

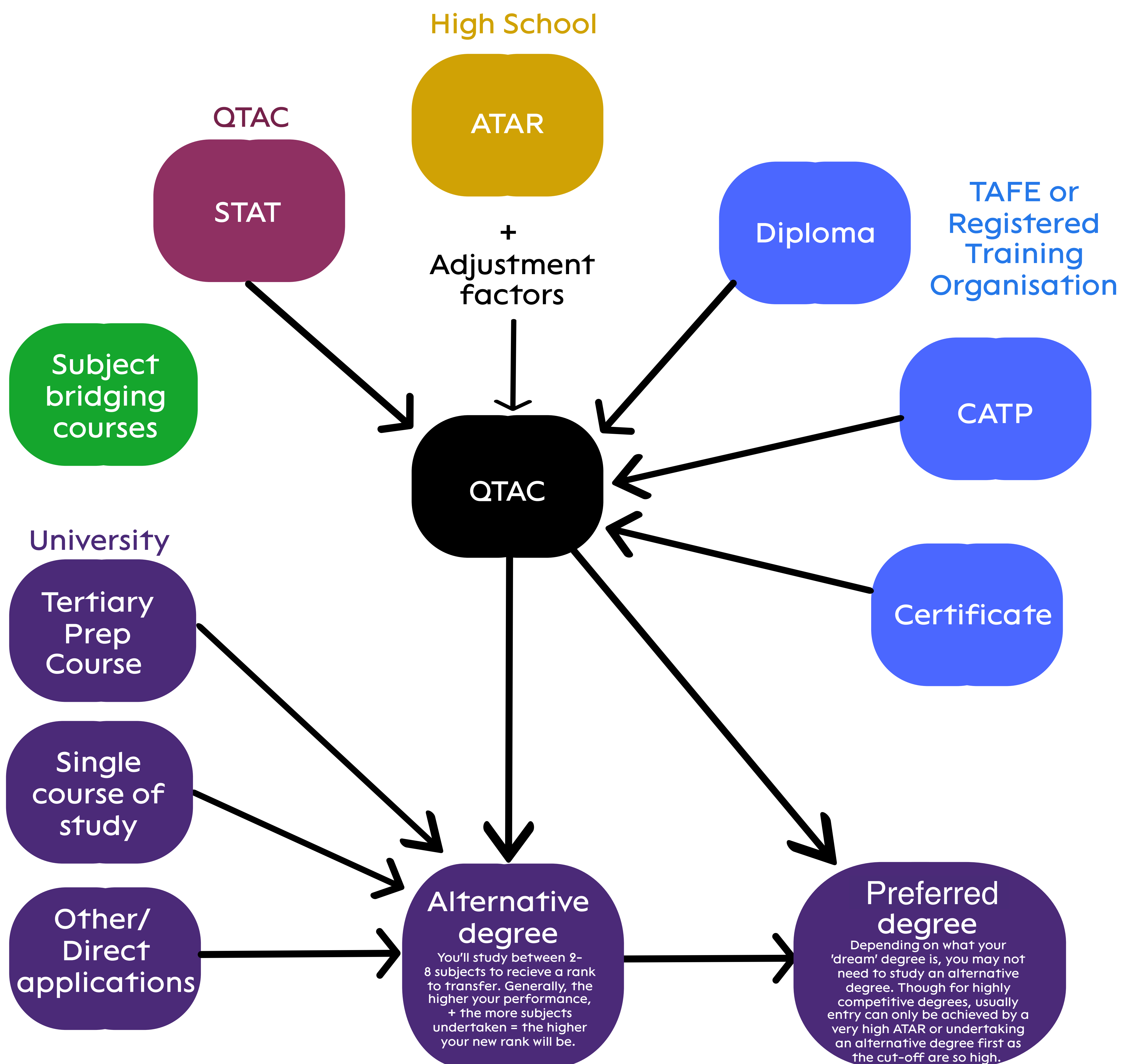
KNOW ALL YOUR OPTIONS

Though University may not be the goal for all students, this flyer aims to provide information on the pathways to University. There is a specific focus on Queensland pathways, for recent high school graduates.

