

Final Update - countdown to offers begins, still time to apply...

It is that time of year already, and we hope you enjoyed the school holidays and wish you all the best for a successful end of year. This is the last *QTAC Update* for the year. It includes updates and other relevant information since publication of the *QTAC Guide to Tertiary Courses: Courses Starting August 2009 to July 2010*. As a matter of course, please advise students to check the QTAC website - www.qtac.edu.au – throughout the admissions period for up-to-date information on course offerings. A *List of Course Changes* can be accessed from QTAC's home page.

Download the Update

This and previous issues of the *QTAC Update* are available from the QTAC public website under Schools and Institutions as well as QTAC's Corporate site under QTAC Publications. Please feel free to photocopy any of the information in the *Update*; however, please ensure the information is not used out of context.

Applying in October

Students are still able to lodge their Twelve To Tertiary (TTT) online applications. After the 30 September on-time due date the defer payment option is no longer available. Application processing fees can still be paid with a prepayment voucher, credit card or via BPAY. From 1 November, applicants are liable for a higher application fee. For processing fees and prepayment voucher information, see the *QTAC Guide*, p. 12 or visit www.qtac.edu.au.

Changing preferences

Year 12 students wanting to change preferences or add courses not previously listed on their applications, can do so online via QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service. The final date to change preferences for the 14 January offer round is **6 January 2010**. Please note that it is not possible to add courses with fixed closing dates that have passed. See the *QTAC Guide*, p. 3, for a list of courses with fixed closing dates or visit the QTAC website.

New/withdrawn courses

Schools and applicants can keep up to date with course changes such as new courses on offer, withdrawn courses or amended course details via the QTAC website. Course changes will be updated online against the individual course entries and a list of *Course Changes* can also be accessed from the home page.

QTAC contact details

QTAC Address: Level 2, 33 Park Road, Milton, Q 4064
Postal: PO Box 1331 Milton Q 4064
Telephone: 1300 GO QTAC (1300 467 822)
Fax: (07) 3367 1164
Email: use the website enquiry service
Website: www.qtac.edu.au

14 Jan - major offer round

Applicants can access the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au from 1.00 am on Thursday, 14 January to find out if they have been offered a place and to respond to an offer. A further, smaller offer round will be released on Thursday, 4 February. Following these offer rounds, offer letters will be mailed to successful applicants. For privacy reasons, the names of successful applicants will no longer be published in newspapers.

December offer rounds

The major offer round for selected creative and performing arts courses, graduate diplomas, and Bond University courses that begin in Semester 1, 2010 is 17 December. A list of these courses can be found on page 67 of the *Guide* and in the Courses section of QTAC's website. Early offers may also be released on 3 and 17 December to applicants (including current Year 12s) who have met minimum entry requirements and have a competitive rank from a completed qualification.

Is a course being offered early?

QTAC's online Course Search facility (www.qtac.edu.au) allows you to check both the early and major offer round dates for courses.

This search facility also allows you to locate courses based on criteria such as key word, institution and area of study. Advanced search options include mode of study (eg full or part-time), course level (eg diploma or degree) and OP or QTAC selection rank range.

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Due date for submitting documentation

Students are requested to submit their *Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage (SCD)*, *Additional Information For Year 12 Students* and *Early Indication of Support Needs for QTAC Applicants with Disabilities* forms as soon as possible. This ensures that QTAC has adequate time to process the documentation and is able to liaise with schools if necessary before the school holidays. Students are urged not to wait until the last minute to submit these forms, when it becomes difficult to get the information they need from school personnel. Documentation received at QTAC after **22 December** may not be considered in time for the 14 January offer round.

Applicants can print the forms by logging into the *Current Applicant* online service, or alternatively, school personnel registered for QTAC's Corporate site can access the forms on the Corporate site under QTAC Forms - School Users.

UQ Medicine - preference information

A quota of 150 places is shared by all MBBS provisional programs at UQ, ie UQ MBBS Provisional Entry for School-leavers, B Art/MBBS, B Science/MBBS and B Health Sciences/MBBS. Applicants who are successful in gaining a place in a MBBS program have the opportunity to change their first degree (provided entry requirements are met) at the point of enrolment. Applicants should therefore only list one MBBS preference on their QTAC application.

QTAC Tertiary Entrance Seminars

- for school and institution personnel

A number of QTAC seminars covering the tertiary entry process will be held between March and August 2010. The seminars provide core information for those new to QTAC, as well as advanced training in tertiary entry processes to help participants keep up-to-date with current industry trends, requirements and service enhancements.

Seminars fill quickly, so secure your place by completing the registration form on page 5 of this *Update* (also available via the QTAC website under Schools and Institutions).

