

CIRCULAR Number 1 of 2016

This is the first circular for secondary schools this year – **February 2016**

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WAYNE BETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1 **ADVICE OF UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

TISC prepares and publishes admission requirements (available for downloading from TISC's website www.tisc.edu.au) on behalf of the universities each year. TISC's policy is not to endorse any of the summaries which may be prepared by schools or others. This avoids the possibility of unnoticed ambiguities or inaccuracies misleading prospective students.

The four universities have asked TISC to inform schools that the **ONLY** official notification of changes to admission requirements are those made direct from the university(ies) concerned, or through TISC's website on behalf of the universities.

2 **REMINDER – DEFINITION OF SCHOOL LEAVER**

For the purpose of university admission, a Year 12 student is a 'School Leaver' if the student is under 20 years of age on the last day of February in the year of admission.

Note: If a student turns 20 years of age on 1 March in the year of admission he/she is a 'School Leaver'. For example, a student born on 1 March 1997 is a school leaver for the purpose of admission to university in 2017, and hence is not eligible for a two-course mature age ATAR.

3 **TEA TO ATAR CALCULATOR**

The TEA to ATAR calculator for 2016 admission (2015 Year 12) is accessible from the tag at the top of TISC's home page. This calculator should not be used to predict future ATARs.

4 **2017 UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (2016 YEAR 12)**

4.1 **Power Point Presentation**

A revised Power Point presentation, with notes, for 2016 Year 12 students and interested staff, on university admission requirements, application process etc, will be available from the beginning of March at www.tisc.edu.au, in the Downloads area.

4.2 **School leavers**

School Leavers (including those repeating Year 12) must meet the following four requirements for courses at Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia.

a) *Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)*

Achievement of WACE is a mandatory requirement for all universities. If any of your Year 12 students completed Year 11 overseas or interstate then your school will need to seek credit from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to ensure these studies count towards achieving WACE.

b) Competence in English

Competence in English is usually achieved by a scaled score of at least 50 in English ATAR, English as an Additional Language Dialect (EALD) ATAR for eligible students, or Literature ATAR.

The universities will also concede competence in English on the basis of exam marks or moderated school assessments in these courses.

English General, Literature General and EALD General will not satisfy university competence in English requirements.

c) Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

A Tertiary Entrance Aggregate is calculated by adding a student's best four scaled scores + 10% of the best LOTE scaled score, subject to unacceptable combinations. Only ATAR courses contribute to the TEA calculation. No course can be counted more than once. Students can accumulate scaled scores from past courses from 2012 for the 'best four', subject to unacceptable combinations, and for the LOTE bonus. The maximum TEA is 410. The ATAR is derived from the TEA.

d) Prerequisites

For some university courses it is also necessary to meet prerequisite requirements. Generally, a scaled score of 50 or more in a specified ATAR course is required for prerequisite purposes.

4.3 Mature Age Students

For Mature Age students, the TEA will be the sum of a student's best two scaled scores, multiplied by two + 10% of the best LOTE scaled score, if any. All courses must be sat in the same year. Maximum TEA is 410.

Further Information

For detailed 2017 University Admission Requirements for School Leavers and for Mature Age students, go to www.tisc.edu.au and click on 'Admission Requirements' on the right hand menu to find the appropriate admission requirements.

5 2018 UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (2017 YEAR 12)

The admission requirements for 2017 Year 12 students were published in 2015 and are on TISC's website under 'Admission Requirements' on the right hand menu.

Schools are reminded that students wishing to qualify for university entry must study sufficient ATAR courses to allow an ATAR to be calculated, taking into account unacceptable combinations.

5.1 Competence in English

Schools should take particular note that students undertaking English General, Literature General or English as an Additional Language or Dialect General courses will **not** satisfy the universities' competence in English requirement.

6 2019 UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (2018 YEAR 12)

TISC will publish the 2019 University Admission Requirements for School Leavers on the website before the end of Term 2. TISC will email TISCUpdate subscribers when this occurs. (See item 15 about subscribing to TISCUpdates.)

7 2015 SCALING

Detailed statistics and information concerning scaling of 2015 Year 12 results are available at www.tisc.edu.au. These include:

- Explanation of the Marks Adjustment Process
- Scaled score histograms of stage 2 and stage 3
- ATAR distribution

8 2016 UNIVERSITY OFFERS

A press release, summarising university applications and offers for 2016, is on the TISC website at www.tisc.edu.au, under *More Information*.

The following table summarises applications and offers for 2015 WACE students (excludes international students).

2015 WACE (2016 admission)	Number
WACE students (inc. Mature Age)	24,819
WACE students who applied through TISC	12,592
WACE students offered a university place	11,817

Cut-off and indicative ATARs, as well as application and offer statistics by course, are on the TISC web site – www.tisc.edu.au under Publications, Reports and Statistics.

9 MATHEMATICS ATAR COURSES

TISC has received a number of enquiries about the scaling of Mathematics ATAR courses in 2016. Towards the end of 2015, a submission was received, proposing a mechanism to separate the means of Mathematics Applications and Mathematics Methods, as an incentive for students to undertake the more demanding course. The proposal was discussed extensively at a number of TISC and SCSA committees, and forwarded to TISC member universities for consideration; however, it was not supported by most universities.

