

## TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS SERVICE CENTRE

(Incorporated in Western Australia)

Level 1, 100 Royal Street  
East Perth, Western Australia 6004  
Telephone (08) 9318 8000  
Facsimile (08) 9225 7050  
<http://www.tisc.edu.au/>

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## WACE Mathematics ATAR courses

Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia have agreed to introduce a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate bonus to encourage students to undertake the more challenging Mathematics ATAR course options.

### What is the bonus?

Ten percent of the final scaled score/s in Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist will be added to the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate, from which the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is derived. (This is how the current bonus for studies in Languages Other Than English (LOTE) is awarded.) The bonus does not apply to Mathematics Applications.

### When does the bonus start?

The bonus will apply to the calculation of the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate **from 2017 onwards**.

### Can bonuses from both courses be counted?

Yes, if you take Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist, you will get the bonus from each of them.

### Do the maths courses have to be in the best four scores?

No. Even if one or both of the maths courses isn't one of your best four scaled scores, the bonus will still be added to the aggregate.

### Can you give an example of how it would work?

Here's a hypothetical scenario where a student achieves the following scaled scores in the 2017 WACE.

- |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| • Music ATAR                    | 76.4 |
| • Human Biological Science ATAR | 65.7 |
| • English ATAR                  | 63.2 |
| • Mathematics Methods ATAR      | 59.1 |
| • Mathematics Specialist ATAR   | 34.9 |

The best four scaled scores add up to 264.4, then the Maths bonuses of 5.9 for Methods and 3.5 for Specialist are added, to produce an aggregate of 273.8. Even though the scaled score for Maths Specialist wasn't one of this student's best four subjects, they still get the benefit of the bonus.

### What difference will it make to the ATAR?

A TEA bonus of 9.4 in this example, does not mean that the ATAR will increase by the same amount. In the example above, the bonus would have increased this person's ATAR by about 2.7 compared to if they had not taken the two maths courses listed. [This is based on the 2015 TEA to ATAR conversion and is only a broad guide. The ATAR in any year is determined by the distribution of overall results, and so cannot be calculated in advance. The impact of a TEA bonus on your ATAR will also vary, depending on where in the overall distribution of aggregates your results place you.]

Note: Revised 15 April 2016 to clarify that the bonus will be applied in the calculation of the Tertiary Entrance Aggregate in 2017.