QTAC School Web Service

To monitor your students' tertiary study applications as well as access lists of students who have not yet applied, you can log into the *QTAC School Web Service*. This free service can be accessed via the Corporate page on QTAC's website. Simply enter your school logon and password to obtain a wide range of publication and application information.

Registered, but lost your password? By accessing the above mentioned Web page you will be able to easily enquire about your password through the 'lost password' email service.

Not yet registered? Click on the 'Register for Access' link on the same Web page.

QTAC Guidance Officer Survey

QTAC regularly liaises with stakeholders to obtain feedback regarding information sources. To provide feedback on the *QTAC Guide* and *QTAC Update*, please complete our quick survey (page 6 of this *Update*).

Current Applicant online service

Changing student addresses

Please continue to encourage students to notify QTAC of any address changes in order to ensure that they receive their offer letters or other correspondence from QTAC. Students can change their address and contact details through the *Current Applicant* online service at www.qtac.edu.au. They should also inform the QSA of address changes to ensure delivery of their Senior Statement and Student Education Profiles.

Authorising someone to act on your behalf

Applicants who will be away during the admissions period can authorise a trusted person to act on their behalf. Applicants can do this at the time they make their online application or subsequently through QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service.

Important QSA and QTAC Numbers

Registered Year 12 students use their QSA student number and QSA PIN to access QSA's Smart OP service to find out their OP in December. These numbers are different from those used to access QTAC's online services.

Year 12 students who have applied through QTAC will use their Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) or QTAC application number and QTAC PIN to access QTAC's online services at www.qtac.edu.au to review their application, change preferences, find out if they have an offer, and respond to an offer, etc. An applicant's QTAC PIN is initially set to their day and month of birth.

Students may change their QTAC and QSA PINs. Please note that changing the QSA PIN does not change the QTAC PIN and vice versa.

Ordering Preferences

In determining the order of their preferences applicants must consider when offers are being made.

At the time of a major offer round, applicants should ensure that the courses which are being offered in that major offer round are preferred higher than courses offered in a later major offer round. If an applicant receives an offer but wishes to be considered for a course offered in a subsequent offer round, they can respond to their initial offer on a 'conditional basis' and reorder their preferences. This will ensure they are also considered for courses offered in the later offer round. The *QTAC Guide* and QTAC website www.qtac.edu.au lists the major offer round date and course start months for all courses.

QTAC understands that ordering preferences correctly is critical to securing the desired tertiary place. Therefore, QTAC will contact applicants who do not have courses listed chronologically by major offer round date before the December and January major offer rounds. Information will be given on how to order and change preferences for consideration in the upcoming major offer round.

Please note that information on ordering preferences can be found on page 7 of the *QTAC Guide* or on the QTAC website. Alternatively, please phone QTAC on 1300 GO QTAC (1300 467 822) or email via the website at www.qtac.edu.au for more details.

Bonus Rank Schemes

Current Year 12s applying for Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology or The University of Queensland are awarded bonus ranks on top of their OP (or OP ineligible rank) for passing specified subjects in Year 12, see table below. These bonus ranks are applied automatically by QTAC.

The bonus ranks will not change the OP awarded by QSA. However, during the QTAC application process these ranks will be combined with the OP which may make applicants more competitive for their chosen courses at Griffith, QUT or UQ.

To see how OPs compare to ranks, see www.qtac.edu.au/Applying-CurrentYr12/InterstateAdmissions.html. This shows, for example, that last year an OP of 6 was comparable to a rank of 91. If an applicant received 2 bonus ranks for passing Maths C, their rank would be increased to 93 – comparable to an OP 5. The applicant would then be considered for tertiary offers from Griffith, UQ or QUT based on an OP 5.

Subject Studied in Year 12 in 2009	Bonus Ranks
Maths C	2 ranks
Language Other Than English (LOTE)	2 ranks
Engineering Technology	2 ranks (Only for QUT B Engineering applicants)
Selected tertiary study	1 rank

For further information about these bonus schemes, visit the following websites:

Queensland University of Technology - www.qut.edu.au/study/admission/entrybonus.jsp

The University of Queensland - www.uq.edu.au/study/

Griffith University - www.griffith.edu.au/admissions/undergraduate-admissions

Ranks for current OP ineligible Year 12 applicants available online

QTAC selection ranks for current Year 12 applicants who are OP ineligible will be available via QTAC's *Current Applicant* online service from **Wednesday, 31 December**. This information (see sample screen below) can be downloaded and printed.

Current Year 12 students who are not QTAC applicants can call QTAC on 1300 GO QTAC (1300 467 822) to find out their rank.

