

The following common admission-related terms and definitions have been committed to by Australian higher education providers, tertiary admission centres and other related bodies, to ensure consistency in the presentation of admission requirements across courses and institutions.

**Admission pathway:** Any one of the options available to a prospective higher education student 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.

**Applicant background:** The following grouping of applicants is used to help prospective students, family and others easily find the admission information most relevant to their circumstances. The groupings do not themselves determine how an application will be assessed but direct an information seeker to the most useful information.

- **Higher education study:** Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a higher education course, whether at a university or non-university provider.
- **Vocational education and training (VET) study:** Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a VET course.
- **Work and life experience** (includes less recent secondary results): Applicants who left secondary education more than two years previously and have not undertaken VET or higher education study since then.
- **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 completed (or will be) in the current year or within the previous two years.

**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 (including those who did not complete Year 12 or completed but were not eligible for an ATAR). 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.

**Bridging course:** A course designed to cover subject knowledge, which assists students to gain knowledge in specialist areas that are a core component of the course. If a course requires a prerequisite in an area that students have not studied or worked with before, a bridging course will help students to bridge the gap in that knowledge and gain admission.

**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 to provider:** Application made directly to a higher education provider rather than through a tertiary admission centre.

**Enabling Course:** A course designed to provide students with skills needed for success in further study, to assist in the transition to tertiary education – for example study techniques or English language skills. Successful completion helps prepare a person to be admitted to a course that leads to a higher education award.

**Experience based entry schemes:** A selection method used by higher education providers to assess and select students who may not have educational qualifications sufficient for an offer of admission to a course but who have other relevant work and life skills and experience that make them a suitable candidate.

**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.

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. See also **Applicant**.

**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.

**TAC application:** Application made through a tertiary admission centre, namely QTAC, UAC, VTAC, SATAC, TISC and University of Tasmania, in relation to applications to study in that state.