

APPLYING FOR EQUITY SCHEMES (SEAS)

Once you have submitted your course application and your payment, you can apply for equity schemes and scholarships. You can apply for any categories that are relevant to your situation.



What are equity schemes?

Equity schemes are designed to make sure institutions get a sense of your full potential and enables them to consider hardships you have experienced and their impact upon your studies, when making selection decisions. If there have been circumstances that have made it hard for you to do your best, you should submit an equity schemes application.

Equity schemes also allows institutions to identify applicants from underrepresented groups when making selection decisions for some courses. It allows selection officers to grant special consideration for course entry to applicants so that you may be offered a place with a lower ATAR selection rank than otherwise required. It does not exempt you from meeting the published institutional and course requirements.

Whether you are currently studying Year 12 or applying as a post school leaver, you may be eligible for consideration.

If there have been circumstances that have made it hard for you to do your best at study, it's worth submitting an equity schemes and scholarship application.

Are you eligible?

You are eligible to apply if you hold:

- Australian or New Zealand citizenship
- a permanent Australian residency visa,
- an eligible Temporary, Bridging or Safe Haven Enterprise visa and are an
- Australian Year 12 applicant.

You also need to have applied for a course through VTAC and met the course and institutional requirements – **the equity schemes application only becomes available once you have completed your course application.**

How might an equity schemes application help you?

- Special consideration may result in your selection rank (ATAR + bonusing) increasing for one or more courses.
- It is always worth applying and also listing course preferences that you'd like to study even if your ATAR falls a bit short as consideration may get you into your dream course.
- Applying for equity schemes will never disadvantage you! If you are eligible, it can only improve your ranking for selection.

Dates & Deadlines

28 JULY 9AM
Applications open

You can apply for equity schemes & scholarships from this date - try and apply as soon as you can!

10 OCTOBER 5PM
Applications close

This is a hard deadline, so make sure you have applied by this time and provided any required supporting documents.

A note on deadlines

The earlier you submit any required documents, the more likely your documents will be reviewed before the application close deadline.

This means that you can receive feedback on whether or not you need to reupload any documents, so try to submit supporting documents as soon as you can.

EQUITY SCHEMES CATEGORIES

PERSONAL INFORMATION & LOCATION

Consideration

There are seven subcategories considered, which are:

- Age
- Recognition as an Indigenous Australian
- First in family to attend university
- Living or school location
- Under-represented school
- Under-represented gender
- Non-English speaking background

Application

No action or evidence is required for the personal information and location category. The information you supply throughout your application relating to the seven subcategories to the left will automatically be considered.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Consideration

If your daily life has been affected by financial hardship, this category will consider this.

Examples of circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- you receive Centrelink benefits
- your parent/guardian receives Centrelink benefits
- you have excessive financial obligations
- individual or family economic hardship
- individual or family poverty

Application

If you receive Centrelink payments in your name:

Provide your CRN and VTAC will be able to match it in the system.

If your parents/guardians receive Centrelink payments:

Provide a copy of parent/guardian's Centrelink Statement of Benefit or Family Tax Benefit statement - must be no older than three months and have relationship to applicant stated (e.g. mother).

If no Centrelink payments are received:

You will need to write an impact statement about how your daily life has been affected, and a Statement of Support written by a responsible adult.

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY OR MEDICAL CONDITION

Consideration

Considers any impact on your education due to disability or medical conditions, including diagnosed mental health conditions.

Conditions could be related to any learning, physical, sensory, psychiatric or mental health medical conditions, illness or disability.

Application

There are two parts to this application. The impact statement is included within your application, and the Statement of Support is provided as a supporting document once you submit your application.

Impact Statement

Written in your own words, briefly describe your condition and explain how your education has been impacted.

Statement of Support

Written confirmation of your condition and how your education has been impacted, provided by a medical practitioner which could include GPs, physiotherapists or psychologists to name a few.

DIFFICULT FAMILY AND LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES

Consideration

Considers any impact on your education due to family or other life circumstances that have been out of your control.

