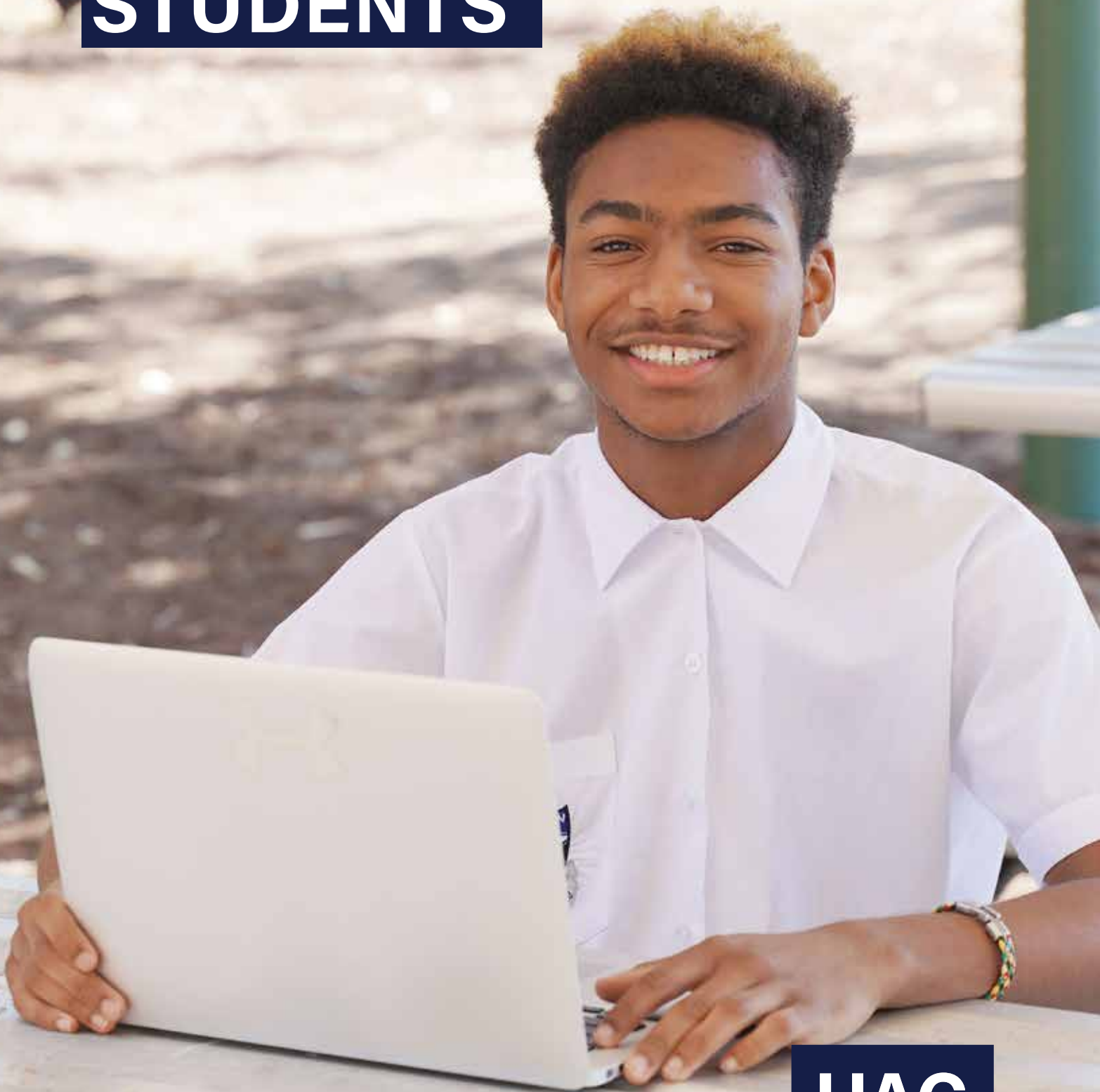


ALL ABOUT YOUR ATAR FOR 2019 NSW HSC STUDENTS



UAC



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ESSENTIALS AND KEY DATES

2019 NSW HSC STUDENTS

Tuesday 17 December	NSW HSC results released by NESA at 6am
Tuesday 17 December	ATARs released from 1pm on UAC's website at uac.edu.au or My UAC (UAC's mobile app)

2019 ACT YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Tuesday 17 December	ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and Tertiary Entrance Statement (including ATAR) released by ACT BSSS and available for collection from your college
Tuesday 17 December	ATARs released from 1pm on UAC's website at uac.edu.au or My UAC (UAC's mobile app)

HOW TO GET YOUR ATAR

When: From 1pm Tuesday 17 December

How: Log in to UAC's website at uac.edu.au or My UAC (UAC's mobile app).

You will need your Year 12 student number (or UAC application number) and your UAC PIN to log in.

Your Year 12 student number: This is issued by NESA. It can be confirmed by your school or you can call NESA on 1300 13 83 23.

Your UAC application number: This is emailed to you when you apply for tertiary study through UAC. It is also displayed at the top of your Confirmation of Application pages. If you cannot find your Confirmation of Application, call UAC.

Your UAC PIN: This was emailed to you in April and August. If you've forgotten it and you have applied through UAC, go to the application login page on UAC's website, click the 'Forgotten your PIN?' link under the login button, then follow the prompts to receive an email containing a link to reset your PIN. Otherwise, call UAC.

ATAR ENQUIRY CENTRE 1300 MY ATAR (1300 692 827)

FROM MOBILES: (02) 9119 5012 FROM OVERSEAS: +61 2 9119 5012

The ATAR Enquiry Centre is open at the following times from the release of the ATAR until 20 December.

Tuesday 17 December	12.00pm–8.00pm
Wednesday 18 December	8.30am–4.30pm
Thursday 19 December	8.30am–4.30pm
Friday 20 December	8.30am–4.30pm

Advisers are available at the times listed above to answer your ATAR-specific queries. After these dates, and for other queries about your application, call UAC on 1300 ASK UAC (1300 275 822), from mobiles on (02) 9752 0200, from overseas on +61 2 9752 0200.

ALL ABOUT YOUR ATAR

This booklet is for Year 12 students completing their HSC in 2019. It explains what the ATAR is, the relationship between HSC marks and the ATAR, how the ATAR is calculated, how it is used for selection to tertiary study and who is eligible to receive it.





