

SCHEDULE C: ACCESS AND EQUITY PROGRAMS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Approved by Academic Board on 12 September 2017.

This schedule is made pursuant to the [Admission Criteria and Selection \(Higher Education Courses\) procedure](#).

Detailed information is available on the [Special Entry Access Scheme website](#).

1. ENTRY AND ACCESS SCHEME CATEGORIES

Deakin University considers educational disadvantage under 4 entry and access scheme categories as indicated in Table 1 below, with a number of sub-categories within Category 1.

Table 1: Entry and Access Scheme Categories

Entry and Access Scheme Categories	
Category 1: Personal information and location	
1.1 Mature age	Applicants must be 21 years of age, or older on 1 January in the year of commencement, unless offer is deferred.
1.2 Gender	Applicants must be applying for a course that has historically been under-represented by a specific gender as identified on the Special Entry Access Scheme website and be of that gender. This list will be established by Faculties on review of annual course enrolment data and may include new courses in disciplines consistent with the criteria.
1.3 Living or school locations	Applicants' living and/or school locations are taken into consideration. Applicants will have a permanent living address or will have attended a school that is identified by the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Areas classification as rural and regional.
1.4 Indigenous Australian	Applicants must be Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, or identify as a person of such heritage.
1.5 Under-represented school	Applicants must have completed Year 12 at a school listed by Deakin as an under-represented school. This listing will be determined using the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA), and will include partner schools participating in Deakin's Engagement and Access Program (DEAP).
1.6 Non-English speaking background	Applicants must have been born outside Australia in a non-English speaking country, speak a language other than English at home and arrived in Australia less than 10 years prior to application.
Category 2: Difficult circumstances	
Applicants who have experienced difficult circumstances impacting their secondary schooling must provide:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• an impact statement outlining their circumstances and how this has adversely affected their education• a statement of support from a responsible person who has knowledge to confirm their circumstances and comment on the educational impact.	

Entry and Access Scheme Categories

Category 3: Disadvantaged financial background

Applicants must provide evidence of their disadvantaged financial circumstances which may include:

- individual or family poverty
- excessive financial obligations
- economic hardship.

Applicants may be in receipt of a Centrelink benefit.

If applicants do not receive a Centrelink benefit then they are required to submit:

- an impact statement describing how their financial background has adversely effected their life and
- a statement of support from a responsible person who can confirm their situation and can comment on the impact.

Category 4: Disability or medical condition

Applicants must provide the following statements as evidence of a disability, impairment or medical condition that has affected their studies, leading to disadvantage in their preparation for tertiary study:

- impact statement describing their disability/medical condition and how these have affected their education
- a statement of support that details the condition and the duration from the treating health care professional involved in the care and/or maintenance for the condition, illness or disability. Details of any absences from learning (including duration) and how the condition adversely affected academic performance should be included.

To be eligible to apply for consideration under one of the special entry and access categories, applicants must have Australian or New Zealand citizenship, or hold a permanent Australian residency visa. Applicants must also meet the course prerequisites and the University's entrance requirements as set out on the [undergraduate degree applications website](#).

2. VICTORIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION CENTRE (VTAC) APPLICANTS

2.1 VTAC Special Entry and Access Schemes-Categories

Prospective students submitting course applications through VTAC may submit a Special Entry and Access Scheme (SEAS) application if they believe they have experienced educational disadvantage.

VTAC engages a panel of experts to consider SEAS applications in Categories 2 and 4 and to rate the applications from 1-5 according to their level of educational disadvantage, with 5 being the most severe rating. Applicants in Category 3: Disadvantaged financial background can be either unscored by the VTAC panel, where they are in receipt of Centrelink benefits, or scored by the VTAC panel of experts in the case of those not in receipt of Centrelink benefits.

The incorporation of the VTAC severity ratings into automated SEAS bonus calculations for Deakin applicants assists the achievement of more consistent, transparent and equitable outcomes.

2.2 Implementing Deakin Bonus Schemes through VTAC

Bonus schemes are implemented by adding bonus points to an individual’s aggregate study score and then recalculating their rank (position) on that offer work list. This increases the chance of an individual getting a course offer but does not guarantee it. Applicants may be eligible for a maximum bonus of up to 15 aggregate points across all Bonus Schemes, inclusive of SEAS, subject bonuses and any course specific bonuses.

2.2.1 SEAS Bonus Scheme

The University has adopted a scoring schema (SEAS) through which bonus points may be awarded to applicants who have experienced differing categories and severity of educational disadvantage. The cap on the SEAS Bonus Scheme is 15 aggregate points.

Table 2 – Deakin University SEAS scoring schema

Category 1: Personal information and location						Cat 2 VTAC	Cat 3 VTAC	Cat 4 VTAC	
Age	Gender	Living or school locations	Indigenous Australian	Under represented Schools	Non-English speaking background	Difficult circumstances	Disadvantaged financial background	Disability or medical condition	Overall maximum
8 [^]	5	10	15	10	5	up to 10 ^{**}	Up to 10 [*] / ^{***}	Up to 10 ^{**}	15

[^] Applies to applicants over 21 years of age at 1 January in the year of commencement, unless offer is deferred

^{*} Scored applicant up to 10, Centrelink recipients 10.

^{**} Ratings given by VTAC (from 1 to 5) are scaled so the disadvantage assessed by VTAC corresponds with the aggregate bonus given by Deakin as specified (eg. a VTAC rating of 4 would scale to an aggregate bonus of 8)

^{***} For non-Centrelink recipients, the above ^{**} applies.

