible for all applicants to simply and easily change address and contact details via the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au.

Each year problems arise when students move and do not notify QTAC of their current contact details. This is particularly the case where boarders use the school address in their application and then return home or go on vacation and forget to notify QTAC.

Likewise, it is strongly recommended that students provide their personal email address for QTAC contact purposes. Email accounts that will terminate at the end of the school year are not suitable.

TAFE Queensland Course Fees

The cost of TAFE courses will be available from 26 September via the QTAC website or by contacting the institution directly.

English for ESL Learners

The prerequisite 'English, 4,SA' can be satisfied by achieving 4,SA in the trialled QSA Authority subject 'English for ESL Learners'.

QTAC Parent/Student Information Sessions

QTAC staff can conduct one-hour information sessions at your school, tailored to your requirements. These sessions can cover topics such as QTAC applications, tertiary pathways, VET studies, and subject selection.*

Cost - \$485 daytime session, or \$550 evening session (plus associated additional costs for sessions outside the Brisbane CBD). For further information or bookings, please phone (07) 3858 1298.

* Please note these sessions are subject to availability.

Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List online

The Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List is a quick and effective supplement to the *QTAC Guide* and is intended for student advisers and tertiary institution staff rather than students. The list contains a concise summary, in table form, of all courses in the *QTAC Guide*, course prerequisites, and course cut-offs - **for the major January offer round in 2007 and 2008** - and is a useful reference for assisting students. The list also contains new and withdrawn courses.

The publication is now available online through the QTAC public website www.qtac.edu.au - under Schools and Institutions. It is also available on the Corporate site under QTAC Publications.

Bulk purchase prepayment voucher

Schools have the option to bulk purchase prepayment vouchers for their students. A Bulk Prepayment Voucher Request Form - School Version can be downloaded from the Corporate site under QTAC Forms - School Users. Please fax this request form through to (07) 3368 2263. See page 4 of this *Update* for more information on prepaying application fees.

PowerPoint presentation for Year 12s

QTAC's PowerPoint presentation on application procedures for current Year 12 students is now available on the Corporate and public websites. A demonstration TTT application can also be accessed through the public QTAC website. These are great resources for student advisers to use in explaining the QTAC tertiary application process.

International students

International students completing an Australian Year 12 qualification can apply through QTAC for tertiary places.

We ensure that the tertiary institutions are made aware of your course choices.

Please note that offers of tertiary places to international students are made directly by the relevant institution, not QTAC. Further, entry requirements, study costs and the dates offers are released for international students differ from those for domestic students; prospective applicants should contact the institution for more information.

Year 12s and additional qualifications

Information on the additional qualifications accepted by institutions for current Year 12 students, including certificate study and traineeships, can be found in the *QTAC Guide*, page 27.

QTAC Guide – New Layout and New Features

- The *Guide* is now a concise overview of information, supplemented by more detailed information on the QTAC website
- Rather than two versions, a single version of the *Guide* has been produced for Year 12 and newsagency distribution
- Information on how to order preferences for courses with different major offer rounds is provided
- For 2008-09, course entries indicate Start Months
- To address the growing non Year 12 and Gap Year segment, the *Pathways to Tertiary Study* publication has been amalgamated into the *Guide* as a free supplement
- There is no Year 12 Application Planner – refer Year 12 applicants to the online demonstration version of *TTT*
- Commonwealth Scholarships (for low-income applicants) - information and application details has now been included in the *Guide*

ORDERING PREFERENCES

With the introduction of year round admissions it is now possible for applicants to apply for courses from semester 3, 2008 through to semester 2, 2009 on one application. As a consequence it is very important to note the following about selecting and ordering preferences.

- The six optional preferences can be used to select courses starting from August 2008 to July 2009.
- Preferences should be listed according to the offer round dates. This means that courses whose major offer round is earlier need to be listed as higher preferences, to those whose major offer round is later. For example, a course whose major offer round is in December 2008 needs to be listed as a higher preference to a course whose major offer round is in January 2009.
- When an offer is made in one round, an applicant has the option to respond to this offer on a 'conditional basis', rearrange their preferences, and still be considered for higher preferences in a subsequent offer round.

