

VTAC 2016 Key Dates

Scholarships through VTAC close	Friday 14 October 2016
VTAC Personal Statement ***	Friday 2 December 2016
ATARs Released	Monday 12 December 2016
COP for Early International Offers closes	Thursday 15 December 2016
Early Round International Offers	Monday 19 December 2016
Change of Preference (COP) closes	Tuesday 20 December 2016
Main Round International Offers	Monday 9 January 2017
Main Round Domestic Offers	Wednesday 18 January 2017
Further Offer Rounds	Tuesday 7 February 2017 onwards

*** Students who missed the SEAS deadline can add information to your course application about how your studies have been affected or disadvantaged by circumstances out of your control. This can be done through the VTAC Personal Statement. *The Personal Statement is not a replacement for SEAS. The Personal Statement is not equivalent to submitting a SEAS application, however it is an opportunity for you to outline impacting circumstances.*

For a full list of cancelled, amended and new courses, visit [VTAC Course Updates](#)

www.vtac.edu.au

HELPFUL STEPS FOR CHANGE OF PREFERENCE PERIOD

Step 1: Gather information

You now have your results, so you need to gather all of the information that will help you assess your current preference list and make an educated decision about how to re-order your preferences. Some helpful information sources include:

- <http://www.vtac.edu.au/>
- Tertiary lift outs in *The Age* and the *Herald Sun*
- Publications from the institutions you are interested in
- Information provided to you by course selection officers, course coordinators, the school

Step 2: Assess your list

- **Be Realistic:** For courses that select on ATAR make sure you include course choices that you are likely to be selected for based on last year's ATAR.
- **Be Informed:** Make sure you've got the prerequisites and extra requirements required for any new courses you're listing (as listed on the VTAC site).
- **Be Safe:** Include at least two courses that you are fairly sure you will be accepted into. It is better to be accepted into a TAFE course than no course at all, and then you can use your studies at TAFE to gain selection into University in the following year/s.
- **Be Honest:** Make sure you are willing to study ALL the courses you include on your list.

Step 3: Get advice

This step is important to ensure you maximise the effectiveness of your preference choices. Most institutions are available during the Change of Preference period to give you advice about their programs. Change of preference advice is also available at the Senior campus. The Careers Room will be open on Monday 12th –Monday 19th December.

You can also email Ritterman.jennifer.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Hanlen.debra..anne@edumail.vic.gov.au

or call 85990536 during this time

Step 4: Change Preferences

You will need to change your preferences online through <http://www.vtac.edu.au/> - log in to the system in the same way as you initially applied. **Ensure you have checked the prerequisites and extra requirements for any course you are adding to your preference list.** The online process provides you with prompts along the way.

Step 5: Relax

You've done it! Your preferences, results and all other relevant documentation will be forwarded to the institutions you have applied to. Now you can sit back, relax and prepare for what the future holds.

Please note, if you are planning to be away in January when offers come out, make sure you have someone to open your mail for you. Your offer letter also contains your enrolment details.

RECEIVING AN OFFER

- The **first round of offers for local students will available on MyInfo from 18 January 2016. International offers available on 9 January 2016.** There will be some **second round offers on 7 February** and **supplementary offers later in February.**

ACCEPTING AN OFFER

To accept an offer you must enrol in the course. You can accept an offer in a later round even if you have already accepted an earlier offer; however, you should withdraw from the original course.

REMINDERS

- Don't apply for courses **you really don't wish to do** simply to fill the eight choices
- Look at **all options** – often the required ATAR at a rural campus is lower than a city one for a similar course; if you are looking at this option, check out accommodation prices and availability.
- Check **clearly-in data from last year** for courses you are applying for and be realistic
- Apply for **both university and TAFE** – remember you can 'articulate' from many TAFE courses to university (two years at TAFE often equals one year at university)
- **Don't think too long-term.** You are likely to have around six careers in your lifetime, so thinking about what you are 'going to do with the rest of your life' is unrealistic. Thinking about what you will do for the next five or so years is more realistic.
- Some courses are cancelled and new ones added, so **check the VTAC website regularly.**
- If you have **questions about a course** you can: email or phone the institution. Email and phone numbers are provided at the beginning of each institution's entry in the VTAC Guide.
- Research the course content via the handbooks on the tertiary websites – Find out what you will study on a day to day basis, not just go by the name of the course.
- Travel to the university to find out how far away it is before you commit.
- Read the **information about scholarships, deferment, special entry schemes**, etc on the pages at the beginning of each institution's entry in the Guide.