2.2.2 Subject Bonus

The Faculties allocate bonus points to subjects completed by Year 12 applicants that they consider add value to their application for University. The cap on the subject bonus scheme is 12 aggregate points.

2.2.3 Rural and Regional Bonus

The following course offerings attract a rural and regional bonus on a sliding scale for those students located at a school in a regional or remote area of Australia, or at a school within the City of Greater Geelong. The cap on the rural and regional bonus scheme is 10 aggregate points.

Course title
Bachelor of Vision Science/Master of Optometry
Bachelor of Medical Imaging
Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science (Waurm Ponds offering only)
Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science/Bachelor of Business (Sport Management) (Waurm Ponds offering only)

2.2.4 Elite Athlete Bonus

The following courses attract an elite athlete bonus on a sliding scale for those students defined as elite athletes. The cap on the elite athlete bonus scheme is 5 aggregate points.

Course title
Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science
Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science/Bachelor of Business (Sport Management)

Elite athletes are defined, in line with Deakin’s membership of the Elite Athlete Friendly University (EAFU) network, as athletes and coaches contracted to those sports and entities shown in the list below.

- Australian Institute of Sport
- State Institutes or Academies of Sport
- AFL Players Association
- Australian Cricketers Association
- Rugby Union Players Association
- Rugby League Professionals Association
- Australian Professional Footballers Association
- National senior squad members from Coach and Athlete Career and Education (CACE)-supported sport
- Coach Career Management Program
- SCOPE Program.

2.3 Individuals applying through VTAC with Year 12 as their Highest Qualification

Those applicants who apply through VTAC with Year 12 as their highest qualification are ranked on the basis of their ATAR or equivalent ATAR. Selection officers will be able to automatically apply the bonuses for SEAS to suit the minimum and maximum ATAR appropriate for their work lists.

2.4 Other VTAC Applicants

Those applicants who apply through VTAC without Year 12 as their highest qualification are not automatically ranked on any scored academic basis. Ranking is completed manually by selection officers after they have considered the information provided by each applicant e.g. previous qualifications, work experience, motivation to study etc. Selection officers will be required to re-rank the applications manually using the following to guide their decisions, the:

- VTAC ratings of the severity of disadvantage the applicant has suffered
- weightings of each category within the University's approved scoring schema.

3. ACCESS AND EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS—DIRECT APPLICANTS

All students who apply directly to Deakin for a place in an undergraduate course may do so under the Deakin Access and Equity Program citing educational disadvantage under one or more of the categories listed in Table 1. Applicants are required to submit:

- an online application through Deakin's Course and Scholarship Applicant Portal and complete the appropriate question about Access and Equity and
- a personal statement which outlines the access and equity category they are applying under and how their particular circumstances have had an impact on their education. Prospective students can apply under more than one category.

Outcomes from this process will be equivalent, as far as reasonably possible, to the outcomes of the VTAC process.

4. ACCESS AND EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS—DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

4.1 Rural/Regional residency

Applicants who meet defined rural and regional residency criteria have a bonus added to the combined Grade Point Average (GPA) and Graduate Australian Medical School Admission Test (GAMSAT) score. To qualify for a bonus for rural/regional residency, applicants must have lived for at least 10 years cumulatively or any 5 years consecutively after birth in a place classified by the Australian Standard Geographic Classification – Remote Areas (ASGC-RA) system as level 2–5. The bonus is also given to applicants who have lived in the City of Greater Geelong for at least 10 years cumulatively or 5 years consecutively from birth:

- Residence in ASGC-RA 2 or the City of Greater Geelong: a bonus of 4% of the combined GPA and GAMSAT score.
- Residence in ASGC-RA 3-5: a bonus of 8% of the Combined GPA and GAMSAT score.

- **Prior clinical experience**

Applicants who have completed one year (12 months) of full-time clinical practice as a registered health professional, may have a 4% bonus added to the combined GPA and GAMSAT score. The following health disciplines will attract a 4% bonus: chiropractic, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, occupational therapy, dietetics, speech pathology, paramedics, and practitioners of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Chinese Medicine and Medical Radiation.

This bonus applies to both domestic and international applicants.

Applicants who claim the Work Experience Bonus (see 4.5 below) are not eligible to apply for this bonus.

4.2 Financial disadvantage

Applicants who can demonstrate financial disadvantage, which may have impacted on academic performance during their undergraduate degree, may qualify for a bonus for financial disadvantage.

The Deakin School of Medicine recognises the following benefits as providing eligibility for the financial disadvantage bonus:

- all Centrelink income payments;
- Department of Veterans' Affairs income payments.

Other Australian Federal or State Government income payments of similar amounts may be considered.

StudyLink benefits apply for applicants from New Zealand. Please note, this does not include a StudyLink loan.

Applicants who are able to demonstrate that they have been in receipt of an approved Centrelink/StudyLink benefit, for at least 12 months during their undergraduate degree, may have a 2% bonus added to the combined GPA and GAMSAT score.

4.3 Deakin graduate

Applicants who have graduated from a Deakin University undergraduate degree of at least 3 years duration may have a 4% bonus added to the combined GPA and GAMSAT score. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 2 years' full time study (16 credit points) at Deakin University.

4.4 Work experience

Applicants who can demonstrate that they have gained a minimum of 2 years full-time employment experience in any area of work (consecutively or cumulatively over 4 years) may have a 2% bonus added to the combined GPA and GAMSAT score.

Applicants who claim the Prior Clinical Experience Bonus (see 4.2 above) are not eligible to apply for this bonus.