



Exhibitions and awards 2016

Policy and guidelines

Policy statement

Exhibitions and awards are granted by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to senior secondary students studying Authority subjects and vocational education and training (VET). The awards recognise individual excellence in senior secondary schooling. Both general educational excellence and subject-specific excellence are recognised.

The final decision on the granting of each award is made by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Exhibitions and Awards Committee.

General criteria for eligibility for exhibitions and awards

To be eligible to achieve a Beazley Medal: WACE, a Beazley Medal: VET, a general exhibition, a general exhibition (ATSI), a subject exhibition, a VET exhibition, a certificate of excellence, a certificate of distinction or a certificate of merit, a student must:

- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
- have been enrolled as a full-time student¹ in a registered secondary school
- have satisfied the requirements for a WACE at the time of the determination of the award/exhibition (except for course exhibitions and certificates of excellence).

Special general awards, special subject awards, special VET awards, and special certificates of excellence may be awarded to students who do not meet the general eligibility criteria.

1. Peak awards

Two peak awards are granted, one recognising outstanding academic achievement (Beazley Medal: WACE) and another recognising outstanding achievement in vocational education and training (Beazley Medal: VET).

1.1 Beazley Medal: WACE

The Beazley Medal: WACE is awarded for excellence to the eligible student who achieves the top WACE award score which is used to rank students for general exhibitions.

School Curriculum and Standards Authority WACE award score

The WACE award score is based on the average of five scaled examination scores in ATAR courses, calculated to two decimal places, with at least two from each of List A and List B subjects. Where an examination includes both written and practical components, an appropriate statistical process will be used to combine the examination marks.

Students can accumulate scaled examination scores over the last two years of their senior secondary schooling. Where students have accumulated scaled examination scores over two years, the following rules apply in calculating the WACE award score:

1. At least three scaled examination scores must have been obtained in the final year of senior secondary schooling.
2. Where a student has repeated a course, only the first scaled examination score obtained is used.
3. Scaled examination scores achieved as a private candidate in an examination do not count towards the WACE award score.

¹ A full-time student is one who is enrolled in at least four full-year or equivalent WACE courses in a registered secondary school.

1.2 Beazley Medal: VET

The Beazley Medal: VET is awarded for excellence in studies that include training qualifications and School Curriculum and Standards Authority courses. It is awarded to the eligible student who has demonstrated the most outstanding performance in a VET Certificate II or higher and in their other WACE achievements.

Eligibility criteria

Students eligible for this award will have:

- completed a nationally recognised VET qualification to a minimum of AQF level 2, **and**
- achieved a VET exhibition (section 4.1) in one of the industry areas.

Selection process

Short-listing

Students will be short-listed from those achieving a VET exhibition (see section 5.1) according to their:

- performance in the relevant VET award; **and**
- achievement in School Curriculum and Standards Authority courses. An analysis of the grades achieved in Authority courses will be undertaken to compare the achievement of eligible students.

Interviewing

Short-listed students will be interviewed during mid-December by a selection panel comprising a nominee of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Board and nominees from the Department of Education, Catholic Education of Western Australia, Association of Independent Schools of WA and Department of Training and Workforce Development. The panel will develop interview questions that will enable students to elaborate on their knowledge and experience in the training arena.

Students will be provided with the key questions to be asked by the selection panel 10 minutes before the interview. The interview will be of approximately 20 minutes duration.

Selection will be based on the evidence submitted at time of nomination and during the interview and will focus on the student's:

- performance in the relevant VET award;
- skills and knowledge gained through VET and work placements;
- other achievements such as special recognition by the workplace employer, an industry award or a community award;
- knowledge and experience in the specific industry area, including understandings of new developments and trends in the workplace or industry;
- achievement in School Curriculum and Standard Authority courses (ATAR or General); and
- communication and leadership skills.

2. Awards for outstanding achievement

General exhibitions are awarded to recognise outstanding academic achievement. The awards relate to achievement in ATAR courses.

2.1 General exhibitions

Fifty awards, known as general exhibitions, are awarded to eligible students who obtain the highest WACE award score. The rules and process for determining a student's WACE award score are provided in Section 1.1.

2.2 General exhibition (ATSI)

One award, known as the general exhibition (ATSI), may be awarded to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student who is eligible and achieves the highest WACE award score. The rules and process for determining a student's WACE award score are provided in Section 1.1.

To be eligible for this award, the student must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

A student may receive both a general exhibition and the general exhibition (ATSI).

2.3 Special general award

A special general award is presented to students not eligible for the award of a general exhibition because they have not satisfied the general criteria for eligibility, but who have otherwise achieved the requirements for the award of a general exhibition and whose WACE award score is not below the lowest score for which a general exhibition is awarded.