YOUR ATAR NOTIFICATION

When you log in to view your ATAR you'll also be able to see a list of the ATAR courses you studied and their category, and the number of units of each ATAR course that contributed to the calculation of your ATAR. While you're there, download your ATAR Advice Notice. It's available for free until the end of February 2020.

Here is an example of the details you will see:

Course name	Category	Year completed	Unit value	Units included in calculation of ATAR
English Standard	A	2019	2	2
Geography	A	2019	2	2
Legal Studies	A	2019	2	1
Mathematics	A	2019	2	2
Studies of Religion I	A	2019	1	1
Hospitality Examination	B	2019	2	2

In this example, the table shows that:

- all courses were completed in 2019
- all courses are Category A courses except Hospitality Examination
- both units of English were included, as is required
- all units of Geography, Mathematics, Studies of Religion 1 and Hospitality Examination were included
- 1 unit of Legal Studies was included.

The scaled mark in Legal Studies was lower than the scaled marks in the other courses so only 1 unit was included to make up the required 10 units.

If you receive an ATAR between 0.00 and 30.00, your ATAR will be recorded as '30 or less'. If you haven't met the requirements of the ATAR, your ATAR will be recorded as 'not eligible'.

ATARs are only accessible by individual students or their authorised agents. ATARs are also released to institutions for the purpose of making offers to courses. UAC doesn't provide ATARs to parents, schools or careers advisers.

THE ATAR: WHAT IS IT?

The ATAR is a rank, not a mark.

It is a number between 0 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05. It provides a measure of your overall academic achievement in the NSW HSC in relation to that of other students, and it helps institutions rank applicants for selection. It is calculated on behalf of the universities and released by UAC. Your ATAR indicates your position relative to other students. An ATAR of 80.00 indicates that you have performed well enough in the HSC to place you in the top 20 per cent of students in your age cohort.

It is important to note that your ranking depends solely on your performance in the HSC.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR AN ATAR?

To be eligible for an ATAR in 2019 you must have satisfactorily completed at least 10 units of ATAR courses. These ATAR courses must have included at least:

- 8 units from Category A courses
- 2 units of English
- three Board Developed courses of 2 units each
- four subjects.

HOW IS YOUR ATAR CALCULATED?

Your ATAR is based on an aggregate of scaled marks in 10 units of ATAR courses comprising:

- your best 2 units of English
- your best 8 units from the remaining units.

No more than 2 units of Category B courses can be included.

Note that scaled marks are not NESA HSC marks. See Step 3 on page 7 for information about scaling.

More information on the calculation of the ATAR can be found in the *UAC Guide 2019–20* or on UAC's website at uac.edu.au/atar.

COURSES COMPLETED IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Scaled marks are calculated in the year that you complete the course. If you accumulate courses towards your HSC, your marks are not re-scaled each year that you are eligible for an ATAR.

YOUR HSC MARKS AND YOUR ATAR

HSC marks and the ATAR are two different measures of achievement. HSC marks tell you about your performance, whereas your ATAR tells you about your position, or ranking.

Your HSC marks	Your ATAR
Provide information about how well you have achieved in each of the courses you have completed.	Provides information about how well you have performed overall against other students.
Indicate your performance in the different courses you have studied.	Allows you to be compared with students who have completed different combinations of courses.
Are reported against standards.	Is a rank, not a mark.
Are provided by NESA.	Is provided by UAC.

Your HSC marks and your ATAR are derived in different ways from the same data: your raw examination marks and your school assessment marks.

YOUR HSC MARKS

NESA describes the standards for a course using a performance scale; for 2-unit courses there are six performance bands and for extension courses there are four performance bands. Each year and for each course, NESA determines the range of raw examination marks that correspond to each performance band, so that every raw examination mark is aligned to a performance band.

To enable school assessments from different schools to be compared, assessment marks submitted by schools are moderated using the raw examination marks. These moderated school assessment marks are also aligned to performance bands.

It is these aligned marks, together with an HSC mark, that you receive from NESA.

Your HSC mark is the average of your aligned examination mark and your aligned moderated school assessment mark, and determines your performance band for the course.

YOUR HSC RESULTS

Your HSC results present a profile of your HSC achievement.

For example, here are Elizabeth's 2018 HSC results:

	Units	Examination mark	Assessment mark	HSC mark	Performance band
Business Studies	2	83/100	77/100	80	5
English Advanced	2	77/100	73/100	75	4
Mathematics	2	75/100	83/100	79	4
Modern History	2	88/100	86/100	87	5
Visual Arts	2	85/100	83/100	84	5
French Continuers	2	88/100	86/100	87	5

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HSC RESULTS

If you have questions after you have received your HSC results, visit the HSC results area of the NESA website at educationstandards.nsw.edu.au for detailed information, or call the HSC Results Inquiry Centre on 1300 13 83 23.



CALCULATING YOUR ATAR

The purpose of the ATAR is to provide a measure of your overall performance compared with other students, so it is based on both the marks you receive in your HSC courses and your position in your courses.

Let's calculate the ATAR for Elizabeth based on the HSC marks shown in the previous table.

There are several steps in the process.

STEP 1

The first step is to calculate the average of the raw examination mark and the moderated school assessment mark for each of Elizabeth's courses.

These averages are called raw HSC marks. They are not reported to the student.

STEP 2

Next, we need to find out how Elizabeth's performance compared to other students. To do this, we look at the percentiles. The percentiles indicate a student's position in their courses compared with other students in those courses. Elizabeth's percentiles are set out in the following table:

	Units	HSC mark/100	HSC median/100	Percentile
Business Studies	2	80	75	66
English Advanced	2	75	82	23
Mathematics	2	79	80	48
Modern History	2	87	76	84
Visual Arts	2	84	80	69
French Continuers	2	87	84	64

The *Report on the Scaling of the 2018 NSW HSC*, available on UAC's website shows, for each course, the distribution of NESA's HSC marks (as reported to students – Table A2) and the scaled marks (as used in the 2018 ATAR calculation – Table A3) at specific percentiles.

Table A3 also includes information on means, standard deviations and maximum marks.

Table A2 and Table A3 from the 2019 HSC will be available on UAC's website when ATARs are released on Tuesday 17 December 2019.