DEFERRING YOUR OFFER

If you are **considering having a year off from study in 2017**, you have been advised to **apply for a course in 2016 and defer acceptance of any offer you receive**. This means that the university holds a place for you for 12 months. **Most** university courses can be deferred (check individual institute entries); contact individual TAFE's for information. Some universities now offer up to 2 years deferment.

INDEPENDENT TERTIARY COLLEGES

These are found throughout the Guide. They offer both diploma and degree courses. Be aware that **fees for these courses** can be quite high.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How should I order my course choices?

You should always list your preferences in the order that you would like to accept them, that is in preferential order. The course at the top of your list should be the course that you want to study the most. The next is your second favorite and so on. Most importantly, all the courses on your list should be courses that interest you. The list should be made up of courses that you have researched and are reasonably confident that you will be considered for during selection.

ATARs from previous years should only be used as a guide as they change from year to year.

2. Do I have to change my preference?

Changing your preferences is not compulsory. If you feel happy and confident with your initial list of preferences that you lodged with VTAC there is no reason to make the changes.

If you decide to change your preferences, be sure to check that you have satisfied all the prerequisites and extra requirements for the courses you are adding.

3. Do I have to change all of my preferences or can I just change some of them? What if I only want to change one course on my list?

If you are altering your original preferences list in any way, that is adding courses, deleting courses or simply changing order, you need to put a new list in to change any preferences. Ensure that you follow the guidelines in the VTAC Guide 2017. There is no minimum number of changes you can make to your list – just ensure that you have met all requirements of any new programs you may be adding to your list.

4. Who selects me for the courses I am interested in?

Universities and TAFEs appoint selection officers for each individual course. It is the selection officer who decides which applicants will receive an offer. VTAC acts as the administrative body for the processing of applications they are not involved in the selection process.

5. How do I find out what the clearly-in rank will be for the courses that I'm interested in?

Clearly-in ranks are not set in advance. Selection officers do not know what the clearly-in ranks for any course will be until after selection is completed. Clearly-in ranks change from year to year and are determined by:

- the number of places available in that particular course;
- the number of applications; and
- the applicants' Year 12 results.

6. The course I'm interested in does not list a clearly-in rank; it just lists 'RC'. What does this mean?

'RC' indicates that a range of selection criteria applies. Not all courses choose students based on their ATAR alone. A course that has 'RC' listed will have extra requirements such as information sessions, pre-selection interviews, tests and special information forms, etc. that must be met to be considered for selection. Please check the VTAC Guide for details regarding extra requirements for each course. Courses that use a range of selection criteria as the basis for selection do not publish a clearly-in ATAR.

7. What other criteria do selection officers consider when selecting students?

Entry for some courses is determined by ATAR results alone. For other courses, entry can be determined by performance at interview; quality of your portfolio; or even a combination of all of these things. Selection officers will also take into consideration any additional information you may have provided on any Supplementary Information form requested.

To find out what criteria a selection officer will be using when making selection decisions, look at the course entry in the VTAC Guide 2016. Each course entry has a Selection Mode section. This section will tell you what factors are considered when assessing suitability of applicants.

8. What does 'middle-band' selection mean?

For courses that use the ATAR for the basis of selection there is a two-stage process.

Stage 1

The selection officer for the course ranks the applicants by their ATAR score. The top 80% applicants are identified. These applicants are considered 'clearly-in'.

