

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SERVICE CENTRE LTD

Level 1, 100 Royal Street
East Perth, Western Australia 6004
Telephone (08) 9318 8000
Website www.tisc.edu.au

2018 SCALING and ATAR INFORMATION

The purpose of this document is to help you understand some of the outcomes from the 2018 marks adjustment (scaling) process.

In 2018 there were 82 courses examined, including 29 language courses using interstate syllabi.

The Marks Adjustment Process

The main steps in the marks adjustment process are:

- The School Curriculum & Standards Authority moderates school assessments against exam results, then combines the moderated school assessment and exam results to produce combined marks for each course studied.
- The combined marks are standardised before the scaling process.
- TISC and the School Curriculum & Standards Authority jointly scale the course results.

Full details of the marks adjustment process are at

<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/misc/marks-adjustment-process.pdf>

Once the scaling process has been completed, the average of all scaled scores across all courses is 60.

A comparison of average scaled scores from 2018 and 2017 courses shows this year's averages are similar to last year's.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

11,920 school leavers achieved an ATAR in 2018 compared to 12,170 in 2017.

Seventeen school leavers achieved the maximum ATAR of 99.95.

Methodology

The ATAR reports students' rank position relative to all other students. It takes into account the number of students who site the WACE examinations in any year and also the number of people of Year 12 school leaving age in the total population.

Students' best four scaled scores are added together to form a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate. Students who have scaled scores in a Language Other Than English (LOTE), Mathematics Methods or Mathematics Specialist have 10% of those scaled scores added to their aggregate.

The highest aggregate possible in 2018 was 430.

Once aggregates for all eligible students have been calculated, a formula based on the proportion

The median ATAR in 2018 is 81.80.

A technical explanation of how the ATAR is calculated is available at:

<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static-fixed/statistics/ter-frequency/atar-technical-specification.pdf>

University Competence in English Requirement

Competence in English for university admission is normally achieved by a scaled score of 50 in an English course.

The following is the percentage of students achieving a scaled score of 50.

Literature ATAR	91.2%
English ATAR	73.6%
EALD ATAR	72.8%

For a number of years, the universities have also considered students' standardised exam or standardised moderated school assessments in determining competence in English, for those students whose scaled score was less than 50. Universities considered students' raw written examination mark or moderated school assessment to concede competence in English for those students who did not achieve a minimum scaled score of 50 or higher. The threshold required for this concession is at least 55 for Murdoch and 60 for UWA and Curtin.

Overall, 88% of students who have applied for university have achieved university competence in English for at least one university. 75% have achieved competence in English for all four universities.

Students who have sat the WACE examination in one of the three English ATAR courses (English, Literature or EALD), and have satisfied other admission requirements for a particular university but have not achieved competence in English for that university, are usually invited via their Universities Admission Advice Letter (UAAL) to sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) as a further chance to demonstrate their competence in English for university entry in Semester 1, 2019.

Mathematics

The scaling process producing the following means for Mathematics subjects in 2018:

Mathematics Applications	55.5
Mathematics Methods	65.5
Mathematics Specialist	68.2

These means are very similar to those achieved in 2017 for these courses.

Further information

More information on the marks adjustment process, 2018 scaled scores and ATAR distributions and courses used is available at www.tisc.edu.au, under *Resources>Statistics*