

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING AND ARRANGING QTAC PREFERENCES

1. List all the courses you are considering.
2. Check the location of each course.
3. Check if the courses are full-time, part-time, flexible or external.
4. Check if the courses are full fee (discuss the possibility of applying for full-fee courses with your family).
5. Compare the Student Contribution costs of each course (www.studyassist.gov.au)
6. Check that you meet the prerequisites for all the courses you have listed.
7. Cross out any course that you would or could not do (e.g., the course is located away from home and you can't afford to live away from home; the course is external and you know your learning style doesn't suit this type of study; you do not meet the prerequisites; your family can't afford to pay full-fees or a high Student Contribution fee).
8. Find out what the cut-offs were for the remaining courses and list these.
9. Ordering courses: Put the course you most want first even if you think your chances of gaining entry to it aren't great. The second course is also one that you really want to do. These are called your desired courses.
10. The 3rd and 4th preferences are your backup courses. They are less competitive courses that you want to study.
11. Your last two preferences are your pathway courses. These are courses that will help you upgrade into a course you really want. Make sure your 6th preference has a previous cut-off well below your expected OP/Rank.
12. While it is important to consider previous cut-offs when ordering your preferences, do not place the courses in order of their cut-offs if this is not in line with your true preferences. It is more important to put the courses in order of your preference as long as you are realistic and ensure you have a pathway course. Avoid putting very competitive courses (i.e., those with very high previous cut-offs) below courses with much lower previous cut-offs. Consider replacing these courses or eliminating them altogether.
13. Review your preferences when you receive your initial offer.