As a result, there will be no special scaling arrangements applied to Mathematics ATAR courses in 2016. Mathematics Applications, Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist will be scaled as individual courses, in the same way as all other ATAR courses.

10 MARKS ADJUSTMENT PROCESS 2016

WACE ATAR courses will be examined for the first time in 2016. As there will no longer be examinations for different course stages/unit pairs, the marks adjustment processes will be streamlined accordingly. The processes for 2016 will be akin to those previously in place during the TEE era. An explanation of the processes is available on the TISC website, via a link on the home page (www.tisc.edu.au).

11 VISITS TO SCHOOLS

TISC has staff available to visit schools to explain procedural matters relating to university admission, including how to apply, calculation of the ATAR, preference system, etc.

If you would like a TISC staff member to visit to speak to your Year 12 students/parents/staff, please contact Robyn (9318 8038). If a country school requests a visit, TISC will also take the initiative and contact other schools in the area to see if they can fit in with planned visit dates.

12 TISC PUBLICATIONS AND DESPATCHES TO SCHOOLS

12.1 Online publications

- School Circulars
- Admission Requirements for School Leavers
- Admission Requirements for Mature Age Students
- University Admission – Information for International Baccalaureate (IB) students

TISC emails TISCUpdates subscribers when this information is published or updated. As this is the only notification that will be sent, please ensure that at least one person from your school is a subscriber (see item 15 below for details about how to subscribe).

12.2 Despatches to schools

- University prospectuses
- *2017 TISC Guide*

These publications are distributed to schools. Despatches to schools are always addressed to the Principal, but are intended for distribution to Year 12 students.

12.3 Publication/despatch schedule:

- **February, August and October and other times as appropriate**
School Circulars published (*online only*). Email notification of publication sent to TISCUpdates subscribers (see item 12 of this Circular).
- **May**
University prospectuses for 2017 entry despatched, for distribution to 2016 Year 12 students.
- **June**
2019 Admission Requirements for School Leavers brochure, for 2016 Year 10 students, published (*online only*).

- **Early August**
2017 TISC Guide for 2016 Year 12 students published and despatched to schools. All Guide information is also published on TISC's website.
- **September**
2018 Admission Requirements for Mature Age Students brochure, for 2017 mature age students, published (*online only*).

13 TISC REPORTS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

TISC's three reports to schools:

- University Admissions Qualification Register
- University Application Statistics Report
- Offers by Field of Education

for 2015 Year 12 students have been available since early January. These reports are dynamic, with enrolment/deferral information added as it is obtained from the universities. TISC expects the reports to contain final data around 10 March.

Access to the reports is available to one authorised user from each school. TISC invited schools to apply for this access to 2015 students' results and pay the required fee in TISC School Circular number 3 in October 2015. If you have any queries about your school's access to the reports, contact Robyn, 9318 8038.

14 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

TISC is calling for expressions of interest from teachers experienced in setting WACE examinations to be an examination setter or checker for the Western Australian Universities Foundation Program (WAUFP) in the following subjects:

Accounting and Finance
 Business Management and Enterprise
 Chemistry
 Computer Science
 Earth and Environmental Science
 Economics
 Human Biological Sciences
 Mathematics Specialist
 Mathematics Applications
 Mathematics Methods
 Physics
 Psychology

WAUFP is a one year foundation program offered to international students at Canning College, Tuart College, St George's Anglican Grammar School and the International School attached to Nanjing Normal University, China. The students must have completed school in their home country and be seeking entry into a Western Australian University. The Program offers 13 subjects of which the above 12 follow the WACE syllabus. The WAUFP subject examinations are separate from the WACE examination but are run concurrently.

Examination Setter

This involves setting an original examination paper to be used in the WAUFP final examinations. The paper should be set at the same level of difficulty as the WACE subject examination and, in most cases, follow the same format as the WACE examination. Attention must be paid to the language used in the paper because English is usually the student's second language. The setter must provide a copy of the solutions to TISC. A draft of the paper, ready for checking must be completed and returned to TISC by Friday 3 June 2016. The fee paid for setting a subject examination paper is \$2300.

Examination Checker

The checker is required to work the paper to ensure that the material examined in the subject examination paper is contained within the syllabus, that marks are allocated appropriately, and to the correctness of grammar and spelling, the clarity of the questions and the overall formatting of the paper. The checker needs to liaise with the setter to produce the final paper. The fee paid for checking a subject examination paper is \$650.

Applicants must have teaching qualifications and recent experience in the preparation of subject examination papers at a year 12 level. Experience with teaching international students may also be of advantage.

Expressions of interest stating experience should be forwarded to the following address by Monday 14 March 2016.

Sulli Foster
WAUFP Coordinator
TISC
Level 1, 100 Royal Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

or email to sullivanw@tisc.edu.au

15 SUBSCRIBE TO TISCUupdates

The *Subscribe to TISCUupdates* facility is a free subscription service enabling subscribers to be advised when TISC's website is updated. TISC emails subscribers when school circulars or new information about university admission are published on TISC's website. No other notification is sent. To subscribe, click the tag at the home page of www.tisc.edu.au.