

## CIRCULAR 2 OF 2017

### CONTENTS

- 1 SEMESTER ONE APPLICATIONS**
  - 2 UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS OPT IN/OUT**
  - 3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS COURSE SEARCH**
  - 4 EARLY ENGINEERING OFFERS**
  - 5 ATAR/SELECTION RANK CHECK FUNCTIONALITY**
  - 6 MINIMUM AND GUARANTEED ATARS/SELECTION RANKS**
  - 7 ADMISSIONS TRANSPARENCY**
  - 8 RESULTS RELEASE DATE 2017**
  - 9 COURSE CHANGES**
  - 10 ATTACHMENT: INFORMATION ON ADMISSIONS TRANSPARENCY**
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#### **1 SEMESTER ONE 2018 APPLICATIONS**

Applications for entry to university in Semester One 2018 are now open. Copies of the 2018 TISC Guide, and personalised letters for Year 12 students have been distributed to schools. The application fee for current Year 12 WACE and International Baccalaureate students is \$33 until Friday 29 September. After this date, a late fee of \$155 applies.

#### **2 UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS OPT IN/OUT**

This year, applicants will be asked whether or not they wish to receive marketing and recruitment communications from the universities. If they opt in, they may receive recruitment communications from any university, regardless of whether they have courses from that institution in their preference list. If they opt out, universities should only contact them if they need to provide or request information directly relating to the assessment of preferences for their institution. Applicants may change their communication preference at any time by emailing [privacy@tisc.edu.au](mailto:privacy@tisc.edu.au).

#### **3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: COURSE SEARCH**

As well as the four foundation members of TISC (the four public universities in WA), we currently have three institutions as Associate Members: North Metropolitan TAFE, CQUniversity and Tabor College of Higher Education. To provide more comprehensive information to students, Associate Members are now able to list their courses within our Course Search database; however, applications for these courses are submitted directly to the

respective institution. Applicants will not be able to add these courses to their TISC preferences.

#### **4 EARLY ENGINEERING OFFERS**

All four public universities will be making early offers for engineering courses again this year. Previous information on our website and in the TISC Guide indicated that Murdoch University would not be participating; however, Murdoch has since clarified that they will be issuing early engineering offers.

Additional information on the early engineering offers is available at:

<https://www.tisc.edu.au/static/guide/early-offers.tisc>

#### **5 ATAR/SELECTION RANK CHECK FUNCTIONALITY**

For registered users of the TISC website and university applicants a useful tool has been developed that allows users to enter their expected ATAR/Selection Rank and receive visual feedback on whether that value meets the requirements for entry to the courses in their personal course folder (used for shortlisting courses of interest) and/or their official preference list. The tool compares the value entered with the guaranteed entry ATAR/Selection Rank determined by the universities for many of their courses (see the next item for more on the guaranteed entry ATAR/Selection Rank).

#### **6 MINIMUM AND GUARANTEED ATARS/SELECTION RANKS**

You will notice some changes in terminology around ATAR thresholds this year. For a number of years, TISC has used the term 'indicative ATAR/Selection Rank' to provide Year 12 students with an indication of the rank likely to be required for entry to a course in the coming admissions period. After further discussions, we are moving to the terms 'guaranteed entry ATAR/Selection Rank' and 'minimum ATAR/Selection Rank' to provide even clearer information to students.

A minimum ATAR/Selection Rank lets students know the lowest rank that will be considered for entry to a course, but is not a guarantee that a student who reaches that threshold will be admitted. There may be a limited number of places available or additional selection criteria used in the final ranking process.

Where a 'guaranteed entry ATAR/Selection Rank' has been published for a course, it gives applicants certainty that if they reach that threshold, and have satisfied other basic requirements such as achieving WACE, satisfying English proficiency requirements and any prerequisites, they will be able to enter the course. The actual offer that applicants receive from TISC, of course, will be determined by their preference order.

#### **7 ADMISSIONS TRANSPARENCY**

Universities across Australia have been working with the Australian government to provide clearer information on entry requirements for university courses.

Institutions will be required to provide consistent information on entry pathways as well as reporting in greater detail on the outcomes of admissions intakes. This will provide information on the variety of qualifications and experiences universities have used in assessing people for entry, as well as profiles of the ATAR range of Year 12 students admitted

to each course. Universities across Australia will also adopt common terminology to present admissions information.

The document attached to this Circular outlines some of the changes you can expect to see during the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

If there is sufficient interest from Year Coordinators, Career Practitioners and/or other school staff TISC is happy to arrange briefing sessions on the changes to admissions reporting and their implications. It is anticipated that the briefings will be conducted at TISC's offices, in East Perth; however, if there is sufficient interest from enough schools in a local area, we will try to arrange to present the briefing at a mutually-convenient time and venue close by. Please register your interest by emailing [info@tisc.edu.au](mailto:info@tisc.edu.au).

## **8 RESULTS RELEASE DATE 2017**

TISC has worked with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and the universities to bring forward the release date of WACE results and ATARs from 2017 onwards.

Results and ATARs will be released on Tuesday 19 December 2017.

## **9 COURSE CHANGES**

Between the hard-copy TISC Guide going to print and the release of offers, there can be a number of changes to the availability of courses.

Changes to course availability – both new courses and cancelled courses – and any clarifications to course entry assessment criteria are listed on the TISC website, under [‘Updates to Undergraduate Courses for 2018 Admission’](#).

Any students affected by the cancellation of courses are notified by TISC and/or the institution concerned, and provided with information on alternative programs for their consideration.

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WAYNE BETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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# TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SERVICE CENTRE

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## Admissions Transparency: more information to support student choice

### Introduction

Universities across Australia are working with the Australian government to provide clearer information on entry requirements for university courses.