Circumstances relating to refugee or asylum seeker status, death of an immediate family member or close friend, excessive carer duties for children or other family members, homelessness, formal out of home care, sexual assault, family or domestic violence or natural disasters may not require impact statements and/or statements of support. Please see VTAC website for more information.

Application

There are two parts to this application. The impact statement is included within your application, and the Statement of Support is provided as a supporting document once you submit your application.

Impact Statement

Written in your own words, briefly describe your circumstances and explain how your education has been impacted.

Statement of Support

Written confirmation of your condition and how your education has been impacted, provided by a responsible adult.

In some circumstances, the evidence requirements may be different. See our website for more details.

THE APPLICATION, EVIDENCE & DOCUMENTS

The application

1. Log in to your VTAC account

Log in to your VTAC account

2. Make sure you've completed a course application

The equity schemes application becomes available once you complete a course application, which includes paying for your application.

3. Open the equity schemes and scholarships application

Select 'equity schemes and scholarships' in your VTAC account and it will load the application.

4. Complete application including written statements

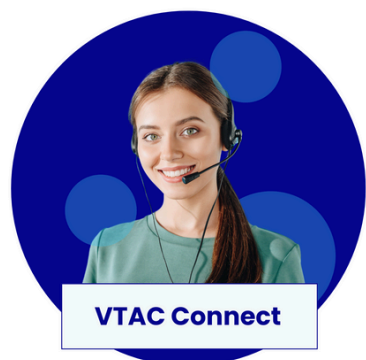
Fill out the category sections that are relevant to your circumstances. Based on your answers, you will be prompted for Impact Statements written in your own words.

Click on Save/Submit to complete your application. You will receive an email acknowledging you have submitted including a receipt. You can edit your applications as many times as required until the application closing date.

5. Submit evidence documents

When completing your equity schemes application, you may be required to provide evidence. If you don't, your application will not be considered. Evidence required is often a Statement of Support or Centrelink documents. In some difficult circumstances cases, you may have the option to provide a letter from a government or community organisation and do not need to write an impact statement or supply a statement of support.

To submit evidence, open 'providing evidence' in your VTAC profile and provide clear uploads.



VTAC Connect

Our helpful and supportive team is here to help you with any application questions, including questions about equity schemes and scholarships.

We are available to speak to you on the phone if you call (03) 9926 1020 between 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

You can also email us directly through your VTAC account.

Statement of support

A statement of support is required for some equity schemes applications.

It is written by a responsible adult or medical practitioner and supports your application to provide additional information about how your circumstances have impacted your learning.

A responsible person must meet all of the below criteria:

- 21 years of age or older
- Has known you for at least 12 months or for the entire duration of the circumstance(s), whichever is shorter
- Is not related to you by birth, marriage, or partnership/relationship, and
- Does not live with you.
e.g. Medical professional, Teacher or Neighbour

Providing a statement of support

There are two ways to provide a statement of support. Both are done after you have submitted your equity schemes application.

Online

This option sends your responsible person an email with a one-time link that submits a statement of support. Once submitted, you will be able to see that it has been provided in your VTAC account, but you will not be able to read the statement yourself.

To request an online statement of support:

1. click 'upload document' on the providing evidence page in your VTAC account.
2. Send an online statement of support to your responsible person to submit the statement electronically
3. Click "Yes" under "Request online statement of support".

Scanned document

This option is a template that you give to your responsible person and then you need to provide a scanned copy by uploading it into your VTAC account.

To provide a scanned statement of support:

1. Download a template by clicking 'download and print a blank statement of support' on the 'providing evidence' page.
2. Ensure your responsible person fills out the template.
3. Upload the scanned copy into your VTAC account on the providing evidence page.

Things to keep in mind

- You will not receive notification of whether special consideration has been granted as each institution and course may apply it differently.
- Even with an equity schemes application, you still need to meet any requirements. However, consideration of an equity schemes application may be given if your performance is slightly below the minimum study score for a prerequisite.
- Equity schemes and scholarships submission due dates have no flexibility - make sure you submit your application ahead of time. If there are any incidents that occur between the closing date and exams, please contact VCAA for provisions and support.
- You can apply to any combination of equity schemes categories, and should apply for any category that relates to your circumstances.