From the previous table you can see that although Elizabeth's HSC marks in English Advanced and Business Studies differ by only 5, the percentiles are very different. In English Advanced she has performed better than 23 per cent of other students in that course whereas in Business Studies she has performed better than 66 per cent.

Your position and your mark in a course depend on how well *you* have done in that course *and* how well *other* students have done in that course.

These examples show that your marks in different courses are not comparable. They cannot just be added together to derive your ATAR. Some form of adjustment must be carried out before an overall measure of achievement can be determined. This is called scaling.

Scaling allows a proper and fair comparison of students who have studied different courses. It determines what your marks would have been if all students attempted all courses and all courses were marked in a way that produced the same distribution of marks.

It does this by modifying the mean, the standard deviation and the maximum mark for each course.

The scaled mean for a course is based on the average academic achievement of the course candidature, which is determined by the marks the students in that course have achieved in all their courses.

The average scaled mean is 50 for 2-unit courses. If a course candidature is strong academically, the scaled mean will be higher than the average scaled mean.

Courses dominated by high-achieving students, who do well in all their subjects, will be scaled positively. Courses with many students who do not perform well in all their subjects will be scaled negatively.

The table below shows that the scaled means of most of Elizabeth's courses are greater than 50. This means that most of these courses included many high-achieving students. The HSC means have been included to further illustrate Elizabeth's performance compared to other students.

	Units	HSC mean/100	Scaled mean/100
Business Studies	2	74.0	48.0
English Advanced	2	81.0	63.2
Mathematics	2	78.6	62.4
Modern History	2	74.4	51.0
Visual Arts	2	80.2	44.2
French Continuers	2	82.0	69.0

STEP 3

So the next step is to scale Elizabeth's raw HSC marks. As you can see from the table below, Elizabeth's scaled marks are different from the HSC marks she received from NESA.

	Units	HSC mark/100	Scaled mark/100
Business Studies	2	80	57.7
English Advanced	2	75	50.3
Mathematics	2	79	63.3
Modern History	2	87	73.8
Visual Arts	2	84	55.0
French Continuers	2	87	76.3

Like Elizabeth, your scaled marks are likely to be different from, and lower than, your corresponding HSC marks. This is not surprising: your HSC marks and scaled marks are meant to be different. HSC marks are aligned to standards, whereas scaled marks are the marks you would have received if all course candidatures were the same.

Note that your position in a course is not altered by scaling.

STEP 4

Now we need to calculate Elizabeth's aggregate of scaled marks. According to the ATAR rules, 2 units of English must be included, then the best 8 units from her remaining courses.

From the table of Elizabeth's scaled marks above, you can see that, ignoring English, Visual Arts has the lowest scaled mark. Therefore, both units of Visual Arts are omitted.

Elizabeth's aggregate is 321.4.

STEP 5

Elizabeth's aggregate is used to determine her position compared with other students. This position will be expressed as a percentile in an interim phase of the ATAR calculation.

STEP 6

The last step is to truncate the percentile to the nearest 0.05.

Elizabeth's ATAR is 80.65.

This means that Elizabeth did well enough overall to perform better than 80.65 per cent of the students in her age cohort.

The ATAR is a measure of overall academic achievement in the HSC. It enables universities to rank applicants for selection in a fair and equitable way.

The ATAR is designed to be used as an indicator of readiness for university study. There is no notion of pass or fail.

TERTIARY SELECTION AND THE ATAR

Each year more than 45,000 current school leavers apply through UAC for admission to courses offered by NSW and ACT universities. For the majority of courses there are more applicants than places. Applicants must be ranked to allow selection to take place.

The first step in the selection process is to check whether applicants have satisfied the prerequisites specified for the courses for which they have applied. For example, a Bachelor of Software Engineering (Honours) at the Australian National University specifies ACT Mathematical Methods (major) or NSW Mathematics as a prerequisite. If you have not completed one of these Year 12 courses you will not be considered for the Bachelor of Software Engineering (Honours), regardless of your ATAR.

The second step is to rank all applicants who satisfy the prerequisites for that course. For most courses, applicants who are current school leavers are ranked using the ATAR. If a university takes other factors into consideration - such as performance in a Year 12 subject or eligibility for Educational Access Schemes - then the applicant's selection rank for the relevant course will increase (but their ATAR will remain the same).

Some courses have additional selection criteria, such as a portfolio, interview, audition, questionnaire or test. Any additional selection criteria is specified in the course description on the UAC website.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is my ATAR low in comparison to my HSC marks?

Your ATAR depends upon your position in your courses and the ability of the other students in your courses (reflected in the scaled means of your courses).

Consider the following two students who completed the same courses.

Fred received an HSC mark of 70 in each course, while Laura received an HSC mark of 80 in each course.

	Units	Fred		Laura	
		HSC mark/100	Percentile	HSC mark/100	Percentile
Biology	2	70	33	80	66
Business Studies	2	70	37	80	66
English Advanced	2	70	11	80	42
Mathematics	2	70	24	80	51
Modern History	2	70	30	80	62
Visual Arts	2	70	10	80	52
ATAR		57.90		78.15	

Their HSC marks in each course differ by only 10, yet their ATARs differ by 20.25. Laura's ATAR is similar to her HSC marks while Fred's ATAR is much lower than his HSC marks.

The reason for the large difference in the ATARs can be found in the differences in the percentiles. The percentiles are much higher for Laura than for Fred. Laura's lowest percentile is higher than Fred's highest percentile.

From the table you can also see that in each course a significant percentage of the course candidature has marks in the range 70 to 80. For example, in English Advanced, 31 per cent of the candidature has marks in this range (42nd percentile for 80 minus the 11th percentile for 70).

Given the differences in their course percentiles, it is not surprising that Fred's and Laura's ATARs are very different.

The ATAR is all about position, whereas HSC marks indicate standards achieved in individual courses.

Remember that ATARs are calculated afresh each year and are based on position – the same marks in the same courses in two different years will not necessarily produce the same ATARs.

In the *Report on the Scaling of the 2018 NSW HSC*, available on UAC's website, Table A2 shows the distribution of HSC marks (the percentage of students in performance bands 2 to 6 and the median HSC mark for each course) in 2018.

Table A2 from the 2019 HSC will be available on UAC's website when ATARs are released on Tuesday 17 December 2019.



