

Introduction

The SATAC Bulletin is published for the information of school staff and others who provide advice to prospective tertiary students.

It provides information and updates on SATAC services, courses available through SATAC, and the admissions process.

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Counsellor Information Sessions for 2017

A number of information sessions will be offered over the coming months for the benefit of school and other staff providing information to prospective applicants.

University and TAFE SA staff should note that these sessions are primarily aimed at meeting the needs of school counsellors, Year 12 coordinators and others engaged in providing advice to current year 12 prospective applicants.

SATAC and the tertiary institutions themselves provide training to meet the needs of staff from the tertiary institutions separately from the counsellor sessions.

New Counsellor Information Sessions

These informative sessions provide an opportunity for school staff and others who are not familiar with the SATAC admissions system to find out about the basics. Numbers are limited so bookings are essential. A new counsellor session is scheduled for 17 May 2017 from 9am to 12.30pm at SATAC, 104 Frome Street, Adelaide. An email inviting bookings will be sent to schools soon.

Country SA Counsellor Information Sessions

Country information sessions will be offered this year at Renmark, Mt Gambier, Pt Augusta and Pt Lincoln. The information provided is similar to that available at the metropolitan sessions but without the direct input of representatives from the institutions. The visits and venues are scheduled as follows and a booking reminder will be sent closer to the dates:

- Pt Lincoln, Tuesday 13 June, 10.30am to 1pm
- Pt Augusta, Wednesday 14 June, 10am to 12.30pm
- Renmark, Thursday 22 June, 10am to 12.30pm (SATAC only)
- Mt Gambier, Thursday 29 June, 11.30am to 2pm (with VTAC)

Adelaide Counsellor Sessions

These information sessions provide an opportunity to catch up on changes to the SATAC admissions system. Representatives from the tertiary institutions also attend. Sessions will be held at the Royal Banquet Room, Adelaide Showground, Wayville at the following times (a reminder will be sent closer to the dates):

- 26 July 2017, 9am to 12 noon
- 27 July 2017, 12.30pm to 3.30pm
- 28 July 2017, 9am to 12 noon

Northern Territory Counsellor Information Sessions

Northern Territory information sessions will be offered this year in Darwin and Alice Springs and are scheduled as follows:

- Darwin, Thursday 3 August, 9.30am to 12 noon
- Alice Springs Friday 4 August, 9.30am to 12 noon

Schools eligible for School-based Equity Bonus Points

Information on the SATAC website at www.satac.edu.au/universities-bonus-schemes will provide information on the Universities Bonus Schemes. A list of the schools in South Australia and the Northern Territory that are eligible for School-based equity bonus points can also be accessed via the link provided.

Recognised Studies

A reminder that the Flexible Option now contributes 30 credits to the university aggregate; however a maximum of 20 credits can come from Recognised Studies.

Scaled scores from VET or higher education study are now calculated from the average of the first 70 credits of TAS contributing to the aggregate. For higher education Recognised Studies the scaled score is either the one in the table on our website associated with the grade for the subject or the average scaled score of the best 70 credits of study, whichever is higher.

Recognised Studies intended to count towards the university aggregate calculation must be completed in the same, or prior, year that the aggregate is calculated for the first time.

For more information please see the link www.satac.edu.au/recognised-studies

Newly accredited SACE/NTCET subjects

More information about the newly accredited SACE/NTCET subjects can be found at www.satac.edu.au/newly-accredited-sace-ntcet-subjects

Please note approval has been given for the 2RPA10 Research Project A to be classified as a Tertiary Admissions Subject for those undertaking the subject in 2017 and in the future.

IB Results to Selection Rank

Just a reminder, at the end of last year the SATAC Board made a decision that from the beginning of 2017 SATAC will convert International Baccalaureate results into a selection rank (ATAR equivalent) using the national combined conversion table.

The key issues related to this change in policy are:

- The first students impacted by this change will be those studying their final year of schooling in 2017 and seeking university entry for the 2018 academic year.
- This timeline has been chosen as it is SATAC's policy when making changes which impact on university entry to provide schools and students, wherever possible, with two years notice.

Further information about this policy change will be included on the SATAC website as the year progresses.

Additionally, early notice of this impending change will be included in the Latest News section of the website.

2016 Aggregate to ATAR Table

SATAC has published the University Aggregate to ATAR conversion tables for the last 5 years on our website. These can be found at www.satac.edu.au/calculating-the-university-aggregate-and-atar

Students, teachers and parents/caregivers should note that prior year information cannot be used to predict ATARs for students in future years. Students in particular should be wary of any advice that purports to do so.

The relationship between the university aggregate and the ATAR changes every year, depending on the population of 16 – 20 year olds in South Australia and the Northern Territory. For example in 2015, an aggregate of 80.0/90.0 was awarded an ATAR of 95.20, yet in 2016, an aggregate of 80.0/90.0 was awarded an ATAR of 94.75. In addition, the scaling outcomes for individual subjects change from year to year, so it is not possible to predict the scaled score outcomes of studies in any year based on predicted A+ to E- SACE/NTCET grades.

SATAC is aware that there are websites that claim to contain "ATAR calculators". These do not accurately calculate ATARs for students.