

## Recognised Studies – How SATAC calculates VET and the ATAR

Recognised Studies are subjects or learning experiences other than SACE subjects that can count towards your ATAR. Recognised Studies are usually academic studies or vocational learning. Life experiences or community learning are generally not accepted.

Some types of Recognised Studies include:

- Higher and Standard Level International Baccalaureate (IB) subjects
- Specified Australian interstate Year 12 subjects which count towards the ATAR in their home state
- Completed VET awards at Certificate III level and above

If approved, you can use Recognised Studies to form part of the flexible option in the university aggregate calculation.

### Rules for Recognised Studies

There are a few conditions you need to meet before non-SACE learning can count towards an ATAR.

### SACE Board recognition

The SACE Board must approve any subjects or other learning experiences as counting at Stage 2 level.

### Level of study and achievement

Recognised Studies must be equal to, or higher than, Stage 2 level.

For vocational education and training (VET) to count as Recognised Studies, you must complete a qualification at AQF Level 3 (Certificate III) or higher

### When to complete Recognised Studies

You will need to complete your Recognised Studies in the same year (or earlier) that SATAC calculates your ATAR for the first time.

ATARs cannot be recalculated to include Recognised Studies done after you have received your ATAR for the first time. The final results of your studies must be provided to the SACE Board no later than the end of the clerical check period (mid-February of the following year).

**Approving Recognised Studies** Learning that is approved as counting towards SACE Stage 2 by the SACE Board will either be pre-approved or require approval to count as Recognised Studies. SATAC will notify the SACE Board of the outcome of any learning that requires approval, the SACE Board will then inform your school. Some students choose to include university subjects in their flexible option. University subjects are not pre-approved as Recognised Studies. You will need to apply to have them approved. SATAC will approve most degree-level subjects on application provided they are not introductory subjects.

### Precluded combinations

SATAC will check to see if there is significant content overlap with the other Stage 2 subjects you are studying. If there is a significant overlap, they will form a precluded combination.

When two subjects form a precluded combination, they cannot both count towards your ATAR.

### Scaling and Recognised Studies

SATAC assigns scaled score equivalents to Recognised Studies. This ensures the ATAR calculation is fair for everyone. For VET studies we will use the average of your best 70 credits of tertiary admissions subjects (TAS) to give a scaled score.

Grades and grading systems can vary between different types of qualifications. It is not possible to achieve a scaled score of 20.00 in some types of study because of the grading system used.