Is there a general rule when comparing HSC marks and ATARS?

Some students ask if there is a general rule they can use to understand the relationship between their ATAR and their HSC marks. There is no general rule because the pattern of HSC marks varies across courses and each course has a different scaled mean.

However, it can be said that, in general, if you are in the middle group of students enrolled in your courses (with marks typically in the 70s), you are likely to get an ATAR around 70.00. But sometimes marks in the 70s can mean a much lower ATAR depending on your courses and your position in your courses.

The middle ATAR in 2018 was 69.65.

Below are examples of students with ATARs of 65.00, 75.00 and 85.00 in 2018.

James		Amy		Tom	
	HSC mark		HSC mark		HSC mark
Biology	72	Biology	80	Chemistry	82
Drama	86	Community & Family Studies	86	English Standard	80
English Advanced	78	English Standard	76	Mathematics	87
Studies of Religion II	74	Music 1	84	Physics	85
Visual Arts	76	PDH&PE	85	Studies of Religion II	76
ATAR	65.00		75.00		85.00

To see where these 2018 HSC marks stand in comparison with all of the students in the course, check the tables available in the *Report on the Scaling of the 2018 NSW HSC*, available on UAC's website.

The tables based on the 2019 HSC data will be available on UAC's website when ATARs are released on Tuesday 17 December 2019.

Which courses count towards my ATAR?

Your ATAR is calculated from your aggregate of scaled marks, including 2 units of English and your best 8 units from the remaining courses, according to the ATAR rules.

When you receive your ATAR you will also see which of your courses were actually included in the calculation of your ATAR. It is not possible to tell which courses will be included in your ATAR just by looking at your HSC marks, because your ATAR uses your scaled marks. Sometimes the course with the lowest HSC mark will not count, but this is not always the case.

Why is one course counted towards my ATAR when another course for which I received a higher HSC mark does not count?

A higher HSC mark does not always mean a higher scaled mark, and the calculation of your ATAR is based on your scaled marks.

As an example, let's look at Elizabeth's marks from Step 3 on page 7.

Elizabeth's lowest HSC mark is in English Advanced but, since 2 units of English must be included, the scaled mark for English Advanced will contribute to her ATAR.

Of her remaining courses you might expect Mathematics to have the lowest scaled mark as it has the next lowest HSC mark and lowest percentile. Visual Arts, however, has the lowest scaled mark because it has a lower scaled mean.

If I get the same HSC mark in two different courses, will the one with the higher scaled mean count towards my ATAR?

Not necessarily. It's important to remember that the scaled mean indicates the average academic achievement of the students in that course. When you look at your results, you also have to consider your position in the course. A higher position in a course with a lower scaled mean may be enough to warrant its inclusion in your ATAR calculation.

Both your position in the course and the scaled mean are important in determining which of your courses contribute towards your ATAR.

In the *Report on the Scaling of the 2018 NSW HSC*, available on UAC's website, Table A3 shows the distribution in each course of both NESA's HSC marks (as reported to students) and the scaled marks (as used in the 2018 ATAR calculation) at specific percentiles.

This table also includes information on means, standard deviations and maximum marks.

Table A3 based on the 2019 HSC will be available on UAC's website when ATARs are released on Tuesday 17 December 2019.

Consider the following example of Jane who sat the HSC in 2018 and completed 12 units.

Jane got an HSC mark of 94 for both Geography and German Continuers – so, 47.0 per unit. The scaled mean for Geography was much lower than the scaled mean for German Continuers, but her German Continuers mark did not count towards her ATAR. Why?

If we look at the table on page 13 (an extract from Table A3 of the *Report on the Scaling of the 2018 NSW HSC* – available on UAC's website) we can see that Jane's HSC mark of 47.0 for German Continuers places her at the 90th percentile for that course so that her scaled mark is 43.7. However, her HSC mark of 47.0 per unit for Geography places her on the 99th percentile for that course and gives her a scaled mark of 46.0 per unit. Consequently, Geography was included before German Continuers.



Extract from Table A3 of the Report on the Scaling of the 2018 NSW Higher School Certificate

Course	Number of students		Mean	SD	Max.	P ₉₉	P ₉₀	P ₇₅	P ₅₀	P ₂₅
Geography	4,427	HSC	37.6	6.6	49.0	47.0	44.5	42.5	39.0	34.5
		scaled	25.0	11.2	50.0	46.0	39.2	33.7	26.0	17.0
German Continuers	183	HSC	40.9	4.8	49.0	49.0	47.0	45.5	41.0	38.0
		scaled	32.9	8.7	50.0	49.3	43.7	39.6	33.4	27.0

Note: The marks in this table are marks per unit.

Jane's higher position in Geography, compared with her position in German Continuers, was enough to compensate for the lower scaled mean in Geography.

I have similar HSC marks to my friend, but we don't have similar ATARs. Why not?

Your ATARs will only be similar if your courses are the same. If your courses are different and your courses have different scaled means, your ATARs may be very different. Looking at the table on page 10, we can see that James, Amy and Tom had all of their HSC marks in the 70s and 80s. But those marks were in different courses and their ATARs were very different.

Does the school I attend matter?

No. The school attended does not feature in the ATAR calculation. The ATAR calculation is based only on marks provided by NESA; no other information is used.

Are certain courses always 'scaled up' or always 'scaled down'?

No. Scaling is carried out afresh each year. If the quality of the candidature changes, then the scaled mean will also change. Your position in your courses is just as important as the scaled means of your courses in determining your ATAR.

In some courses more students are in Performance Band 6 than in other courses. Does this affect the scaled mark for the course?

No. It is the raw HSC marks that are scaled, not the HSC marks that you receive. The percentage of students placed in Performance Band 6 differs across courses, but this has no effect on the calculation of the ATAR.

In some courses more students get high HSC marks than in other courses. Does this affect the ATAR calculation?

No. Raw HSC marks are scaled and used in the ATAR calculation. Also remember that your position in the course is important for the ATAR calculation.

How are extension courses scaled?

For most extension courses the scaled means and standard deviations are determined by the performance of the extension students on the corresponding 2-unit course.

How is English scaled?

English Studies, English Standard and English Advanced are scaled as a single group as the raw marks are put on a common scale by NESA.

