

Definitions: Admissions Transparency 2018

Admission pathway: Any option available to prospective higher education students that will enable them to meet the entry requirements of their chosen courses.

Advanced standing: A form of credit for any previous learning (Australian Qualifications Framework definition) – see also the definitions for “credit transfer” and “recognition of prior learning”.

Applicant and prospective student: The term applicant and prospective students are used by tertiary admission centres and higher education institutions to describe people at different stages of their application processes. An applicant is generally taken to be a person who has already lodged an application to study a specific course. A prospective student is generally taken to be a person who is thinking about lodging an application to study a particular course but has not yet done so.

Grouping of applicants

Group A. Higher education study

- Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a higher education course.
- Includes study at university and non-university higher education providers, whether recent (such as students seeking to transfer to another higher education provider or changing course at the same provider) or some time ago.
- Includes students who have completed a bridging or enabling course delivered by or on behalf of a higher education provider.

Group B. Vocational education and training (VET) study

- Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a VET course.
- Includes study at a public TAFE or other VET provider, whether a qualification was completed or not.
- May have other qualifications such as Year 10 or Year 12 secondary school certificate.

Group C. Work and life experience (including less recent secondary results)

Applicants who left secondary education more than two years previously (i.e. who are not classified as recent secondary education applicants) and have not undertaken VET or higher education study since then.

– “Experience” could include a combination of factors sufficient to demonstrate readiness for higher education. Includes mature age entry, professional experience whether completion of the Special Tertiary Admission Test (STAT) is required or not, community involvement or work experience.

– Applicants may have undertaken non-formal programs that have helped prepare them for tertiary education or are relevant to the proposed higher education field of study.

Group D. Recent secondary education

– Applicants whose admission is based mostly on secondary education undertaken at school, TAFE or other VET or higher education provider (Australian or overseas equivalent) that was (or will be) completed either in the current year or within the previous two years. o For example, data for ‘recent secondary education’ cohorts that commenced higher education in 2017 would include those students who completed secondary education in 2016, 2015 and 2014.

– This group includes students who may have undertaken or completed some VET or higher education study while still at school.

– Includes applicants whose secondary education was undertaken interstate or overseas.

ATAR: The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a ranking from 30 (lowest) to 99.95 (highest) agreed by COAG as a nationally equivalent measure of a person's relative academic ranking within their complete age cohort in the year they graduated from senior secondary school. (This includes students who did not complete Year 12, completed but did not qualify for an ATAR, or had already previously left school, who account for around 30% of the age cohort.) The ATAR is derived from the scaled scores achieved for senior secondary school subjects. The specific calculation used is different in each state and territory but the result is designed to be nationally equivalent.

Credit transfer: A process that provides students with agreed and consistent credit outcomes for components of a qualification based on identified equivalence in content and learning outcomes between matched qualifications (Australian Qualifications Framework definition).

Direct application: Application made to a higher education provider rather than through a tertiary admission centre.

Offer round/s: Refers to the series of dates on which offers of higher education places are issued to applicants throughout the year, whether through a tertiary admission centre or directly by a higher education provider.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL): A process used to assess an individual's relevant prior learning (including formal, informal and non-formal learning) to determine the credit that may be granted towards completion of a qualification (adapted from Australian Qualifications Framework definition).