The screenshot shows the QTAC Current Applicant interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Application Summary, Preferences, Cover Sheets, Electronic Correspondence, and OP Ineligible Rank. Below the menu, the user's name is listed as 'Mr Test Test Test', their application number is '2008/2009 Admissions Entry', and their application is for '2008/2009 Admissions Entry'. The main content area states that the user's OP ineligible QTAC Selection rank is 78. A button labeled 'View Rank to OP Comparability Table' is visible. A 'Please note:' section follows, containing two points: 1. If you have supplied QTAC with information about any additional qualifications you may also have been allocated another QTAC selection rank based on these qualifications. 2. Your QTAC selection rank(s) are considered on the basis of QTAC participating institution rules. Do not assume that interstate institutions participating in NSW, VIC, SA or WA admissions centres will accept these qualifications and ranks. Be sure to check with the interstate institution concerned regarding the acceptability of the qualification.

Equity Scholarships

Changes to equity scholarships were announced in the Federal Budget in May. As a result, from 1 January 2010 some of the types of equity scholarships and the application methods will change.

The *Commonwealth Scholarships Program* includes:

- Student Start-up Scholarships – no application is necessary, Centrelink will automatically pay these to eligible students
- Relocation Scholarships – no application is necessary, Centrelink will automatically pay these to eligible students
- Indigenous Access Scholarships – students must apply to the university for these scholarships
- Indigenous Enabling Scholarships – students must apply to the university for these scholarships

Institution equity scholarships

- Institutions also offer various scholarships as part of their own equity programs – students must apply to the university for these scholarships

QTAC no longer processes applications for Commonwealth and institution equity scholarships. For more information on equity scholarships, see the *QTAC Guide*, pages 18–19, contact the university or Centrelink directly, or for Student Start-up and Relocation Scholarship information, visit <http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Programs/YouthAllowance/Pages/default.aspx>.

QUT fees correction

Unfortunately due to an internal QUT error the First Year Contribution amounts for the following courses were incorrect in the 2009-2010 *QTAC Guide*: 418011 Bachelor of Applied Science and associated Double Degree options; 418701 Bachelor of Mathematics and associated Double Degree options; 418182 Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Radiation Technology) - Medical Imaging Technology; 418192 Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Radiation Technology) - Radiotherapy Technology; 418201 Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Science); 418401 Bachelor of Biomedical Science; 418311 Bachelor of Biotechnology Innovation; 418701 Bachelor of Mathematics; 418512 Bachelor of Pharmacy; 418042 Dean's Scholars Accelerated Program (Science). The amounts have been corrected on the QTAC website; however please be aware of this error when using the published guide.

Payment options & HECS-HELP for Australian and New Zealand citizens

Student contributions are charged for each unit of study you enrol in on a Commonwealth supported basis. Most Commonwealth supported students can either:

- pay their student contribution amount upfront and receive a 20% HECS-HELP discount; or
- defer payment, request a HECS-HELP loan and pay later through the tax system.

The following table gives the payment options available to you.

If you are a ...	then you ...	you will ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian citizen • permanent humanitarian visa holder 	may make a full upfront payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have to pay 80% of the student contribution amount on or before the census date • receive a 20% discount on your contribution, paid to your provider • have no HECS-HELP debt
	may make partial upfront payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pay part of your student contribution upfront - on or before the census date • receive a 20% discount for upfront payments of \$500 or more • have a HECS-HELP debt for the remainder • start repayments of your debt when your income is above the minimum threshold (for the 2009-2010 income year this is \$43,150)
	may defer payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a HECS-HELP debt for the full amount • start repayments when your income is above the minimum threshold (for the 2009-2010 income year this is \$43,150)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand citizen • holder of other permanent visa 	pay 100% of your contribution upfront	You are not eligible for a HECS-HELP loan or discount

2010 student contributions

The Australian Government contributes towards course costs for Commonwealth supported students and these students also pay a 'student contribution'. Each higher education provider sets its own student contributions so these may vary between providers and courses. The student contributions must, however, be within a range set by the government. See the table below for the recently released 2010 student contribution ranges as an indication to the cost of a standard full-time year of tertiary study.

Band	Student contribution range for 2010
National Priorities mathematics, statistics, science	\$0 to \$4249
Band 1 humanities, behavioural science, social studies, foreign languages, visual and performing arts, education, nursing	\$0 to \$5310
Band 2 computing, built environment, health, engineering, surveying, agriculture	\$0 to \$7567
Band 3 law, dentistry, medicine, veterinary science, accounting, administration, economics, commerce	\$0 to \$8859

Please refer to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' website www.goingtouni.gov.au for more information on student contributions and HECS-HELP loans.