Why can't I use my HSC marks to check the calculation of my ATAR?

There are two reasons. The first is that scaled marks, not HSC marks, are used in the calculation of the ATAR and the second is that the ATAR is not an average mark; it is a rank that indicates your position.

Can I find out what my scaled marks are?

No. Scaled marks are not reported to students. They are determined during an interim phase in the calculation of the ATAR.

Can I have my ATAR recalculated?

No. If, however, NESA provides amended HSC results, your ATAR is recalculated and you are notified immediately.

Can an extension course contribute to the ATAR if the corresponding 2-unit course has not been satisfactorily completed?

No. You must satisfactorily complete the corresponding 2-unit course before the extension course can be considered.

The exception is Mathematics, where you can complete Extension 1 and Extension 2 without completing 2-unit Mathematics (but you must complete Mathematics Extension 1 to count Mathematics Extension 2). If you have completed both Extension 1 and Extension 2 then your Extension 1 and Extension 2 results are considered separately in determining the aggregate used to calculate your ATAR; one, both or neither might be included in the calculation.

If I'm eligible for selection rank adjustments, does my ATAR change?

No. Any adjustments to your selection rank apply to a particular course you have listed as a preference; your ATAR does not change.

If selection rank adjustments don't increase my ATAR, then how do they work?

Universities take several factors into consideration when adjusting selection ranks. Examples include students performing strongly in specified HSC subjects, students living or attending school in an area defined by the university, and students applying for consideration through Educational Access Schemes. Selection rank adjustments are applied differently from institution to institution and from course to course within the same institution. Therefore, your selection rank can be different for each course you list in your course preferences.

Some institutions require you to achieve a minimum ATAR before you are eligible for selection rank adjustments – check the information from each institution carefully to see if they have a minimum ATAR requirement.

Where a university publishes a lowest selection rank for a course, does this include adjustment factors?

Yes. The lowest selection rank for a course includes adjustments factors; the lowest ATAR does not. It is important to understand this difference between the lowest selection rank and the lowest ATAR.

The difference is illustrated in the following example: Course A has six applicants and only three places available. The six applicants have the following selection ranks:

1. 89.00 (ATAR of 89.00)
2. 88.00 (ATAR of 87.00 plus adjustment of 1 point)
3. 87.00 (ATAR of 83.00 plus adjustment of 4 points)
4. 86.00 (ATAR of 86.00)
5. 85.00 (ATAR of 83.00 plus adjustment of 2 points)
6. 84.00 (ATAR of 84.00).

Offers will be made to applicants 1, 2 and 3. Applicant 4 won't receive an offer, even with an ATAR higher than applicant 3, and applicant 3 will receive an offer even though their ATAR is below the lowest selection rank. The lowest selection rank required to receive an offer to Course A will be 87.00.

This example shows why it is important not to assume that the published lowest ATAR for a course is the ATAR required to be made an offer to that course. The lowest ATAR for this course is 83.00 (applicant 3). Even though applicants 4, 5 and 6 have ATARs of 83.00 and above, their selection ranks are below the lowest selection rank of 87.00 and therefore they will not receive an offer.

HSC subject adjustments

Most universities will increase your selection rank to recognise achievement in HSC courses relevant to the university course you wish to study. Therefore, even if your ATAR is below the lowest selection rank, you can still get an offer to that course. For more information about selection ranks and adjustment factors, go to uac.edu.au/year12-quals.

For more information about the ATAR, go to uac.edu.au/atar.

NEXT STEPS

CONSIDER YOUR COURSE OPTIONS

If you've received a higher ATAR than you expected, or have rethought what you really want to study, you might want to add or delete courses or re-order your preferences.

If you've not done as well as you expected, you should reassess your course choices to make sure they are realistic. You don't want to miss out on an offer altogether because you don't meet the lowest selection ranks for the courses you've listed. As a guide, check the ATAR profiles of the courses you are interested in. These are based on offers made to recent school leavers and are included in the course descriptions on the UAC website. They will give you an indication of whether your ATAR puts you in the ballpark to receive an offer to each course.

Lowest ATARs and selection ranks for entry to semester 1 courses in 2020 won't be known until all offers have been made. These ranks can change from year to year.

If a university publishes a guaranteed ATAR or guaranteed selection rank for a course and your ATAR matches or exceeds that rank, you can be confident you will receive an offer to that course if it is your highest preference in your UAC application.

UAC's participating institutions are available in December and January to answer specific questions about your course options. Institution contact details are shown on pages 18–19.

LOCK IN YOUR COURSE PREFERENCES

You can change your preferences for December Round 2 offers until midnight on Thursday 19 December 2019. Simply log in to your application on UAC's website. You'll need your UAC application number and UAC PIN.

Some courses have closing dates earlier than UAC's deadlines. Check the course descriptions on UAC's website before adding any new courses.

Your new course preferences may also have additional requirements such as questionnaires, interviews or tests. Check that it's not too late for you to fulfill these requirements.

You can list up to five course preferences. Your preferences may include the same course/area of study at five different institutions or five different courses at one institution. The choice is yours.

During the selection process your preferences are considered one at a time in the order in which you have them listed in your application. So put the course you would most like to do first, then the course you would next like to do, and so on.

If you are not selected for your first preference you will be considered equally with all other eligible applicants for your second preference, and so on. Your chances of being selected for a particular course are not reduced because you placed a course lower on your preference list.

FIND YOUR WAY TO UNI

Course Compass draws on the experience of over 100,000 recent UAC applicants to show you the paths taken by students just like you.

Try Course Compass at



uac.edu.au/coursecompass



GET YOUR OFFER

Most offers to NSW HSC students will be made in December Round 2 on Monday 23 December 2019. Offers for a small number of courses will not be made until January Round 1 on Friday 10 January 2020. For details of these courses, visit uac.edu.au/ug-offers.

You'll receive an email from UAC with details of your offer and instructions on what to do next.

You can also access your offer information on UAC's website by logging in with your UAC application number and UAC PIN.

If you don't get an offer in December Round 2 you will automatically be considered for all your preferences again in January Round 1.

The deadlines for changing preferences for all offer rounds are listed at uac.edu.au/ug-dates.

