

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS?

October 2015



## THINGS YOU STILL NEED TO THINK ABOUT:

SCHOLARSHIPS

CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

ATAR RELEASE

PAYMENT

OFFERS

WHERE TO GET HELP

Note:

This document is designed to help you navigate VTAC and the process for gaining a place in a Victorian Uni. If you have other plans, please talk to Ms Witt about these on an individual basis.

**A COUPLE OF QUICK REMINDERS!**

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Especially the La Trobe Vice Chancellor's Scholarship! 😊**

**Apply for this and VTAC scholarships**

**before October 16**

## **DON'T FORGET TO PAY!**

**Bottom line:**

You need to pay VTAC if you want to be offered tertiary courses in Victoria!

**Payment due December 15 (international)**

**Payment due December 21 (12.00 noon)**

# WHAT TO DO ON DECEMBER 14

## ATAR RELEASE

**You will have access to your ATAR on December 14.**

- Via your VTAC account
- Via email
- Via SMS (if you registered for this service on the VTAC site)

**This is what you should do:**

- ☐ Check your ATAR
- ☐ Check your study scores and check that you have met any prerequisite scores for your preferences. If not, you will not be made an offer for those courses.
- ☐ Compare your ATAR to the “Clearly In” scores for your preferences in 2015.
- ☐ Make an educated guess as to how likely you are to get in.
- ☐ Do NOT make major changes or wild guesses about this without seeking advice – some ATARs went up or down 10 points in 2015.
- ☐ Always leave your dream course at #1 if it’s still what you want most.
- ☐ Add some pathway options if it doesn’t look like you are close enough to your goal!
  
- ☐ Email or ring Ms Witt if you need help with the following:
  - o Interpreting your ATAR in relation to your preferences
  - o Working out what your options are
  - o Changing your preferences to make them more realistic.

## FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**You have a much shorter Change of Preference turnaround.**

**Your deadline is December 16 – 4.00pm, AUSTRALIAN TIME!**

- ☐ Make sure you access your ATAR as soon as possible, as many of you will be a few hours behind Australia.
- ☐ Go through the same steps as local students – see above.
- ☐ Seek help from Ms Witt immediately if you are worried about getting into your course!

Ring +613 9488 2301 or email [witt.kylie.i@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:witt.kylie.i@edumail.vic.gov.au)

# CRUCIAL DATES

You are already in the zone called "Change of Preference".

This means you can change your preferences as many times as you like until the final deadline.

## Change of Preference closes:

- For international students **December 16, 4.00pm**
- For local students **December 21, 12.00pm**

The VTAC site will shut down for three weeks during November, so don't be alarmed if it looks like things aren't working. Just try again after November 23.

## WHAT TO DO BETWEEN DECEMBER 14-17

All the tertiary institutions run "Change of Preference" events during this week. Many of them are on December 16.

- ☐ Think about which uni you REALLY want to go to
- ☐ Attend their events
- ☐ Sign up for their help sessions
- ☐ Check the myNHS Careers site for details of what's available.
- ☐ During this time frame, you can talk to Ms Witt at school – please make an appointment via email if you can.

## WHAT TO DO BETWEEN DECEMBER 18-21

You have until December 21 to make your final decision and pay.

- ☐ Talk to the unis
- ☐ Email Ms Witt if you need help
- ☐ Make your decision
- ☐ Make any appropriate changes to your preferences.
- ☐ PAY if you haven't done so yet!

## ROLLING CHANGE OF PREFERENCE

Change of Preference opens again the day after each offer round. You can move preferences to the top of your list and add new ones before each new round in the hope of being made additional offers. There will be five rounds in total.

# OFFERS

There will be up to five rounds of offers, but most offers are made in the first or “Main Round”. Do not rely on getting anything in subsequent rounds. In 2015, VTAC made about 80,000 Main Round offers and only 6,000 Round 2 offers. Numbers drop even more in subsequent rounds.