Stage 2

The remaining 20% of applicants are selected by using additional information. Students considered for these places are said to be in the middle band. These students do not have ATARs high enough for automatic selection, but have ATARs above that which are automatically eliminated. Their application is considered using the middle band criteria. Each course listed in the VTAC Guide has a 'middle-band' section that outlines what the selection officers are looking for when re-ranking the middle-band

9. What do the terms 'clearly-in ATAR' and 'fringe ATAR' mean?

Clearly-in rank

A clearly-in ATAR for a course indicates that point at which and above, all Year 12 applicants were offered a place in the previous selection period. So, if the clearly-in ATAR for a course in 2015 was 87.9, an applicant with 87.9 or above was made an offer for that course.

Fringe ATAR

The fringe ATAR is the point above which the majority (95%) of offers was made. Only a small number of offers (5%) for a program are made below the fringe.



Pathways Programs to University in 2017

There are many different ways to get to the same destination, and that applies to university too. Sometimes students do not quite meet the entry criteria to go straight into a university course – maybe their ATAR was not high enough, or they did not attain the minimum study score in a prerequisite subject. The encouraging thing is that many universities have recommended pathway courses to degrees they offer. Below are some of these pathway schemes:

➤ ACUcom at the Australian Catholic University

ACUcom is a department of the Australian Catholic University that delivers TAFE-level courses. These courses are complete qualifications but are also pathway programs into bachelor degrees at ACU. While the pathways are not guarantees, students who do well in the **ACUcom** courses are usually offered places in

relevant bachelor programs.

ACUcom courses are suited to students who –

- ✓ Want a TAFE level qualification
- ✓ Do not get the required ATAR to go straight into their chosen bachelor degree
- ✓ Want to use the TAFE to university pathway to a bachelor degree
- ✓ Want to try an area of study but are not sure they want to commit to a 3-year course

Some of the pathway courses **ACUcom** offers domestic school leavers include:

[Diploma of Early Childhood & Education Care](#) – (Pathway to Bachelor of Education of Early Childhood)

[Certificate IV in Educational Support](#) – (Pathway to Bachelor of Education)

[Certificate in Exercise Science](#) – (Pathway to Bachelor of Exercise & Sports Science or Bachelor of Exercise and Health Science.

[Diploma of Nursing \(Enrolled-Division 2 nursing\)](#) – (Pathway to Bachelor of Nursing)

For more information on these courses, the cost and how to apply email acucom.melbourne@acu.edu.au or call (03) 9953 3321, or browse [ACUcom](#)

➤ **[Box Hill Institute Pathways to ACU, Deakin, La Trobe, and Monash](#)**

Box Hill Institute places a strong emphasis on providing students with practical knowledge in their chosen area of study, preparing students for further study at **Australian Catholic University (ACU), Deakin University, La Trobe University** and **Monash University**.

For a list of [pathway courses](#) to ACU from Box Hill Institute visit [Pathways from BHI to ACU](#)

For a list of [pathway courses](#) (some of which are guaranteed pathways) to Deakin University from Box Hill Institute, visit [Pathways from BHI to Deakin University](#)

For a list of [pathway courses](#) to La Trobe University from Box Hill Institute, visit [Pathways from BHI to La Trobe University](#)

For a list of [pathway courses](#) to Monash University from Box Hill Institute, visit [Pathways from BHI to Monash University](#)

➤ **[Deakin College to Deakin University](#)**

Deakin College is a direct pathway to Deakin University, providing students with the experience that supports successful transition to further studies at the University. **Deakin College** offers:

Diploma programs in *Commerce, Computing, Engineering, Health Sciences, Management, Media and Communication*, and *Science* lead into a number of [second year](#) Bachelor degrees at Deakin University.

Deakin College courses are conducted on three Deakin University campuses in Victoria: Melbourne Burwood Campus, Geelong Waterfront Campus and Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus. Being located on campus enables students to access and enjoy all facilities and services, creating a smoother transition to their degree at Deakin.