Slipback offers

Some institutions may make you an offer to a pathway course if you're not eligible or competitive enough for the course to which you've applied. This means that you may receive an offer to a lower-level course instead of the course in your preferences. For example, if you applied for a degree you may receive an offer to a diploma or lower-level course in a similar area.

ACCEPT YOUR OFFER

Accept any offer you receive. You can't assume you will get an offer in later rounds.

Once you've accepted your offer you can then change your preferences for January Round 1 and later rounds. You do not jeopardise your chances of receiving another offer by accepting your December Round 2 offer. (Refer to the 'Receiving offers in multiple offer rounds' flowchart on page 17.)

If you receive an offer in one round and accept it, and then receive an offer in a later round, you can choose to either:

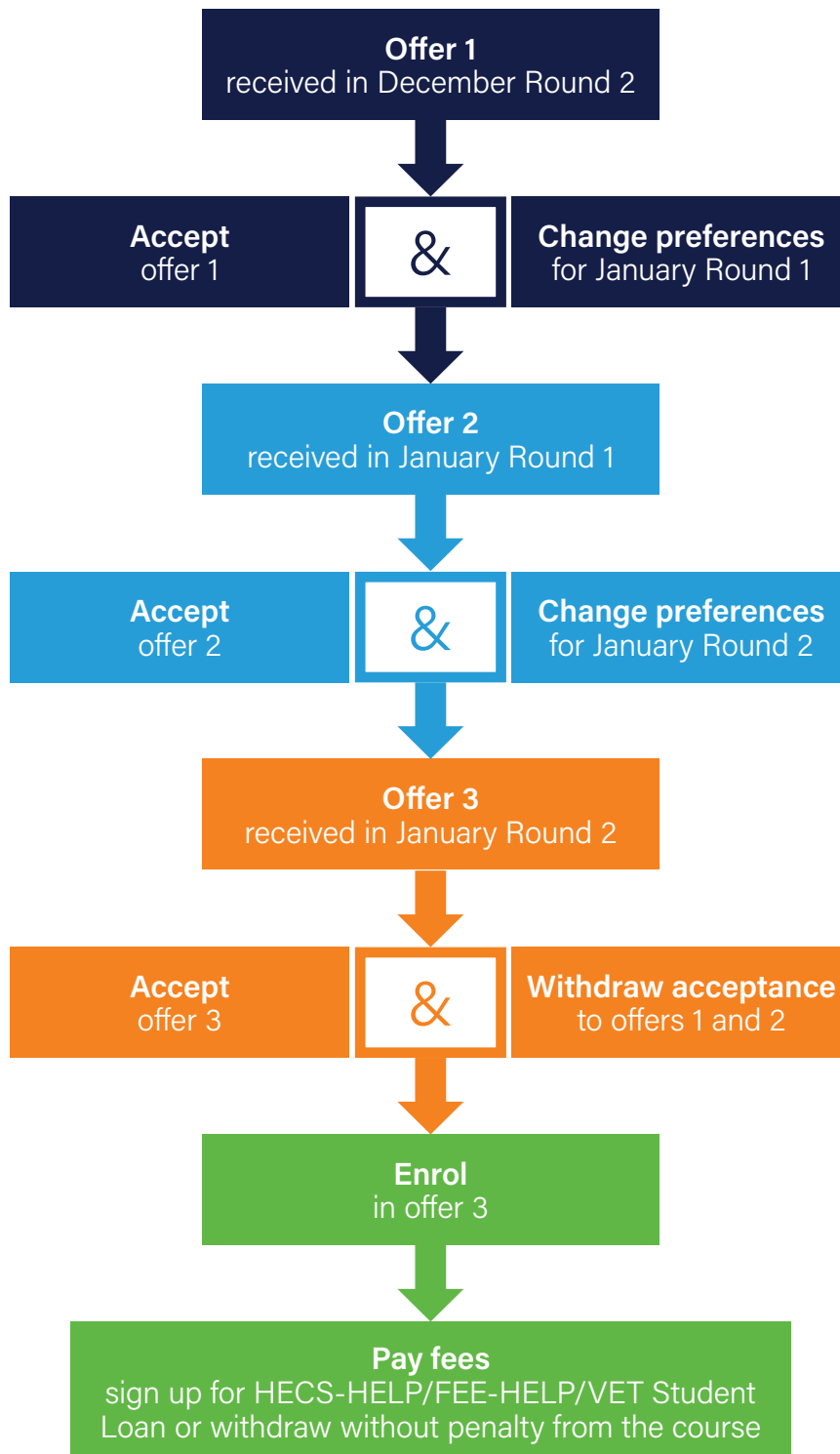
- keep your previous offer and not accept your new offer, or
- withdraw from your previous offer and accept your new offer.

You don't need to change your preferences if you want to be considered for preferences higher than your offer. So, if you receive a December Round 2 offer for your third preference, you will automatically be considered for your first and second preferences again in January Round 1 and later rounds, if those courses have vacancies.

If, however, you have received an offer to your first preference, you need to remove it from your list of preferences and arrange your new preferred courses before the deadline for January Round 1: midnight on Sunday 5 January 2020.

RECEIVING OFFERS IN MULTIPLE OFFER ROUNDS: AN OVERVIEW

There are several offer rounds throughout the admissions year. As most Year 12 students will receive their offers in December and January, these offer rounds are used in this flowchart, which outlines the path you might take to receive an offer in each of these rounds.



CONTACTING INSTITUTIONS

FROM 17 DECEMBER 2019 TO 4 JANUARY 2020

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1300 ASK ACU (1300 275 228)
email: askacu@acu.edu.au
available: AskACU Contact Centre phone lines:
17–20 December 8am–6pm
2–3 January 8am–6pm
AskACU Centres on campus open:
17–20 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Know Your Options:

Strathfield: 17 December 3.30pm–6.30pm
Nth Sydney: 18 December 3.30pm–6.30pm
Canberra: 19 December 10am–5pm

Register for a campus tour at acu.edu.au/student-life/experience-uni-before-you-start/explore-your-local-campus/campus-tours

Maps of campus locations are available at acu.edu.au/locations.

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Enquiries

call: 1800 039 139 (freecall)
email: connect@acap.edu.au
website: acap.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23–24 December 9am–5pm
27, 30–31 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

For details on upcoming ACAP information sessions, visit acap.edu.au.

To arrange an appointment or tour of the Sydney campus call 1800 039 139 or email connect@acap.edu.au.

