CIRCULAR Number 2 of 2015

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STEVE HOATH
Executive Officer
The artwork on the cover of the 2016 TISC Guide is by

Joel Hawkins
a Year 12 Atwell College Student in 2014

Pursuit of happiness was chosen from
the Year 12 2014 Perspectives Exhibition
held at the Art Gallery of Western Australia

1 AUGUST DESPATCH TO SCHOOLS

The following information, for distribution to Year 12 students, will be sent to schools, commencing 6 August:

(i) 2016 TISC GUIDE

There is a Guide for all school leaver age students doing four or more WACE courses at stage 2 or 3, and mature age WACE students. Information for international students is available from the universities.

Extra copies of the Guide have been sent for distribution to students doing fewer than four courses at stage 2 or 3 who might be interested in applying for enabling courses offered by Curtin University or the portfolio entry pathway to Media and Design or OnTrack at Murdoch University. (Please note that students who will not receive an ATAR, but who are interested in applying for ECU’s Portfolio Pathway or ECU UniPrep, do not apply through TISC. They should lodge an online application via ECU’s website.)

(ii) Individual student letters

There is a personalised letter for all school leaver age students doing four or more WACE courses at stage 2 or 3 and mature age Year 12 students, who are not international students (including 457 Visa holders), advising them how to apply for university. It contains their 2015 WACE candidate number, which is also their TISC User ID.

Also see item 1 (iv) below about information sheets for all students sitting at least one WACE examination.

(iii) Lists of students

This list gives the 2015 WACE candidate number (TISC User ID) for those students without a personalised letter.
(iv) Release of Scaled Scores and ATARs

There is an information sheet for all year 12 students who will be sitting one or more WACE examinations in 2015, regardless of whether or not they have applied, or will be applying, for university, advising them about how to access their scaled scores and ATAR in December. Please also give this sheet to students in other years who may be sitting WACE examinations.

2 APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY

Students who are Australian or New Zealand citizens, or who have been granted Australian permanent residence, apply for university using TISCOnline (TISC’s online application) at www.tisc.edu.au, using their 2015 WACE candidate number as the UserID.

TISCOnline will open on Monday 10 August. An application processing fee must be paid before a student’s application is activated.

(i) Fees are as follows:

*Up to 11.00 pm 30 September 2015*
- $27 for WACE school age students, ie those students born on or after 1 March 1996;
- $57 for mature age students and IB students

*After 11.00 pm 30 September 2015*
- $138 for all applicants

An application through TISC is not complete and will not be considered until the application fee has been paid.

(ii) Applicants Contact Email Address

School applicants should provide a contact email that is not their school email address. This is because many schools do not allow these email addresses to operate or block broadcast emails from TISC in the December/January period when TISC may need to contact these applicants.

3 CHANGING PREFERENCES

Once they have applied for university through TISC, students may change preferences free of charge using TISCOnline (www.tisc.edu.au).

Students may change preferences as many times as they wish, subject to closing dates. However, it is advisable for them to wait until their university admission information is available from Wednesday 30 December 2015 before making changes.

Students should note, however, that they cannot add a preference for Assured Entry Pathways for Medicine or Dentistry at UWA after 30 September 2015.
The change of preference process online is a **three stage** process.

- Recording the preferences
- Recording a method of study for each preference
- Confirming the change(s)

At the end of the process a new reference number is given.

Until all three steps are complete, changes of preference are not finalised and the original preferences will remain.

4 **STUDENTS WITH VET QUALIFICATIONS**

The universities may consider VET qualifications (Certificate III for preparation and enabling courses; Certificate IV or above for other courses at Curtin, ECU and Murdoch: Diploma for UWA) as part of their assessment of applications.

Please remind students with these VET qualifications who apply through TISC to declare their VET study as part of their application. TISC does not obtain this information from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

(i) **State Training Provider (formerly TAFE) study**

If students are currently enrolled (second semester 2015) at a State Training Provider (formerly TAFE) and declare these studies in their application, TISC will attempt to retrieve their results direct from their State Training Provider, as long as they have applied through TISC before 30 November 2015.

Students who completed their qualification in Semester 1 2015 or earlier need to send their results to TISC. Students Application Coversheets will give further details.

(ii) **Private provider study or school RTO**

Students with VET qualifications from a private provider college or school RTO also need to send their results to TISC. Students' Application Coversheets will give further details.

5 **YEAR 12 RESULTS, ATAR, SCALED SCORES, UNIVERSITY ELIGIBILITY MESSAGES AND OFFER INFORMATION**

All Year 12 students who sat WACE examinations, regardless of whether or not they have applied for university, will be able to access their scaled scores; Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), if applicable; and university eligibility messages, if any, via www.tisc.edu.au from Wednesday 30 December 2015.

Offer information for university applicants will be available at www.tisc.edu.au – main round offers on Wednesday 20 January 2016 and second round offers on Wednesday 3 February 2016.

Access to the information is via a link on TISC’s home page using TISC User ID (2015 WACE candidate number) and Password.
6 HARD COPY OF UNIVERSITIES ADMISSION ADVICE LETTER (UAAL)

Students will be able to print a PDF copy of their UAAL from the web (see item 5 above).

TISC will not mail UAALs to students, unless they specifically order a copy via their TISC application or the separate link on TISC’s home page.

Further information about this service was outlined in the sheet (Release of Scaled Scores and ATARs), see item 1(iv) above.

7 UPDATES TO UNIVERSITY COURSES FOR 2016

TISC will update the courses database at www.tisc.edu.au as information about changes made since the publication of the 2016 TISC Guide becomes available. Prospective students should check the site regularly for new courses or changes and then view full details using the Course Search facility.