Find out more by browsing [Deakin College](#)

➤ **[Deakin University to Deakin University](#)**

Deakin University offers a number of pathway courses for domestic students into its bachelor programs. In other words, *pathways through Deakin!* These include courses such as [Associate Degree of Arts](#), [Associate Degree of Education](#), or [undertaking a single unit of study](#), which can be used as credit towards a degree.

Find out more at [Pathways through Deakin](#)

➤ **[Guaranteed Pathways from TAFE to Deakin University](#)**

The **Deakin Pathways Program** seeks to encourage increased participation in higher education, as well as providing a supported student transition to higher education through supported VET programs. These pathways provide students with a seamless transition from TAFE Diplomas / Advanced Diplomas to Deakin University degrees.

For further details in regards to the Deakin Pathways Program visit [Deakin Pathways Program](#). Alternatively, email pathways@deakin.edu.au for assistance or further advice!

➤ **[Kangan Institute Pathways to University](#)**

Kangan Institute has partnered with leading universities in Australia to give students over 30 guaranteed pathway options to higher education.

Diploma programs including in *accounting, business, early childhood education, justice, logistics, management, nursing, and travel & tourism* lead into Bachelor degrees, with 1 or more years' credit) at a number of universities.

Find out more at [Kangan Pathways to University](#)

➤ **[La Trobe Melbourne to La Trobe University](#)**

La Trobe Melbourne is an alternative entry option to La Trobe University and provides a complete university experience within a personal and supportive environment and a fast-track pathway to an extensive range of degree options.

La Trobe Melbourne offers a range of Diploma courses, which are equivalent to La Trobe University's first year bachelor degree. Upon successful completion, students enter second year of their Bachelor Degree, choosing a degree from the university's five faculties.

Programs include:

Diploma of Bioscience
Diploma of Business
Diploma of Health Sciences
Diploma of Information Technology
Diploma of Mass Media and Communications
Diploma of Engineering

Find out more at [La Trobe Melbourne](#)

➤ **[Monash College to Monash University](#)**

A **Monash College** Diploma offers a direct pathway into second year at Monash University.

Six diplomas are on offer that can lead students to a number of Monash University degree course in **arts, art, design and architecture, business, engineering, IT and science**. Students should note that entry requirements into Monash College and Monash University do apply. Find out more at [Monash College](#)

➤ **[Monash University – Pathway Options](#)**

1. **[Diploma of Tertiary Studies \(DoTs\)](#)**

The **Diploma of Tertiary Studies (DoTS)** is designed as an alternative pathway to university study. The one-year full-time course is particularly suited to students requiring additional learning support in their first year of study. The **DoTS** pathway equips students with the skills to *write essays, undertake research, solve problems, think critically, develop projects, and communicate* their ideas more effectively. This pathway opportunity is offered at the Peninsula campus of Monash University. Providing a direct pathway to Monash University, successful completion of **DoTS** allows students to apply to progress to the second year of a

number of Monash University degrees. When applying for DoTS, students will have the flexibility to choose a stream that interests them from *Business, Education or Nursing*. It is this stream that forms the first year of their degree, and determines which Monash University degree they can pathway into. Students with a minimum ATAR of 50 and who attain a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL are eligible to apply. **Visit [DoTS](#) to find out more!**

2. Diploma of Higher Education – Science or Education (DoHE)

The ***Diploma of Higher Education (DoHE)*** is designed for students who want to study a Bachelor of education, or a course in science, inclusive of mathematics or related areas at **Monash University**, but did not get the ATAR they need, or they did not quite meet the entry requirements for entry, having perhaps missed a prerequisite, particularly mathematics. On successful completion of this one-year, full-time course, students can apply to enter the second year of education, education/science, or several mathematics and science courses, and gain credit for the subjects they have already studied. The Diploma of Higher Education – Science is offered at the Clayton campus. Students with a minimum ATAR of 65 and who attain a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL are eligible to apply. **Visit [DoHE](#) to find out more!**