AUSTRALIAN MARITIME COLLEGE

Enquiries

call: 1300 363 864
website: askus.utas.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
24 December 9am–noon
2–3 January 9am–5pm

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1800 620 032
email: Future.student@anu.edu.au
available: Monday–Friday 8am–8pm
(except public holidays)

Information day/visit the campus

Sydney: Tuesday 17 December, 3pm–7pm
Terrace Room Australian National Maritime Museum, 2 Murray Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Canberra: Tuesday 17 December, 3pm–6pm
Level 6 Super Floor, Marie Raey Teaching Building, Kambri, ANU

Orange: Wednesday 18 December, 3–6pm
Orange Ex-Services Club, 231–243 Anson Street, Orange

Wagga Wagga: Thursday 19 December, 3–6pm
Premier Room, Mercure Wagga, 1 Morgan St, Wagga Wagga

For details of our on-campus and interstate events, as well as future events, visit anu.edu.au/study/events. To arrange a campus tour visit anu.edu.au/study/events/campus-tours or email campus.tours@anu.edu.au.

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1800 061 963
email: Student.Central@cdu.edu.au
website: cdu.edu.au
available: 17–20 December 8.30am–3pm
23–24 December 8.30am–4pm
2–3 January 8.30am–4pm

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1800 275 278 (freecall)
email: info.csu@csu.edu.au
website: study.csu.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
24 December 9am–12.30pm
30–31 December 8am–12.30pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Advice day: Tuesday 17 December 2019, 1–8pm on campus at Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga. To book your spot visit study.csu.edu.au/contact-us.

Talk with a student adviser: Book a one-on-one appointment with a student adviser at csu.edu.au/appointment.

Visit the campus: Campus tours run every working day (Monday to Friday excluding 25–31 December) at 10am, noon and 2pm. Book your tour at study.csu.edu.au/contact-us.

CQUNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 13 CQUni (13 27 86)
email: contactus.cqu.edu.au
website: cqu.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23–24 December 9am–4.45pm
2–3 January 9am–4.45pm

Information day/visit the campus

Information session: CQUniversity Sydney, 400 Kent St, Sydney

Wednesday 18 December, 9am–1pm

Online Change of Preference Session:

Saturday 14 December 8am–1pm
Monday 16 December 9am–1pm

For more information visit cqu.edu.au/events.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1800 677 728 (freecall)
email: domesticenquiries@griffith.edu.au
website: ask.secure.griffith.edu.au
available: 17 December–3 January 9am–5pm*
(excluding public holidays)

*Queensland Eastern Standard Time

Information day/visit the campus

Explore your options: Chat online at griffith.edu.au/options.

Saturday 14 December 9am–2pm
Monday 16 – Thursday 19 December 9am–2pm

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT, SYDNEY

Enquiries

call: 1800 110 490 or (02) 9466 1240
email: start@icms.edu.au
website: icms.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am – 5pm
24 December 10am – 12pm
30 December 9am – 4pm
31 December 9am – 2pm
2–3 January 9am – 5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Book a personal campus tour for a date and time that works best for you: icms.edu.au/book-campus-tour. Alternatively, simply call 1800 110 490 or email start@icms.edu.au.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1300 135 045 (Future Students)
(02) 9397 7600 Sydney campus
chat: <http://latrobe.custhelp.com/app/chat/interview>
website: www.latrobe.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

One-on-one consultations: Applicants have the opportunity to connect with our course advisors at any of our campuses via one-on-one consultations. Go to latrobe.edu.au/study/one-on-one-consultations/undergraduate and select your preferred campus to secure your appointment. Otherwise walk-in to speak about your course options during normal business hours.

MACLEAY COLLEGE

Enquiries

call: 1300 939 888
email: study@macleay.edu.au
website: macleay.edu.au
Live Chat: macleay.edu.au/change-of-preference
available: 17–20 December 8:30am–5pm
2–3 January 8:30am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

To arrange an appointment or campus tour call 1300 939 888 to speak with the student recruitment team or email study@macleay.edu.au.

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: (02) 9850 6767
email: futurestudents@mq.edu.au
website: mq.edu.au
available: 17–23 December 8am–8pm
24 December 9am–3pm
27, 30, 31 December 9am–3pm
2–3 January 8.30am–5.30pm

Explore Your Options Week: 16–22 December
mq.edu.au/explore-your-options

To arrange a campus tour visit mq.edu.au/campus-tours.

MIT SYDNEY

Enquiries

call: (02) 8267 1400
email: info.sydney@mit.edu.au
website: mit.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23–24 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

To arrange an appointment or campus tour call (02) 8267 1400 or email info.sydney@mit.edu.au.

NATIONAL ART SCHOOL

Enquiries

call: (02) 9339 8651
email: student.services@nas.edu.au
website: nas.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9.30am–4.30pm
24 December 9.30am–12.30pm
2–3 January 9.30am–4.30pm

Information day/visit the campus

To arrange an appointment or campus tour call (02) 9339 8651.

SAE CREATIVE MEDIA INSTITUTE

Enquiries

call: 1800 SAE EDU (freecall) or 1800 723 338
website: sae.edu.au
available: 16–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
24 December 9am–3pm
27 December 9am–5pm
30–31 December 9am–3pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/Visit the campus

Sydney Info night:

Thursday 28 November 6pm–8pm

Byron Bay Info night:

Thursday 28 November 4pm–7pm

Register at sae.edu.au/infonight.

Personalised campus tours available at Byron Bay and Sydney campuses – call 1800 723 338 to book.

SIBT

Enquiries

call: (02) 9964 6555
website: sibtnsw.edu.au
available: 17–20 December 9am–5pm
30–31 December 9am–5pm
2–4 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Course Advise Session: Wednesday 29 January and Wednesday 19 February. To arrange an appointment or a campus tour call (02) 9964 6555 or email study@sibt.nsw.edu.au.

SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1800 626 481
online: scu.edu.au/study-at-scu
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
24 December 9am–12pm
30–31 December 10am–4pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

TORRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

Enquiries

call: 1300 575 803
email: enquiries@tua.edu.au
website: torrens.edu.au
available: 17–20 December 8am–7pm
23–24 December 9am–5pm
27, 30, 31 December 9am–5pm
2–4 January 9am–5pm

Information day/Visit the campus: Saturday 18 January 10am–1pm

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Enquiries

call: 1800 UNI CAN (freecall 1800 864 226)
email: study@canberra.edu.au
website: canberra.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
24 December 9am–2pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

December Course Advice Day: Wednesday 18th December and Friday 10 January, 10am–2pm. Receive advice on preferences following ATAR release. SRS and current offer holders are encouraged to attend to accept their offers and enrol in units.

Campus tours available any weekday by appointment. Register at canberra.edu.au/on-campus/campustours.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Enquiries

call: 1800 818 865 (freecall)
email or webchat: study.une.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 8.30am–5pm
2–3 January 8.30am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

To arrange a personalised campus tour register at une.edu.au/campustours or freecall 1800 818 865.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Enquiries (all campuses)

call: (02) 4921 5000
email via: newcastle.edu.au/askuon
website: newcastle.edu.au
available: 17–20, 23 December 9am–5pm
24 December 9am–12pm
3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

UON Info Day: Thursday 19 December, 10am–1pm

Newcastle (Callaghan): Student Central, Student Services Building

Newcastle (City): Student Central, Ground Floor

Central Coast (Ourimbah): Library

Book a campus tour at newcastle.edu.au/study.

Maps of campus locations are available at newcastle.edu.au/maps.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Enquiries

call: 1800 SYD UNI (1800 793 864)
available: 17 December 9am–5pm
18, 19, 20 December 9am–6pm
21 December 9am–5pm
23–24 December 9am–6pm
27–28, 30–31 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Thursday 19 December 9am–3pm
<https://infoday.sydney.edu.au>

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

Enquiries

call: 1300 ASK UTS (1300 275 887)
email via: ask.uts.edu.au
website: uts.edu.au
available: 17–20 December 9am–5pm
21 December 10am–3pm
(phone and online enquiries only)
23–24 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

UTS Info Week: 16–20 December

Includes Options Day on Thursday 19 December from 1pm - 6pm at the UTS City campus

Visit: infoweek.uts.edu.au

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Enquiries

call: 1300 367 869
email: futurestudents@uow.edu.au
available: 17–20 December 9am–5pm
23–24 December 9am–5pm
27–28 December 9am–5pm
30 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Hour-long Wollongong campus tours run every Friday at 10.30am and 2.30pm (excluding 27 December) and include an optional accommodation tour.

Book your tour at uow.edu.au/future/visit or call Future Students on 1300 367 869.

UNSW

Enquiries

call: 1300 UNI NSW (1300 864 679)
email via: unsw.edu.au/ask
available: 17–18 December 8am–8pm
19 December 8am–12am
20 December 9am–5pm
23 December 8am–8pm
24 December 10am–2pm
27–28, 30 December 9am–5pm
31 December 9am–3pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

UNSW Info Day: Thursday 19 December 9am–4pm

Register at infoday.unsw.edu.au.

Last campus tour of 2019 available on Friday 27 December at 3.30pm. Register at campustours.unsw.edu.au.

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Enquiries

call: 1300 897 669
email: study@westernsydney.edu.au
web chat: westernsydney.edu.au/future
available: 17–20 December 9am–8pm
21 December 9am–5pm
23 December 8am–8pm
24 December 9am–5pm
27–28 December 9am–5pm
2–3 January 9am–5pm

Information day/visit the campus

Parramatta South campus: Friday 6 December

Register now at westernsydney.edu.au/form/campus_tour_registration

COMMON TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Age cohort

An age cohort is used in the calculation of the ATAR. This means that a student's rank is a measure of their performance against all 16–20 year-olds in the state, not just those who completed Year 12 and were eligible for an ATAR.

ATAR

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank.

ATAR courses

ATAR courses are Board Developed courses for which there are formal examinations conducted by NESA that yield a graded assessment. These are the only courses that can be included in the ATAR calculations. ATAR courses are classified as either Category A courses or Category B courses.

Board Developed courses

A Board Developed course is one in which the syllabus has been developed by NESA.

Category A courses

These courses have the academic rigour and depth of knowledge to provide an adequate background for tertiary studies.

Category B courses

These courses do not have the academic rigour and depth of knowledge to provide an adequate background for tertiary studies in themselves, but they can contribute to the ATAR if the other courses included in the ATAR calculation are more academically demanding.

In 2019 the Category B courses are:

- Automotive Examination
- Business Services Examination
- Construction Examination
- Electrotechnology Examination
- English Studies Examination
- Entertainment Industry Examination
- Financial Services Examination
- Hospitality Examination
- Human Services Examination
- Information and Digital Technology Examination
- Mathematics Standard 1 Examination
- Metal and Engineering Examination
- Primary Industries Examination
- Retail Services Examination
- Tourism, Travel and Events Examination.

NESA

The NSW Education Standards Authority sets the core curriculum for Kindergarten to Year 12, sets guidelines for school assessment tasks and sets, organises and marks the HSC examinations.

Percentile

A percentile indicates your position in a course against other students. The top percentile is 100 and the bottom percentile is 0. If your percentile in a course is 73, you are placed 27 per cent from the top of the students in that course.

UAC

The Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT) Pty Ltd is the central office that receives and processes applications for admission to most undergraduate courses offered by institutions in NSW and the ACT and other participating institutions. UAC also calculates and provides the ATAR to NSW students and, on behalf of the participating institutions, makes offers to courses.

ALL ABOUT YOUR ATAR

Prepared by UAC. The assistance of the Technical Committee on Scaling is gratefully acknowledged.

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IMAGES

Good Thanks Media

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Times

Times indicated in this publication are based on Sydney time.

Your privacy

When you apply to the Universities Admissions Centre (NSW & ACT) (UAC) you provide a lot of personal information, sometimes including health information.

UAC values the privacy of your personal information and recognises the importance of protecting it. UAC is bound by the following legislation:

- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* (NSW)
- *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth)
- *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002* (NSW).

This means that UAC must uphold the NSW State Information Protection Principles, the Australian Privacy Principles and the NSW Health Privacy Principles. UAC is committed to upholding these principles and has implemented policies and procedures to ensure they are met.

You can view UAC's Privacy Policy and applicant declarations at uac.edu.au/privacy.

ACCESS YOUR POTENTIAL.

UAC


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