VALUING DIVERSITY AND ENABLING ACCESS @ DEAKIN

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Overview

- Special Entry Access Scheme, which can increase diverse students’ chance of gaining a place at university or TAFE, and other pathways to university.

- Services for students with disability, health condition or mental health condition which affects study or participation in University life.
How we start talking about SEAS

1. What do students already know about VTAC (keeping it general)?
2. Ask students to write down & discuss, in groups, “what gets in the way of your Year 12?”

3. Break these down into control / ? / no control (individual control over barriers identified)
Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)

- VTAC administers
- **Maximises** chance of gaining a place at university and TAFE
- Considered **with** ATAR
- **NOT a substitute** for any pre-requisites
- **DOES NOT guarantee** you an offer
6 SEAS categories applicable to Year 12s:

1. Personal information and locations:
   - Age
   - Indigenous Australian
   - Living or school postcode
   - Under-represented schools
   - Gender
SEAS Categories (continued)

2. Non-English speaking background
3. Difficult circumstances*
4. Disadvantaged financial background*
5. Disability or medical condition*
6. PPP / SALT / REEP (Victoria, La Trobe and Ballarat University)
Supporting evidence

- Impact Statements

2 part process:
1. explain circumstances (details important – dates, time periods, context “a week before my mid-year exams”)
2. Connect circumstances to the impact on students education and learning
Supporting evidence

- Supporting statement from a “responsible person” (i.e. you) – best they read / understand the students impact statement

- Centrelink information
  Mostly automated now, straight forward
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Deakin Bonus Point Scheme

- Up to 10 bonus points
- Added to aggregate, not directly to ATAR
  (e.g. 99.65 > 99.95 / 70.00 > 77.30 / 50.05 > 58.10*)
- 2 categories (under-rep schools and regional)
- 5 bonus points available in each category
- Bonus points automatically applied if students applied to Category 1 in SEAS

*based on 14 Dec 2012 VTAC Aggregate to ATAR table
Disability services for students
Disability services for students

Who are students with disability?

- Broad definition
- Generally more broad than in school
- Growing number of students with mental health conditions
Disability services for students

Services and support provided:

- by a dedicated team in the Disability Resource Centre
- through a combination of policy and system change, inclusive community development and individual support
- for students with disability, health condition or mental health condition and their carers
Disability services for students

- Building on students strengths
- Development of individual learning plans
- Facilitating identification of inherent requirements of course and study
- Supporting teaching staff to support students
Disability services for students

**Individual support includes:**

- assistance communicating student needs to academic staff
- provision of study materials in accessible formats
- access to academic support workers, including note-takers and sign interpreters
- longer library loan periods and off-campus library services
Disability services for students

Individual support includes:
• access to technology to help with study and assistance with technology training
• support during practical sessions and placements
• alternative assessment and exam arrangements, such as extra time and computer use
• referral to other university staff and services
Individual Learning Plans

- Sally’s story
- Mohammed’s story
Questions? Comments?

equity and diversity
Valuing diversity, enabling access, promoting inclusion

deakin.edu.au/equity

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B
Contacts

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Student Access @ Deakin:  
www.deakin.edu.au/access-equity

SEAS:  
www.vtac.edu.au