For further information about ordering preferences, including examples, see page 7 of the *QTAC Guide*.

Prepay your application with a QTAC voucher

Applicants who want to apply online and who do not have a credit card can prepay the application processing charge to QTAC by using the prepayment voucher facility. Prepayment vouchers can be purchased at QTAC by cash, money order, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card. Alternatively, a Prepayment Voucher Request Form can be printed from the website and mailed to QTAC with a cheque or money order. On receipt of the prepayment, QTAC will issue a prepayment voucher that lists an application and activation number to allow submission of an online application.

Please ensure that the Prepayment Voucher is requested with enough time for it to be posted and the application lodged before 30 September. Applications submitted or vouchers purchased after this date will incur additional processing charges.

Schools have the option to bulk purchase prepayment vouchers for their students, see page 3 of this *Update* for details.

December offer round

In December 2008 there will be two offer rounds, one on Thursday, 4 December and a later one on Wednesday, 17 December. The 17 December offer round is the major round for all Bond University courses that begin in January 2009 and selected creative and performing arts courses that begin February 2009. Courses whose major offer round is on 17 December are listed on page 71 of the *Guide*.

In addition, offers for a select number of courses (including those which do not have a subject prerequisite or minimum OP/QTAC selection rank requirement) may be made 'early' in the 4 December or 17 December offer rounds, despite their major offer round not being until later. These courses will be offered again in the major offer round and there will be no disadvantage to applicants who select these courses as their second to sixth preference, or those who later include these courses for the major offer round. A list of courses being offered early will be available in the *Courses* section on QTAC's website www.qtac.edu.au closer to the date.

Scholarships

QTAC will begin processing scholarship applications from August 2008. The Commonwealth Scholarships (CS) program assists students from low income backgrounds with the costs associated with undertaking higher education.

Types of Scholarships available

- Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship (CECS)
- Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship (CAS)
- Indigenous Access Scholarship (IAS)
- Institution Equity Scholarship (IES)

Year 12 applicants will lodge their QTAC application for tertiary study electronically. A link will be available from this application to the scholarship application from August 2008.

See the QTAC website for more information.

Bonus points for Year 12s!

Griffith University (GU) and the University of Queensland (UQ) have introduced a bonus scheme for current year 12 students, which may improve their chances of selection for tertiary study courses.

Students applying for GU or UQ will be awarded bonus ranks for passing Maths C, a language other than English, and/or selected tertiary study (such as the GU Early Start to Tertiary Study program and START QUT). 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 UQ Admissions on (07) 33652203; or Griffith University on 1800 677 728 or (07) 5552 9061.

Year 12 application quick-help ...

Current Year 12 students apply through the Twelve To Tertiary (TTT) online service at www.qtac.edu.au. For those who may need it, QTAC provides free computer use for online access during business hours at the QTAC office. **Use the information below to help prepare your application.**

TTT Online Application Service

The TTT online application service allows you to apply online at your own pace. The cost of the service is \$26. Additional processing charges apply after 30 September (see the *QTAC Guide*, page 10). Please note that you can pay when you apply by credit card, before you apply by prepayment voucher (see page 4 in this *Update*), or you can pay later with cheque, money order, credit card, cash or EFTPOS through the deferred payment option (available until 30 September).

Applying through the TTT service gives you free access to the benefits of QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service. This service can be accessed after you apply using your QSA (or interstate equivalent) student number or your QTAC application number. Benefits of the service include:

- three free changes of preference after lodgement of application
- you can find out earlier than waiting for the mail if an offer has been made, and respond to the offer online
- you can review your application details and print a summary of your application
- you can receive feedback on whether you satisfy the minimum entry requirements for each of your course preferences

Note: As a TTT applicant you are required to provide an email address when paying by credit card. The email address will also be used for QTAC's Electronic Correspondence Service.

Be prepared

Instructions on how to use the TTT service are on the QTAC website. Additionally you can view a demonstration version of the online application at www.qtac.edu.au.

