

1 May 2020

A message to SACE International students

From the Chief Executive, SACE Board of South Australia

The SACE Board recognises the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on all students in the SACE International network.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that students who successfully complete the requirements of the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) in 2020 will be issued with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), for university entrance in 2021.

The SACE Board is making the necessary adjustments in the curriculum for students to be able to complete the qualification successfully while maintaining the integrity of the certificate.

We are also working closely with the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC), the organisation responsible for the ATAR, to ensure SACE international students have a pathway to university in Australia.

I would like to refer you to a [joint statement](#), from all of the Tertiary Admissions centres across Australia that ensures there is national and consistent approach to the ATAR for any student studying an Australian senior secondary qualification, anywhere in the world.

Continue the learning

Right now, our key message to all SACE International students is to continue the learning. All learning is valuable, and it will be valued in the SACE.

The SACE Board has worked in partnership with teachers to co-construct modifications to specific subjects, particularly with school-based assessments that make up 70% of a student's assessed work in the SACE.

Modifications include providing teachers with flexibility to reduce or change the nature of an assessment task, taking into account, for example, that students are learning in an online environment.

Our key focus remains, however, on continuing the learning and ensuring that students develop the full range of knowledge, skills and capabilities in the subject.

Exams in November

The exams, which contribute to 30% of a student's overall grade in any subject, are still set for November, but we continue to monitor the impact that COVID-19 may have on students' ability to sit the exams. We will advise of any changes if, or when, necessary.

The SACE Assessment model – our strength during uncertain times

During this global pandemic, it is a distinct strength of the SACE International program that our assessment model is designed so that 70% of student assessment tasks are school-based.

This enables teachers to make an informed judgement of student performance across a range of assessment tasks, not just in one exam. The school assessment results are quality assured by the SACE Board, which enables the results at the end of the year to be delivered in a fair and consistent manner for all students.



This unique feature of the SACE International program also ensures the integrity of the SACE certificate as an international qualification, and the ATAR calculation for university entrance around the world.

University entry

The Higher Education sector in Australia values and welcomes international students.

Australian universities continue to make offers and accept student enrolments and have strategies so that students can commence or continue their tertiary studies.

I ask all students across the SACE International network to keep in contact with your teachers and keep engaged in the learning. Together we will get through these uncertain times.

Thank you for choosing the SACE International program as your pathway to success at university.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Westwell', written in a cursive style.

Professor Martin Westwell

Chief Executive
SACE Board of South Australia