

Providing a statement of support

What is SEAS?

The person who gave you this sheet is applying for special consideration under the **Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)** and/or **scholarships** as part of their application for tertiary study through VTAC (the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre).

SEAS allows an applicant to receive special consideration when applying for courses, to compensate for circumstances, events, or conditions beyond their control that have negatively affected their education or, in the case of financial disadvantage, their daily life. Scholarships are also available for similar circumstances.

Why is my statement needed?

For some categories of SEAS, and some scholarships, a statement of support is needed to corroborate the information supplied by the applicant.

The form sent to you by the applicant may indicate that it is for use with both SEAS and scholarships applications.

What should I include in my statement?

Be as concise as possible about the circumstances or condition and focus primarily on the **impact on the applicant's education or, in the case of financial disadvantage, their daily life.**

Include a **timeline**, and be as specific as possible about the impact.

The applicant has already written their own impact statement, and you may wish to view this before writing your statement of support.

What isn't needed in my statement?

An overly detailed description of the circumstances or condition is not needed—the limit for this section is 500 characters.

Focus instead on the educational impact—for which the limit is 1500 characters.

Do not supply lengthy medical reports, photographs, x-rays, or other technical information.

Am I the right person to provide a statement?

A statement of support must be from a relevant responsible person. This means someone who:

- » is 21 years of age or older
- » has known the applicant for at least 12 months or for the entire duration of the circumstances, whichever is shorter
- » is not related to the applicant by birth, marriage, or de facto relationship, and
- » does not live with the applicant.

For applications under Category 3 (Disability or Medical Condition), the relevant responsible person must be a health practitioner who meets the above conditions.

As well as meeting the official requirements above, you should also have **first-hand knowledge** of the circumstances and their impact. If you are only hearing about the circumstances for the first time now, it's likely there is a more closely related person who would be better placed to provide the statement of support.

How do I provide my statement of support?

You can provide your statement using whichever method is most convenient:

Online

Give the applicant your email address. From their VTAC account, they can generate a one-time login which will be sent to you by email. You can then type your statement of support directly into the application.

OR

Scanned or mailed document

Type your statement of support on the VTAC form supplied. Give the finished statement to the applicant, who can then supply it to VTAC by uploading a scanned copy, or posting a printed copy to VTAC with their personalised cover sheet.

If you are unable to access the VTAC form, you can provide a statement on your professional letterhead citing the applicant's condition or circumstance, duration and impact on education or, in the case of financial disadvantage, their daily life.

Privacy and confidentiality

All sensitive information is collected and used in accordance with [VTAC's Privacy Policy](#). A statement of support that you supply online will not be automatically visible to the applicant, however may be released to them on request if required by law, or under your own organisation's privacy policy.

COVID-19

If the applicant's circumstances relate to the impact of COVID-19, check the VTAC website in late July for further instructions