To ensure that your application proceeds smoothly, it is best that you prepare in advance by having ready the following:

- your 11-digit Student Number issued by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA). TTT applicants can apply without their Student Number providing they supply sufficient identifying information
- your four-digit PIN (initially the day and month of your birth)
- your list of QTAC course preferences

Key Dates

Tuesday, 30 September.....Due date for on-time applications

Wednesday, 17 DecemberMajor offer round for Bond University courses that begin in January and selected creative and performing arts courses that begin in February

Friday, 19 December.....Qld Year 12 results released by QSA

Friday, 31 December.....Qld Year 12 students without an OP who are QTAC applicants can find out their QTAC selection rank through the *Current Applicant* online service

Thursday, 1 JanuaryDue date for Year 12s to apply or change preferences for guaranteed inclusion in the January offer round

Thursday, 15 January (from 1am).....Find out if you have been offered a place and respond to an offer using the *Current Applicant* online service

Thursday, 22 January.....Due date to change preferences for guaranteed inclusion in the February offer round

Friday, 23 JanuaryDue date to respond to a January offer

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

Satisfying the English Subject Prerequisite (QTAC Guide, page 14-15)

- **James Cook University** will accept the STAT (Special Tertiary Admissions Test) if there is an overall score of 154 or better or 154 or better in the verbal subscore. No minimum age (STAT not satisfactory for current Year 12 students unless 21 or over by 31 December in 2008). Please note STAT will not satisfy the English prerequisite for entry to Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery. Please contact JCU for further information regarding other MHMS courses.

Demonstrating English Language Proficiency (QTAC Guide, page 17)

- **Australian College of Natural Medicine** does not require proof of English Language Proficiency.
- **The University of Queensland** will not accept the STAT as a way of satisfying the English Language Proficiency requirement for a current Year 12 student.

Completed AQF Certificate III, Certificate IV (Graded or Competency-based) (QTAC Guide, page 29)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).

Institutional Policies on Alternative Entry (QTAC Guide, page 34)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept Professional qualifications; employment experience; Personal Competencies Assessment; STAT; or STAT combined with professional qualifications, employment or PCA for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).
- **The University of Queensland** will accept a STAT result on its own for applicants who are 18 (not 21, as listed in the *Guide*).
- **University of New England** does not accept ranks from the Personal Competencies Assessment or Vocational Experience for entry to its B Archaeology with Honours (616701) and B Psychology with Honours (616801).
- **University of New England** does not accept ranks from the Personal Competencies Assessment for entry to its B Laws (Non-Graduate Entry) (656981).
- **University of New England** accepts Personal Competencies Assessment; STAT; or STAT combined with professional qualifications, employment or PCA from applicants who are 17 or over (not 18, as listed in the *Guide*).

Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Skilled Vocational Training (QTAC Guide, page 35)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).

Health Care Practitioners and Related Qualifications (QTAC Guide, page 35)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).

Commissioned Officers and Related Qualifications (QTAC Guide, page 36)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).

Music, Dancing and Speech and Drama Qualifications (QTAC Guide, page 37)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).

Vocational Experience (QTAC Guide, page 38)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).
- **University of New England** does not accept ranks from the Vocational Experience for entry to its B Archaeology with Honours (616701) and B Psychology with Honours (616801).

Personal Competencies Assessment (QTAC Guide, page 40)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).
- **University of New England** does not accept ranks from the Personal Competencies Assessment for entry to its B Laws (Non-Graduate Entry) (656981).
- **University of New England** does not accept ranks from the Personal Competencies Assessment for entry to its B Archaeology with Honours (616701) and B Psychology with Honours (616801).
- **University of New England** accepts this qualification from applicants who are 17 or over (not 18, as listed in the *Guide*).

Special Tertiary Admissions Test (*QTAC Guide*, page 40)

- **Southern Cross University** does not accept this qualification for entry to its undergraduate B Laws (including combined courses).
- **University of New England** accepts this qualification from applicants who are 17 or over (not 18, as listed in the *Guide*).