QTAC's role is to assess your qualifications and make offers on behalf of Universities. When assessing your eligibility for an offer, you will need to meet two main criteria:

- 1) Satisfy the subject prerequisite
- 2) Satisfy the cut-off with your Qualification (e.g. ATAR)
- 3) Other criteria may apply such as interviews, portfolios, statements, medical exams English Language Proficiency.

Some pathways can satisfy both the rank and subject prerequisite. To decide which pathway suits you best, you might consider duration, opportunity for credit, what cut-off score you need to achieve, and if you also need to satisfy subject prerequisites. It's recommended that in year 12 you pass English at high school as a minimum. Most degrees will require English, and even if it isn't a prerequisite, it's usually assumed you are competent in English to a year 12 standard.



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HIGH SCHOOL

High school can provide an ATAR score and meet subject prerequisites. Some students may have a Diploma that was completed during high school. Some universities may recognise this as a stand-alone qualification, others will only consider the rank from your Diploma after you are not considered a current school leaver.

BRIDGING SUBJECTS

There are providers that offer bridging courses to satisfy subject prerequisites. Some of them are offered in person over the school holidays, others are self paced online courses. Check when the results are released (e.g. are they before QTAC offers), check if the university you are applying to recognise the course and compare fees between providers.

ALTERNATIVE DEGREE

If you don't achieve the ATAR to study your preferred degree, studying an alternative degree with a lower cut off or studying at an alternative university that has a lower cut off is another option. A search on a Brisbane university website indicates the minimum ATAR was 58.50 for an offer into their Bachelor of Commerce (Sem 1, 2022 admission).

After one year at University, with a GPA 4 (pass) most universities consider this equivalent to an ATAR/Rank 94. If you achieve a higher GPA, up to a GPA 7, you may receive up to a GPA 99.95. This is the only pathway (aside from a high school qualification) that can achieve such a high rank to transfer into more competitive courses.

The rank you receive is not dependent on a specific discipline, you can pick any degree. It is recommended to pick a degree that you feel you can achieve well in and would consider continuing in if you didn't transfer

You usually won't need to complete the whole degree, and depending on the study area it may cost less than some of the other pathways suggested. After you have completed this study, you may be eligible for credit for your next degree. Even if the degree is from an unrelated area, you may receive credit for your electives (these are subjects that can usually come from any discipline).

Even if your preferred course isn't overly competitive, the cut-off may increase in the future if demand increases. This pathway may provide you with a 'safety buffer' of being able to achieve a higher rank. Historically, some courses at Brisbane universities have increased by 12 ATAR points in one year as demand increased.

You may not need to study a whole year in an alternative degree, 2 subjects or more can provide an assessable rank. It's best to discuss with QTAC or University Admissions the cut-off you are aiming to meet and they can advise what GPA and how many subjects you will need to compete.

Some University subjects can also meet subject prerequisites. If the program you wanted to transfer to needed a science prerequisite, you could study that in your pathway degree as an elective and apply for credit for this in your next course.

DIPLOMA

Usually a Diploma will take 1.5 years to complete, so if your degree doesn't have a mid year entry, be aware you may be delayed by up to 2 years in reality. You may receive some credit if the Diploma is related to your future study, though it may not reduce your overall duration at University, the credit may just reduce the study load each semester. Diplomas won't meet the Rank for highly competitive degrees. Though they could provide entry into an alternative degree that you can use as a pathway. For most universities, a completed Diploma will meet the English subject prerequisite. Different providers will charge different fees, always compare the fees between different providers and also compare this price to one year of university study.

CATP

A Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation (CATP) can provide a Rank (rank dependant on performance in CATP) and can meet subject prerequisites. This qualification is usually offered by TAFE and can take approximately 12 months to complete. Combining this qualification with STAT exam can increase the rank achieved.

STAT

STAT is a tertiary admissions exam offered by QTAC. This multiple choice exam can meet the rank and English subject prerequisite for some degrees depending on the score achieved.