➤ **Pathway Diplomas and Associate Degrees to RMIT University**

RMIT offers a diverse range of pathway programs to assist students in reaching their study and career destination. The pathways at RMIT provide opportunities for students to transfer from one program to another, receive recognition for their existing skills and knowledge, and can be credited towards a degree. **Visit [Pathways to RMIT Degrees](#)!**

➤ **UniLink Diplomas: Pathway to a Degree at Swinburne University**

UniLink diplomas are an option for students who miss direct entry to a degree or who would benefit from a more supportive style of learning. They are equivalent to the first year of university and can provide a pathway to the second year of a related Swinburne University bachelor degree. Students who successfully complete their diploma course are guaranteed a place in a range of business, information and communication technologies (ICT), and science degrees.

UniLink diplomas are available in the areas of:

- [arts and communication](#)
- [business](#)
- [design](#)
- [engineering](#)
- [health science](#)
- [information technology](#)
- [science](#)

Students wishing to undertake a UniLink course can apply through VTAC and must attain an ATAR of approximately 50 to be eligible for consideration.

For more information about the range of UniLink courses on offer, visit [UniLink](#).

➤ **Diploma of General Studies (DoGS) to the University of Melbourne**

Completion of the one-year ***Diploma in General Studies (DoGS)*** gives domestic students a guaranteed entry into degree courses at the University of Melbourne. The Diploma in General Studies program is a sampler of the Melbourne bachelor's degrees, and provides students with the opportunity to study science, commerce, design, science or agriculture. The Diploma in General Studies gives students a year of breathing space to decide what they really want to do next, and provides a structured stepping stone to a meaningful outcome –

whether that is employment or further study at the University of Melbourne. A minimum ATAR of 50, and English (20) or EAL (25) is required to be considered for the course, and the DoGS program is taught at the Dookie Campus. Find out more at [Diploma of General Studies](#)

➤ **Victoria University – Pathway Options**

Victoria University offers a range of **guaranteed diplomas** to degrees. Pathways in **arts, business, education, engineering and science, health and biomedicine, law and justice, and sport and exercise** are available.

Find out more at [Guaranteed Diplomas to Degrees](#)

INSTITUTION	CONTACT DETAILS	TIMES	DATE
Australian Catholic University	Hotline 1300 ASK ACU (1300 275 228) 'Know your Options' Info Session (Melbourne) 'Know your Options' Info Session (Ballarat) www.acu.edu.au	12.00pm – 4.00pm 5.00pm – 7.00pm	Dec 13 (Tuesday) Dec 14 (Wednesday)
Australian College of Applied Psychology	1800 061 199 www.acap.edu.au		
Box Hill TAFE	1300 269 445 Study Options Information Evening www.boxhill.edu.au	5.00pm – 7.00pm	Dec 14 (Wednesday)
CQU (Melbourne)	13 CQUni (13 2786) National Online Information Session http://www.cqu.edu.au/calendar	9.00am – 1.00pm	Dec 19 (Monday)
Deakin College	Online Live Chat Sessions Hotline (03) 9244 5600 Email: dcoll-direct@deakin.edu.au Melbourne Campus at Burwood - Information Evening Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus - Walk & Talk Tours Geelong Waterfront Campus - Information Evening www.deakincollege.edu.au	9.00am – 5.00pm 9.00am – 12.00pm 4.00pm – 7.00pm 4.00pm – 7.00pm 11.00am – 1.00pm	Dec 12 – 16 & 19 Dec 20 Dec 13 (Tues) Dec 14 (Wed) Dec 14 (Wed)
Deakin University	Online Live Chat Sessions Change of Preference hotline: 1800 MY FUTURE (1800 693 888) Melbourne Campus at Burwood - Information Evening Geelong Waterfront Campus – Walk & Talk Tours Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus – Information Evening Warrnambool Campus - Walk & Talk Tours Werribee Learning Centre – Drop In Session http://choose.deakin.edu.au/	9.00am – 5.00pm 9.00am – 5.00pm 9.00am – 12noon 8.00am-7.00pm 9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-12.00pm 4.00pm – 7.00pm 11.00am – 1.00pm 4.00pm – 7.00pm 11.00am – 1.00pm 12.00pm – 5.00pm	Dec 12-16 Dec 19 (Monday) Dec 20 (Tuesday) Dec 12-14 Dec 15-16 Dec 19 (Monday) Dec 20 (Tuesday) Dec 13 (Tuesday) Dec 14 (Wednesday) Dec 14 (Wednesday) Dec 14 (Wednesday) Dec 15 (Thursday) Dec 15 (Thursday)
Federation University	1800 333 864 Info Day (Ballarat, Berwick & Gippsland Campuses) https://federation.edu.au/future-students/study-	11.00am – 2.00pm	Dec 14 (Wednesday)