8 UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

A link to a list of university open days is available on TISC’s home page www.tisc.edu.au.

9 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

A link to access information about a range of university scholarships is available on TISC’s home page www.tisc.edu.au.

10 2016 YEAR 12 STUDENTS FAQs

Over the past few months, TISC has received a number of enquiries about 2016 Year 12 courses, scaling and 2017 university admission requirements.

We have developed the following FAQs to help address some of these questions.

These FAQs provide only a brief summary. Readers are strongly urged to also read the 2017 University Admission Requirements for School Leavers that can be found at: http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/guide/slar-2017.pdf.

WACE COURSES AND THE AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION RANK (ATAR)

Question: Can General Courses count in the calculation of my ATAR?
Answer: No, only your ATAR Courses can count in the calculation of your ATAR.
Question: Can Human Biology ATAR and Biology ATAR courses both count in the calculation of my ATAR?
Answer: Yes, from 2016, this combination is acceptable.

Question: If I study all three Mathematics courses; Mathematics: Applications ATAR, Mathematics: Methods ATAR and Mathematics: Specialist ATAR, can all three count in the calculation of my ATAR?
Answer: No. If you take all three mathematics courses, only your best two scaled scores from the three courses can count in the calculation of your ATAR.

For more information on courses that can be used to form an ATAR and unacceptable course combinations please read pages 3 to 5 of the 2017 University Admission Requirements for School Leavers brochure.

UNIVERSITY COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH

Question: Can my results in the NAPLAN or OLNA tests be used to meet the universities' competence in English requirement?
Answer: No.

Question: Can my results in the course English General be used to meet the universities’ competence in English requirement?
Answer: No.

To achieve the universities’ competence in English students need to sit the Year 12 WACE examination in English ATAR, Literature ATAR or EALD ATAR. ECU will also accept appropriate letter grades in a Year 12 ATAR English course.

For more information on University Competence in English, please read pages 2 and 3 of the 2017 University Admission Requirements for School Leavers brochure.

2016 SCALING

Question: Will increments be added to course marks?
Answer: No, from 2016 WACE ATAR courses will not be examined at different stages. Therefore there will be no need to have increments to reward stage 3 over stage 2 within a course.

Question: Will the three Mathematics courses be combined or scaled together, if so, how?
Answer: No, each of the ATAR mathematics courses will be scaled separately in the same way as all other ATAR courses will be scaled. Given the general difference in ability of the students doing the three Mathematics courses, after scaling it is expected that the mean (average) scaled score in Mathematics: Specialist ATAR will be the highest followed by Mathematics: Methods ATAR then Mathematics: Applications ATAR. This is similar to what occurred with the Tertiary Entrance Examinations (TEE) Calculus, Applicable Mathematics and Discrete Mathematics.
Question: Given I am very good at Mathematics, would it be to my advantage to do Mathematics: Methods ATAR and the easier Mathematics: Applications ATAR?
Answer: No, to maximise your results you should study courses at the highest level of difficulty you are capable of. The Scaling Implementation Committee will review the scaling output of students undertaking such Mathematics combinations to ensure capable Mathematics students do not gain an unfair advantage by undertaking a hard and easy Mathematics combination.

Question: What scaling method will be used in 2016?
Answer: The Average Marks Scaling (AMS) process will be used to adjust the combined marks to scaled scores. The AMS methodology has been used since 1998. From 2009 to 2015 the AMS was complicated by the use of increments to separate stage 3 from stage 2 within each course. From 2016 increments will no longer exist and hence the AMS process will revert to how it was in the days of the TEE.

Question: In 2016 which courses will scale up and by how much?
Answer: The amount of scaling up or down is dependent on the ability of the students undertaking each course and this can vary from year to year. It is reasonable to expect that courses that scaled up in the past will continue to scale up. (Scaling up means that the mean (average) scaled score for the course is greater than 60.) Exactly by how much a course will scale up (or down) is not possible to determine until the students sit the examinations and their results are scaled. Individual course scaling outcomes are not predetermined.

A detailed explanation of the 2016 Marks Adjustment Process from raw examination and raw school assessment marks to scaled scores is available at:


11 2017 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR MATURE AGE APPLICANTS

TISC will publish the brochure summarising admission requirements for 2016 mature age WACE students wishing to enter university in 2017 online at www.tisc.edu.au by early November. TISC does not produce hard copy brochures. TISCUpdates subscribers will be notified by email when the brochure is available.

12 2018 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2017 SCHOOL LEAVERS

The brochure summarising admission requirements for 2017 WACE students is available online at www.tisc.edu.au.

Please note that:

- The study of the course English General will not meet the universities’ competence in English requirement.
• From 2017, Biology ATAR and Human Biology ATAR will be an acceptable combination. That is scaled scores in both courses can count in the ATAR.
• Students may sit the exams in all three Mathematics courses; Mathematics: Specialist ATAR, Mathematics: Methods ATAR, Mathematics: Applications ATAR. However not more than two scaled scores in mathematics can count in the calculation of an ATAR.

13 SUBSCRIBE TO TISCUpdates

This circular has only been published online, at www.tisc.edu.au. If you are reading hard copy printed by someone else, consider subscribing to TISCUpdates to receive email notification when the next circular is published online.

TISCUpdates is a free subscription service, and TISC will email you when school circulars or new information about university admission are published on TISC’s website. To subscribe, click the ‘Subscribe to TISCUpdates’ link on the home page of www.tisc.edu.au.