## Main Round Offers

- **Early Round for International students** **December 21**
- **Main Round, International students** **January 8, 2016**
- **For local students** **January 18, 2016**

What you need to do with your offer:

- To **accept** an offer, follow the instructions in the offer advice to enrol at the institution.
  - No separate acceptance notification to VTAC is needed.
- To **defer** an offer, contact the institution.
  - Not all courses allow deferment.
- To **reject** an offer, take no action.
  - The offer will automatically lapse if you have not enrolled by the deadline

## Further Offer Rounds – Rounds 2-5

You can change preferences between each offer round as follows:

Round	Change of Preference closes (4pm)	Offer release	Change of Preference reopens (10am)
International Early Round	Wednesday, 16 December 2015	Monday, 21 December 2015	Monday, 4 January 2016
International Round 1	Monday, 4 January 2016	Friday, 8 January 2016	Monday, 11 January 2016
Round 1*	Monday, 21 December 2015 (12pm)	Monday, 18 January 2016	Tuesday, 19 January 2016
Round 2	Friday, 29 January 2016	Thursday, 4 February 2016	Friday, 5 February 2016
Round 3	Wednesday, 10 February 2016	Monday, 15 February 2016	Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Round 4	Wednesday 17 February 2016	Monday, 22 February 2016	Tuesday, 23 February 2016
Round 5	Wednesday, 24 February 2016	Monday, 29 February 2016	(end of application period)

# UNDERSTAND YOUR PREFERENCE RANK

**Do you understand the implications of the ranking you chose?**

Here's a little example to get you thinking. Let's pretend these are your preferences.

	Course	Uni	Last year's Clearly In
1	Bachelor of XYZ	Uni A	72
2	Diploma of XYZ	Uni A	NA
3	Diploma of XYZ	Pathway College to Uni B	NA
4	Bachelor of XYZ	Uni B	65
5	Associate Degree of XYZ	Uni B	50
6	Bachelor of ABC (with folio)	Uni B	RC

**A few scenarios to ponder:**

- If you get an ATAR of 80+, you are laughing, you will probably get your first preference. But you have covered your bases with a safe pathway bet at preference 2 as well, so you should be OK.
- If you get an ATAR of 64, it is highly likely you will get offered the Diploma in XYZ at Uni A, even though you probably qualified easily for the Associate Degree at Uni B, which is a higher level of qualification. This is good if you are keener on the institution than the qualification, but it would have been worth considering putting all the Bachelor/Associate wishes higher up if course content is more important to you than the institution.
- What about Preference 6? Did you submit a folio by the due date? If so, and if it was impressive, it's also possible that an ATAR of 64 would have got you over the line for this course.
- Have a look at Preferences 3 and 4 – why did you put the Diploma above the Bachelor? Doing this will almost guarantee that you get offered the Diploma if your marks are good enough (anyone with an ATAR over 50 is a good chance to get into a Diploma course with no ATAR requirement). So, if you have chosen the Diploma because you want it more than the Bachelor, that's good. If you were hoping to get into the Bachelor first go, swap them around. With an ATAR of 64, there's a good chance you'll get in if the Clearly-In is 65.

**Remember:**

When we talk about ATARs, we are only speculating on the basis of past results. We don't know this year's ATARs until the process is over.

# HOW CHANGE OF PREFERENCE WORKS

Let's say you get offered your third preference in Round 1 (see diagram below)

## 1. ACCEPT IT!

You do this by following the instructions in your offer email.