Institutions will be required to provide consistent information on entry pathways as well as reporting in greater detail on the outcomes of admissions intakes. This will provide information on the variety of qualifications and experiences universities have used in assessing people for entry, as well as profiles of the ATAR range of Year 12 students admitted to each course. Universities across Australia will also adopt common terminology to present admissions information.

The Admissions Transparency implementation plan is available at:

<https://docs.education.gov.au/node/44471>

This document outlines some of the changes you can expect to see during the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

### Consistent information

The presentation of consistent information will help students compare entry requirements across different institutions. Some of the information will talk about admission to the university as a whole. This will be supplemented by information related to particular courses or areas of study.

### Use of common terminology

Common terminology, with agreed definitions, will be used to help students compare admission requirements between courses and institutions across Australia. Some of the common terms are introduced in this document. You will notice new terms appearing on university websites during the rest of 2017, alongside more familiar definitions. For 2019 entry information (in prospectuses and on websites), some terms (such as 'cut-off' and 'indicative ATAR') will be phased out and replaced with the new terminology.

### Profile of students entering a course

Universities will provide information on the various pathways used to gain entry to each course and the proportion of people who were admitted via each entry pathway during the most relevant recent intake period. This will help applicants see how many people with similar educational backgrounds have entered the course/university in the most recent intake period.

The information will show how many students gained entry to the university (and individual courses) from the following broad pathways:

- Previous higher education study
- Previous vocational (VET) study
- Recent secondary study (in the last two years)
- Work and life experience

For students admitted on the basis of recent secondary study, information will be given on how many:

- were admitted solely on their ATAR;
- were admitted on ATAR plus other criteria; and
- received an offer based solely on other criteria (instead of their ATAR).

## **ATAR-related entry thresholds**

Universities will also provide more information on the relevant ATAR thresholds for courses where students have been admitted solely on the basis of ATAR, or where ATAR was a significant factor in selection alongside other criteria.

- **Lowest ATAR to which an offer was made in [year] (exclusive of any adjustment factors)**  
Universities will report the lowest 'raw' ATAR (ie: excluding any institution-specific bonus points) of a student admitted to the course in a particular year, after all offers have been made. This information has not been published in WA previously.
- **Lowest Selection Rank to which an offer was made in [year] (including the impact of ATAR and any adjustment factors)**  
Universities may also report the lowest selection rank (ie: ATAR, plus institution-specific bonus points, if applicable) of a student admitted to the course. *This information is generally comparable with the historical 'cut-off' ranks reported for many courses in Western Australia.*
- **Minimum ATAR/Selection Rank**  
Where appropriate, universities will provide a minimum ATAR/selection rank for particular courses for the next intake period. These show the minimum rank required to be considered for a course, but do not guarantee selection to the course. The ATAR/selection rank quoted is inclusive of any bonuses/adjustment factors.
- **Guaranteed ATAR/Selection Rank**  
For many courses, universities are able to provide guaranteed entry ATAR/selection ranks for the next admissions cycle. These represent the ATAR/selection rank at which entry to a course is guaranteed, provided English, prerequisite and WACE requirements have been satisfied. Again, the ATAR/selection rank quoted is inclusive of any bonuses/adjustment factors. Guaranteed entry thresholds are not published when there are limited places available in a course and/or when selection criteria additional to ATAR are used.

The first two pieces of information reflect completed admissions periods, while the last two provide information on forthcoming admissions cycles. See the information later in this document on ATAR and Selection Rank.

## **ATAR profile of incoming student cohort**

Another new set of information will show the range of ATARs and selection ranks for recent secondary students being made an offer for each course.

The course information will show:

- The highest ATAR and the highest selection rank to receive an offer.
- The lowest ATAR and the lowest selection rank to receive an offer.
- The ATAR and selection rank at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile to receive an offer.
- The median ATAR and selection rank to receive an offer.
- The ATAR and selection rank at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile to receive an offer.

## **Streamlining interstate applications**

TISC is working with Tertiary Admissions Centres in other states to improve cross-border application processes. In the short term, information for students considering applying interstate will be given more prominence in the printed TISC Guide and on TISC's website, with links to other Admissions Centres. Longer-term, we will develop functionality so that students can apply to interstate institutions more easily and at lower cost.

## **Further terminology**

The following terms have been agreed for use across all Australian institutions to clarify the difference between *ATAR* and *Selection Rank*:

### **ATAR**

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number that shows a student's relative academic standing within their peer cohort in the year they graduated from senior secondary school. The ATAR is calculated according to rules established in each state. In Western Australia, the rules for ATAR calculation include bonuses for study in Languages Other than English and Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist courses. (See <http://www.tisc.edu.au/static/guide/atar-about.tisc> for more details of the ATAR calculation in WA.)

### **Adjustment Factors**

Individual institutions may award additional ATAR bonus points to students from particular backgrounds. For WA year 12 students, these are calculated automatically by TISC and advised to students when they receive notification of their results and ATAR. In some other states, additional points may be applied by institutions for entry to particular courses, based on the subjects students have taken in year 12. Any bonuses applied to the ATAR by individual institutions in this way are now termed 'adjustment factors'.

### **Selection Rank**

After adjustment factors are applied to the ATAR, the resulting number is called a Selection Rank. A student may have different selection ranks for different universities. Institutions use the selection rank they have assigned when they assess an applicant for entry to their courses. For students who do not receive any adjustment factors, their ATAR is their selection rank.

For example: a student from a regional WA school achieves an ATAR of 83.45 and is eligible to receive 5 bonus points from a particular university. Their selection rank for entry to that institution will be 88.45.

### **Further information**

If you have any questions in relation to any of the changes, please contact TISC ([info@tisc.edu.au](mailto:info@tisc.edu.au)) or the admissions offices of any of the universities.

4 August 2017