	at-feduni/info-day		
Holmesglen Institute	1300 693 888 Change of preference information sessions For more details refer to www.holmesglen.edu.au/open	9.00am – 7.00pm Throughout day - refer to website for specific sessions	Dec 15 (Thursday)
La Trobe Melbourne	(03) 9479 2417 https://www.latrobemelbourne.edu.au/cop	Same as La Trobe University	Same as La Trobe University
La Trobe University	1300 135 045 Future Students Centre Drop-Ins - Melbourne Melbourne Advisory Day Bendigo Advisory Day http://www.latrobe.edu.au/prefer	7.0am – 7.00pm 9.00am – 5.00pm 10.00am – 3.00pm 9.00am – 5.00pm 9.00am – 12.00pm 9.00am – 5.00pm 10.00am – 2.00pm 11.00am – 2.00pm	Dec 12 & 13 Dec 14 – 16 Dec 17 – 18 Dec 19 (Monday) Dec 20 (Tuesday) Dec 12 - 16 Dec 13 (Tuesday) Dec 13 (Tuesday)
Melbourne Polytechnic	(03) 9269 8400 www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au		
Monash University	1800 666 274 hotline Change of Preference Expo Building H, Caulfield Campus www.monash.edu.au/cop	9.00am – 5.00pm 3.00pm – 7.00pm	Dec 14 (Wed)
Navitas College of Public Safety	1800 783 661 www.ncps.edu.au		
RMIT University	Hotline (03) 9925 2260 COP Expo – Arts, Design, Communication, Justice, International, & Community Services Courses COP Expo – Business Courses COP Expo – Science, Engineering & Health Courses RMIT Building 80 (Swanston Academic Building) http://inspired.rmit.edu.au/	8.30am – 5.30pm 8.30am – 5.30pm 8.30am – 12.00pm 11.00am – 1.00pm 3.00pm – 5.00pm 11.00am – 1.00pm	Dec 12 – 16 Dec 19 (Mon) Dec 20 (Tues) Dec 14 (Wed) Dec 14 (Wed) Dec 15 (Thur)
Swinburne University	Hotline 1300 275 794 Live Chat COP Expo Hawthorn Campus http://www.swinburne.edu.au/choose/	6.00pm – 8.00pm 11.00am – 4.00pm	Dec 12 – 20 Dec 13 (Tues) Dec 14 (Wed)
University of Melbourne	13 63 52 Course Information Day Parkville Campus Online Support www.cop.unimelb.edu.au/2016	9.00am – 5.00pm 10.00am – 2.30pm	Dec 12 – 20 Dec 14 (Wed)
Victoria University	CHAT AND HOTLINE 1300 842 864 One-on-one Appointments COP Expo at Footscray Park Campus	8.30am – 6.00pm 8.30am – 6.00pm 8.30am – 12pm 9.00am – 5.00pm	Dec 12 - 16 Dec 12 - 16 Dec 19 (Mon) Dec 14 (Wed)

	www.vu.edu.au/change		
William Angliss Institute	1300 ANGLISS Course Information Expo – Melbourne Campus One-on-one consultations available http://www.angliss.edu.au/	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Dec 13 (Tues)