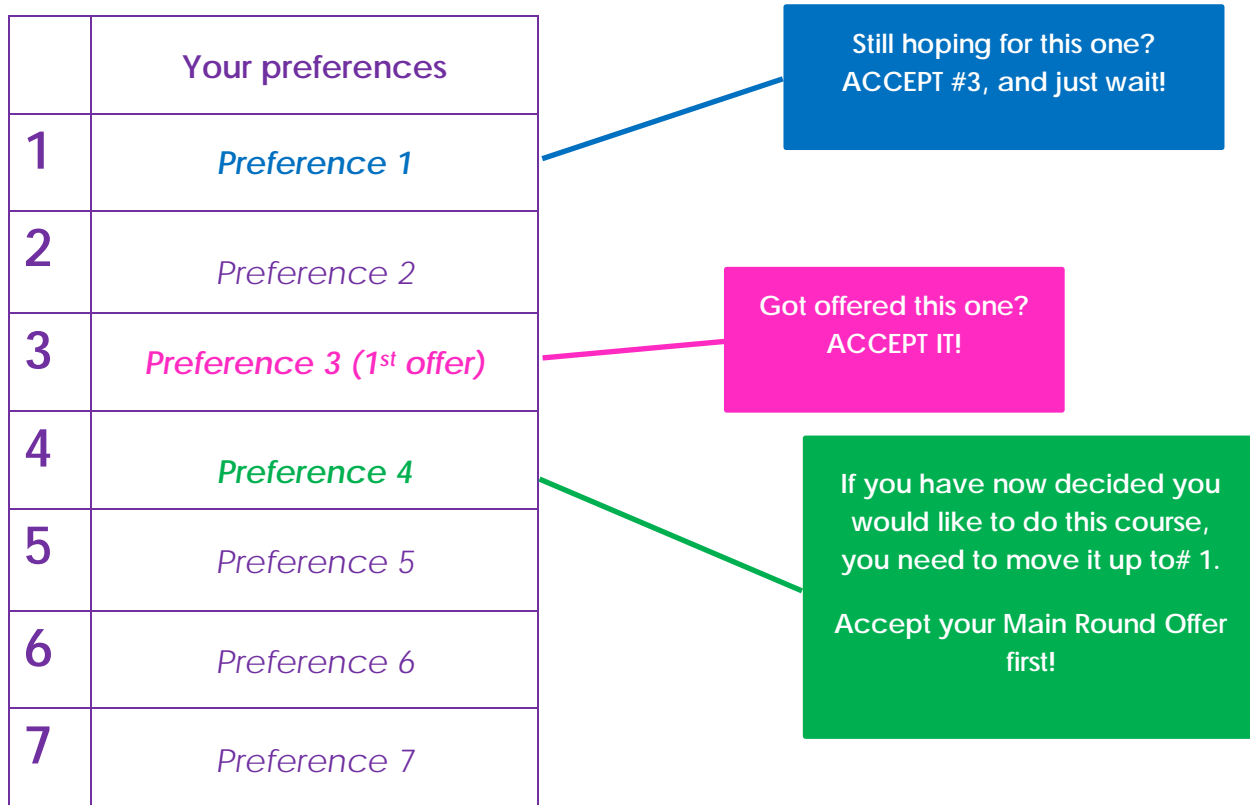
## 2. THEN think about whether that is still your first choice.

If it is, accept and celebrate.

If not, think about what happens next.

### Things you need to know:

- You can be offered preferences higher up the list than your first offer in subsequent offers without changing anything. So, in the diagram below, if you are still hoping for Preference 1 or 2, you accept #3 and just wait.
- If you have decided that you would now prefer something **lower** on your list, or would like to do something completely different that is not on your original list, you need to change your preferences.
- If your top choice is now BELOW the offer you were made, or you would like to try for a totally different course, rearrange your preference, so that the course you have already accepted is lower down the list, and your new top choice is at #1.



Always accept each offer you are made (up to 5). When you are ready, keep one and put all the others back for someone else!

# WHAT TO DO ON JANUARY 18, 2016

If you get an offer:

- ☐ **ACCEPT IT!**
- ☐ Then think about whether that's still your top choice.
- ☐ Go through the Change of Preference process outlined on the previous page to try for additional offers.

If you don't get an offer:

- ☐ Check to see if you still have choices on your preference list that are realistic.
- ☐ You can just wait and hope that you will get an offer in Round 2 or later.
- ☐ Or you can seek help to try and enter new preferences that might give you a better of getting an offer.

Either way:

- ☐ Read VTAC's advice on offers
- ☐ Talk to Kylie Witt if you need help – she will be back at work on January 18.

**GOOD LUCK!**  
**&**  
**DON'T BE SHY IF YOU NEED HELP 😊**

## Contact Kylie Witt

At school:   Until December 17, 2015  
                  From January 18, 2016

By email:     Until December 22, 2015  
                  For international students (January 8-10, 2016)  
                  For all students - from January 18, 2016

Phone +613 9488 2301 or email [witt.kylie.i@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:witt.kylie.i@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**If in doubt, always contact VTAC direct!**  
**1300 364 133**