Q T A C

TERTIARY ENTRANCE PROCESS SEMINARS 2010 REGISTRATION FORM

An invitation to School and Tertiary Institution Personnel

- ❖ Guidance Officers ❖ Student Counsellors ❖ Year 12 Coordinators
- ❖ VET Coordinators ❖ Deputy Principals ❖ Senior Schooling Personnel
- ❖ Faculty Staff ❖ School Liaison Personnel ❖ Student Services Personnel

BRISBANE SEMINARS

Seminars are held at Level 2, 33 Park Road, Milton, Brisbane from **9.00am** until **3.30pm**.
Morning tea and lunch is included.

New to QTAC Two Day Seminar Cost \$460.00 (GST inclusive)

Topics include: how QTAC assesses applications; registering and using the corporate site; keeping up-to-date with communication; OPs and FPs; QTAC selection ranks and qualifications assessed for Year 12 students eg OP ineligible, IB; special consideration procedures; general application procedures and timelines.

- Monday & Tuesday 8 & 9 March Wednesday & Thursday 24 & 25 March
- Tuesday & Wednesday 20 & 21 April Wednesday & Thursday 28 & 29 July

Advanced Full Day Seminar Cost \$230.00 (GST inclusive)

Topics include: statistics and data, maximising use of the corporate site; building upgrading pathways into student QTAC preferences; how QTAC assesses applications - advanced schedules and QTAC selection ranks (interstate, previous tertiary study, employment, etc); how QTAC and institutions assess special consideration.

- Friday 19 March Monday 29 March Tuesday 27 April
- Wednesday 5 May Monday 17 May Tuesday 20 July Friday 6 August

REGIONAL SEMINARS

Expression of interest for Regional Seminars to be held at the University.

- Please email me (to the email address below) the dates and costs for the following location.
- Cairns Rockhampton Townsville

Nominate early as places are allocated on first in first served basis. Minimum numbers apply. Please check the QTAC website for seminar availability before registering. Please mail this registration form to QTAC, PO Box 1331, Milton QLD 4064 or fax to (07) 3367 1164.

Name: _____ Position: _____

School/institution: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone no: _____ Email: _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Receipt no: _____ Invoice no: _____ Taken by: _____ Date: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

A cheque/money order is enclosed payable to QTAC for \$ _____

OR Please charge my Visa MasterCard for \$ _____

Credit card No:

Cardholder's name: _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

OR Remit payment to: QTAC Ltd, NAB, BSB: 084-280 Account: 507 347 708
Email: EFTremittance@qtac.edu.au

Tax Invoice: Where an individual registration is for less than \$1000 (including GST) this document becomes a **tax invoice** for GST upon completion and payment. Please photocopy and maintain for your records. NOTE: Individual forms must be completed for each attendee. QTAC is a not for profit organisation. ABN 28 050 542 633

QTAC Guidance Officer Survey

Name (optional): _____ School (optional): _____

QTAC Guide

1. Did you read course descriptions in the QTAC Guide? Yes / No
2. If yes, were the course descriptions in the QTAC Guide sufficient? Yes / No
3. Did you read course descriptions on the QTAC website? Yes / No
4. If yes, were the course descriptions on the QTAC website sufficient? Yes / No
5. If you read the course descriptions on the QTAC website instead of or as a complement to the Guide, what course information were you specifically looking for? Please tick:
 Updated course information
 Recommended Study (in addition to Prerequisites & Assumed Knowledge, which are listed in the Guide)
 Course cut-offs for the previous 2 years
 Memberships and Registration details
 More in-depth course outlines
6. How useful was the "Pathways" section in the QTAC Guide? Please tick:
 Not useful Somewhat unuseful No Opinion
 Somewhat useful Extremely useful
7. Was there any useful information missing from the Pathways section? _____

8. What are the common questions you receive after students have been given the Guide? Eg, what is missing/not clearly explained in the Guide? _____

QTAC Update

9. How useful do you find the QTAC Update?
 Not useful Somewhat unuseful No Opinion
 Somewhat useful Extremely useful
10. How did you hear about the QTAC Update?
 QTAC email QTAC staff member QTAC publication Referral from a colleague
 Found it on website while looking for something else
 Other (please specify) _____
11. The QTAC Update is currently produced three times a year. How often would you like it produced?
Please tick: 3 times per year More often Less often
12. The QTAC Update is currently published as a PDF document. What format would you prefer?
Please tick: PDF document Web page No opinion
13. Do you print this publication? Yes / No
If yes, who do you print it for? Yourself Students Colleagues
14. How could this publication be improved? _____

Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List

15. Did you refer to the online version of the Student Advisers' Tertiary Course List? Yes/No
16. If yes, was it useful?
 Not useful Somewhat useful No Opinion
 Somewhat useful Extremely useful
17. Other comments: _____

Thank you for your feedback and helping QTAC improve its services.

Please return this survey to QTAC via post or fax:

Post: Attention - Information Services, QTAC, PO Box 1331, Milton Qld 4064

Fax: Attention - Information Services, 07 3367 1164