CERT III & IV

Certificates III & IV may meet the rank for non-competitive degrees. They do not usually meet the subject prerequisites. Limited or no credit normally applies through this pathway.

TERTIARY PREP COURSE

Universities will often offer their own Tertiary Preparation Course. This is often free or subsidised, runs for one year in duration (part time), and can meet Rank and subject prerequisites for a number of foundational degrees. Though, it usually only meets the entry requirements for the same university that you complete the preparation course at. No credit normally applies through this pathway.

YEAR 12 GUARANTEE

Some universities offer a guaranteed place at university by considering your year 11 and/or year 12 report cards and/or a personal statement. You can apply for this pathway directly with the institution. However, a university may make this offer through QTAC by asking you to preference this degree as your highest preference (so you wouldn't be eligible for other programs). Therefore it is recommended to consider this pathway only if you are sure it's a program you really want to study.

OTHER / DIRECT APPLICATIONS

There may be other entry paths specific to individual universities for select groups of applicants. Such as for elite athletes, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, past students and other 'mature-age' applicants. An example of this is Griffith University Personal Statement. This pathway allows mature age applicants to submit a written statement that will be assessed by QTAC and if passed, will satisfy the rank and subject prerequisites for a over 52 degrees.

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What ATAR will I need?

There is no accurate way of predicting what ATAR you will need until the actual offers are made, as it depends on the demand of the degree and the performance of applicants within the application pool. Eligibility for an offer is considered based on merit (meaning applicants are considered from highest ATAR to lowest ATAR and offers are made depending on how many places are available). If you have more than one qualification (e.g. an ATAR, a Cert III and a Diploma) most Universities will order your ATAR/Ranks from highest to lowest to advantage your application.

How should I order my QTAC preferences?

Always put your dream course first! You can change your order 3 times for free in QTAC. You could wait until your ATAR comes out and then make changes to your preference order (if you think it is necessary). If your ATAR score is less than what you had hoped, remember that adjustment factors might apply and cut-offs can also lower from the previous year - so don't be too quick to remove a preference that you might end up being eligible for. Be very careful on how you order your preferences and seek advice before changing them (particularly for very competitive programs such as Medicine or Dentistry).

What are Adjustment Factors?

Adjustment Factors essentially 'boost' your ATAR score for the purposes of making an offer. The adjustments usually only apply to ATAR scores in the offer round that you are considered a current school leaver. They don't usually apply to TAFE qualifications or apply to Mature Age applicants. You can receive adjustments for subjects studied at high school (schemes differ at each University, some recognise over 20 subjects, other universities may only recognise 3 subjects), locality to university campus, or other factors. Limits apply to the number of adjustments given by each University. You won't usually need to apply separately for these adjustments, they are automatically added to eligible preferences in QTAC.

Some of these pathways are only for Mature Age applicants?

At most Universities, mature age students are 18 years or over and not a current School Leaver. Therefore, for some schemes that are only available to "Mature Age" applicants, you might actually qualify for 6 months after graduating in Semester 2. Check the eligibility for the pathway and university you are considering, but it could also be advantageous if you were planning on taking a gap year.

Final words..

There are entire departments and admissions manuals outlining pathways that can't be captured in a 3 page flyer. Please call university admissions departments and QTAC to ask about these pathways. High schools often report on the ATAR performance and university offers to Boards and prospective parents, so please be aware of the bias in the information a school, TAFE or university might provide and consider all your options. If you are undertaking a Diploma during year 12 as a 'back-up' pathway to University, you have nothing to lose by remaining ATAR eligible - so please consider carefully if your school is suggesting you become ATAR ineligible or swapping prerequisite subjects to lower level subjects. Just try your best, know which subjects are prerequisites and that there are lots of other pathways. There is always a pathway to your dream degree, even if your ATAR is 0.05. If you have the motivation and dedication, there is always a pathway available. An extra year in an alternative degree is a drop in the bucket compared to your future career. Your performance in school is NOT the only indicator of your future success.

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