

Introduction

The ATAR is a common way Year 12 students in Queensland can get into uni. It's used across Australia to help universities choose students. But it's important to know it's not the only way to get into university after finishing school.



Frequently asked questions

What is an ATAR?

An ATAR:

- is a number from 99.95 (highest) down to 0.00, in steps of 0.05
- shows how you compare to other Queensland Year 12 students
- 90 or above means you're in the top 25% of students
- anything below 30.00 is shown as "lower than 30.00"

What is the average ATAR score in Queensland?

In 2025:

- 30,167 students received an ATAR
- 37 students achieved the perfect score of 99.95
- 24% of students scored 90 or above
- ATAR results:
 - ATAR 80–89: Very strong performance, qualifying for most courses in fields like Business, Science and Arts
 - ATAR 70–79: Slightly above average and acceptable for various courses in Universities across Australia
 - ATAR 50–69: Meets entry for some tertiary education pathways, foundation programs and Vocational Education and Training courses

Does Year 11 count towards the ATAR calculation?

YES, it does! Unit 3 for General subjects usually starts in September of Year 11, with the first summative assessment happening at the end of Year 11. Year 11 is also the foundation year that gets you ready for the workload and expectations of Year 12, so it really matters.

Is my ATAR calculated by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)?

NO. At the end of Year 12, you'll receive the following from QCAA:

1. a Senior Education Profile showing the subjects you studied and your results
 2. a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), if you meet the requirements,
- and/or
3. a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) for students with learning difficulties

QCAA sends your Unit 3 and 4 results to QTAC. If you're eligible and you [have registered to have your ATAR calculated](#), QTAC uses this information to calculate your ATAR. ATARs are released in mid-December and can be viewed on the QTAC website.

Will QTAC automatically calculate my ATAR because I'm eligible?

NO. You must [register with QTAC](#) for your ATAR to be calculated – it is not done automatically. Registration opens in early August for 2027 entry. It's free and you'll need your private email, LUI number and date of birth.

How do I get an ATAR

It all starts in Year 10, when you choose subjects for Years 11 and 12 as part of your SET Plan. A good plan is to pick subjects that:

- you enjoy and are good at
- link to careers or skills you're interested in
- meet prerequisites for courses you might want after school
- help you earn a QCE
- make you eligible for an ATAR if you're aiming for uni
- include at least four General subjects, or a mix of 4 General subjects and one Applied subject or one VET course at Cert III or higher (your VET course must be completed and recorded with QCAA to count towards your ATAR)

You also need at least a C or higher in an English subject, such as English, Literature, Essential English or English as an Additional Language.

Things you should know about passing an English subject for an ATAR:

- ✚ At the end of Year 12, if you do not pass an English subject, you will not be eligible for an ATAR – **SO CHOOSE CAREFULLY!**
- ✚ A General English subject or Essential English can be included in the ATAR calculation but not both. Check this!!
- ✚ Your results in English will only be included in your ATAR calculation if it is one of your best five scaled subject results.
- ✚ You may need to do a General English subject to meet the prerequisites for the course you are interested in



Calculating ATARs

Your ATAR will be calculated using an aggregate of:

- Your best five scaled general subject results or
- Your best four scaled general subject results plus one applied subject or
- Your best four scaled general subject results plus a completed VET course at Certificate III or above level.

Scaling and its impact

Students choose different subjects in Years 11 and 12 to be eligible for an ATAR. Scaling is used so no one is advantaged or disadvantaged by their subject choices.

Scaling adjusts raw subject results so they can be compared fairly across different subjects. It's a complex process. QTAC explains scaling in more detail on its [website](#) (check website for 2025 report in March), with examples.

Adjustment Factors

Universities also offer special pathway schemes that can give eligible students adjustment factors (extra rank points). These don't change your ATAR, but they can make you more competitive for entry by increasing your rank for a course. These schemes change each year, so it's important to check university websites during Year 12.

If you have chosen subjects that will see you being ATAR eligible, including Maths and English, you're on the way to being eligible for your QCE!

Selecting subjects/courses to be eligible for a QCE as well

To be eligible for a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), you need to meet a few key requirements while you're in Years 11 and 12:

- Earn at least 20 credits: Credits come from completed subjects or courses like General subjects, Applied subjects, VET certificates or recognised studies. (12 credits from core)
- Meet the literacy and numeracy requirements: This usually means passing an English subject and either a Maths subject or another approved way of showing literacy and numeracy skills.
- Finish Year 12: QCE recognises your learning across your senior years, not just one subject.
- Complete the [Academic integrity](#) requirement

Your learning and results are tracked by QCAA through your learning account, so it's important to keep it up to date. Most students who complete their senior subjects successfully will achieve a QCE. If you're unsure, talk to your school's Guidance Officer or Head of Curriculum.

Don't want to be ATAR eligible

There are many, just as valid pathways to gaining entry to University courses and/or quality work opportunities straight after school. Talk with your school Guidance Officer, Career Counsellor or VET coordinator about your pathway options.

Where to find more information

QTAC publishes a booklet titled *All About Your ATAR – A guide for Queensland Year 11 and 12 students*. You can find it on their [website](#) and it contains information on:

- ✚ The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)
- ✚ How is the ATAR Calculated?
- ✚ Inter-subject Scaling
- ✚ Your QCE and Your ATAR
- ✚ The ATAR and Tertiary Selection
- ✚ VET Qualifications, the ATAR and Tertiary Selection
- ✚ Subject Prerequisites
- ✚ Steps to Tertiary Study
- ✚ Applying through QTAC
- ✚ After You Have Applied
- ✚ Offers
- ✚ Essential Information
- ✚ Glossary of common terms