

# Apply for special consideration (SEAS)

If there have been circumstance that have made it hard for you to do your best at study, it's worth putting in an application for special consideration via VTAC's Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS). SEAS also allows institutions to identify applicants from under-represented groups when making selection decisions.

## What is SEAS?

The Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) is designed to make sure institutions get a sense of your full potential if you have experienced difficulty during your education. It enables institutions to consider these circumstances and their impact when ranking eligible applicants for a course before making offers.

However, SEAS is not just about life's difficulties—there's a whole category that looks at under-represented demographics in courses, and to apply for this category you simply tick a box.

SEAS does not change your educational results or qualifications. And if you are granted special consideration it does not guarantee you an offer. If you apply for SEAS, you still need to meet the 'essential requirements' and 'admission criteria' for a course, including prerequisite studies.

## Does every institution use SEAS?

Not all institutions use SEAS, and different institutions recognise different categories. Also, some institutions offer special consideration outside of SEAS. For information about other programs see the VTAC website: [vtac.edu.au/SEAS](http://vtac.edu.au/SEAS)

## How to apply for SEAS

1. Make sure you've lodged a course application—SEAS is only available after a course application has been lodged.
2. Log in to your VTAC account using your VTAC ID and PIN.
3. Select 'Special consideration (SEAS) application' in your VTAC account. Click the SEAS application link at the top of the page.
4. Fill in the SEAS application. There are four categories that make up SEAS. You only need to fill out the sections that are relevant to your circumstances.
5. Click on 'Submit'. You will be sent an email acknowledging that your application has been submitted, including a receipt showing the contents of your application. You can also access your receipt through your VTAC account.
6. Check if further evidence is required. You will be advised if you are required to submit any further evidence to support your application such as a supporting statement from a 'responsible person'.

## Providing evidence

Most SEAS categories require you to provide evidence. Including:

- » a written statements that you complete
- » a statement of support from a 'responsible person' who has specific knowledge of your circumstances, and/or
- » financial documentation:

## What is considered under SEAS?

There are four categories in SEAS. You can apply for all the categories that are relevant to your situation, so long as you apply to each category for a different reason.

### Category 1: Personal information and location

This category covers a range of under-represented groups, so institutions can ensure that their students come from a wide range of backgrounds. All of these details can be drawn from your course application so all you need to do to apply is tick a box. However, you should also check the VTAC website to see if individual institutions require any further evidence. Subcategories include:

- » Age—this mainly applies to mature age students.
- » Gender—for applicants who are applying for a course that has historically been dominated by applicants from the opposite gender.
- » Living or school location—for applicants who live or study in a rural or isolated area.
- » Non-English-speaking background—for applicants who were born outside of Australia in a non-English speaking country, who speak a language other than English at home or who arrived in Australia on, or after, 1 January 2011.
- » Under-represented school—institutions determine which schools are under-represented amongst their students. This may change from year to year.
- » First in family to attend university—for applicants whose parents did not attend university.

### Category 2: Disadvantaged financial background

For applicants who have been prevented from reaching their educational potential because of financial disadvantage.

### Category 3: Disability or medical condition

For applicants who have experienced educational disadvantage as a result of any learning, physical, sensory or psychiatric medical condition, illness or disability.

### Category 4: Difficult circumstances

For applicants who have been prevented from reaching their educational potential due to difficult circumstances other than those described above, for example, problems at home, a death in the family or other life circumstances.

## Find out more

More information on the SEAS categories is available on the VTAC website: [vtac.edu.au/SEAS](http://vtac.edu.au/SEAS)

SEAS applications open on 2 August 2021 and close 5:00 pm 8 October 2021

You can practise a SEAS application at [vtac.edu.au/applying/demos](http://vtac.edu.au/applying/demos). Just remember that the information you enter in a demo is not submitted to VTAC, and is not considered a valid application.



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