



# ACTAC

Australasian Conference of Tertiary Admission Centres

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AND COVID-19

The IB has announced a range of measures to assist IB students and schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Like the measures introduced by state and territory governments throughout Australia for students studying other curricula, these will be updated and refined throughout the year to best support IB students and schools.

### How will tertiary entry work for students completing the IB in 2020?

IB students can be reassured that their journey to tertiary study will look similar to previous years. All tertiary admissions centres and universities are working together to ensure that there is a clear pathway for Year 12 students to achieve their future study goals. As in previous years, the IB diploma scores of graduating students will be converted to an ATAR-like value using the IB Combined Rank schedule published nationally. This conversion ensures that IB students can be considered for courses across Australia in a fair and consistent manner.

### Can the ranks for IB students be increased for 2020 completing students as a result of COVID-19?

The IB Combined Schedule is calculated in advance and consists of contributions from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and South Australia, based on research using data from their state's IB cohorts who have completed the qualification<sup>1</sup>. To ensure fairness to the IB cohort, changes to the IB Combined Schedule are driven entirely by recent data reflecting the performance of IB students compared with their counterparts who have received an ATAR. Therefore, it is not possible to determine *a priori* how much of an increase, or indeed if any increase, should be made to the selection ranks of IB students. On a related note, there are no plans by TACs across Australia to change the process by which ATARs are calculated in 2020.

### Can the ranks for individual states be adjusted for 2020 completing students?

The IB Combined Schedule is a national conversion so no state can act unilaterally. One state admitting students using a different conversion would be inequitable for students from that state applying interstate.

### Are universities making adjustments for COVID-19?

Individual universities can add adjustment factors for their applicants, either through specific disadvantage schemes for individuals or through targeting specific cohorts.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on how each state conducts its own research to derive their contribution to the IB Combined Schedule, see <https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/international-baccalaureate/determining-atar-ib-equivalents.pdf>

## Are the Tertiary Admissions Centres facilitating special consideration?

### QTAC

QTAC's Educational Access Scheme (EAS) provides rank adjustments for educational disadvantage through a range of categories. No COVID-19 specific categories will be created, however, disadvantage will be considered on a case-by-case basis through the existing EAS categories and further adjustments made where necessary.

### TISC

Universities may give consideration to cases where individual students' circumstances have been particularly affected by the pandemic (eg: family financial hardship, extended illness within the family, inability to access remote teaching support/resources, etc.). Further details will be available from the universities and TISC in August.



UTAS expects that disadvantage will be taken into account within the Year 12 curriculum by the IBO and in addition, applicants can apply for special consideration directly with us if required.

### SATAC

SATAC expects that special consideration will be managed within the Year 12 curriculum by state education boards and the IBO.

The Universities Equity Scheme supports circumstances outside of this for current Year 12 students, including IB students.

Under the scheme, adjustment factors will be available to eligible applicants.

More information is available here:  
<https://www.satac.edu.au/pages/adjustment-factors>



UAC has introduced two COVID-19 specific disadvantages into its Educational Access Schemes.

Students will be able to claim financial hardship if a parent or guardian has received Job Keeper or Job Seeker payments for at least three months (from March 2020).

All the existing EAS categories relating to financial hardship, home environment and personal illness are also available for students disadvantaged by COVID-19.

More information is available here:  
<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/scholarships-and-schemes/educational-access-schemes/disadvantages-and-documents>



VTAC's Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) covers a range of circumstances which have caused educational disadvantage, including impacts of COVID-19. SEAS increases an applicant's selection rank during consideration for courses to compensate for educational disadvantage.

SEAS applications will open on Monday 3 August. IB students can submit a SEAS application from within their VTAC account. Further information about SEAS is available at <http://vtac.edu.au/seas>. Information specific to COVID-19 special consideration will be available on the VTAC website in late July.