3. Awards for outstanding achievement in an ATAR course

These awards relate to ATAR courses only. Awards for outstanding achievement in VET industry specific courses are defined in section 5.

3.1 Subject exhibitions (ATAR courses)

A subject exhibition may be awarded to the eligible student obtaining the highest examination mark for each ATAR course, provided that at least 100 candidates sat the examination. To be eligible for a subject exhibition, the student must have completed the pair of Year 12 units in the course in the year of the award and have not previously sat the WACE examination for that course.

Where a course includes both written and practical components the examination mark will be determined using an appropriate statistical process to combine the two examination marks.

Only one exhibition is awarded in each subject. In the event that there is a tie in the examination mark, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Exhibition and Awards Committee will review the students' results and determine the winner/s of the award.

Subject exhibitions will not generally be awarded where less than 100 candidates sit the ATAR course examination. However, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Exhibition and Awards Committee may decide to award a subject exhibition if the achievement is of an exceptionally high standard.

3.2 Special subject awards (ATAR courses)

A special subject award may be presented to a candidate not eligible for a subject exhibition because they have not satisfied the general criteria for eligibility but who have otherwise achieved the requirements for a subject exhibition. Only one award will be available in that subject.

3.3 Subject certificates of excellence (ATAR courses)

Certificates of excellence are awarded to eligible candidates who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates in each ATAR course examination, based on the examination mark, or the top two candidates (whichever is the greater) in a course where at least 100 candidates sit the ATAR course examination. The number of certificates of excellence issued for each subject is based on the number of candidates who sit the ATAR course examination. Where a subject includes both written and practical components the examination mark will be determined using an appropriate statistical process to combine the two examination marks.

To be eligible for a certificate of excellence, the student must have completed the pair of Year 12 units in the course in the year of the award and have not previously sat the WACE examination for that course.

Where less than 100 candidates sit the ATAR course examination, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Exhibition and Awards Committee may decide to award certificates of excellence if the achievement is of an exceptionally high standard.

3.4 Special course certificates of excellence (ATAR courses)

A special certificate of excellence is awarded to candidates not eligible for the award of a certificate of excellence because they have not satisfied the general criteria for eligibility but who have otherwise achieved the requirements for the award of a certificate of excellence. It will be awarded only to candidates who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates who sit the ATAR course examination.

4. Awards for outstanding achievement in VET

These awards relate to outstanding achievement in VET.

4.1 VET exhibitions

A VET exhibition may be awarded to the eligible student who has demonstrated the most outstanding performance in an Australian Qualification Framework VET Certificate II or higher and in their other course achievements. The student who is ranked first in the selection process for a VET certificate of excellence may be awarded the VET exhibition in that industry area. The eligibility criteria and selection process are outlined in section 4.3.

Only one exhibition is awarded in each VET industry area.

4.2 Special VET awards

A special VET award may be presented to a student not eligible for the VET exhibition because they have not satisfied the general criteria for eligibility but who have otherwise achieved the requirements for a VET exhibition. Only one award will be available in an industry area.

4.3 Certificates of excellence (VET)

Certificates of excellence may be awarded to eligible Year 12 students who complete an Australian Qualification Framework VET Certificate II or higher in one of the 9 training package industry areas and who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates. The units of competency achieved for the certificate may have been undertaken in VET industry specific courses or VET credit transfer program.

Selection will be based on the evidence submitted at time of nomination and during the interview and will focus upon the student's:

- knowledge and experience in the specific industry area, including understandings of new developments and trends in the workplace or industry;
- achievement in School Curriculum and Standard Authority courses (ATAR or General); and
- communication and leadership skills.

Table 1: Training package industry areas in which certificates of excellence may be granted

Industry area*		
Automotive, Engineering and Logistics	Construction Industries	Sport, Recreation and Public Safety
Business and Financial Services; Information and Communications Technology	Creative Industries	Tourism, Hospitality and Events
Community Services, Health and Education	Primary, Environmental and Animal Care Industries	Retail and Personal Services

*Applications will only be accepted for current training packages or superseded training packages that are undergoing an approved transition period.

Note: Please refer to the Authority's Exhibitions and Awards web page early in Term 1 for a list of the industry areas for qualifications not attached to a nationally endorsed training package.

* Students who are working towards completion of a Certificate III or higher (e.g. school-based apprenticeship) in their final year will be eligible for the award. These students will need to have completed a substantial number of units of competency within the industry area.

For a specific industry area, the number of certificates of excellence that can be awarded is:

- 0.5 per cent of the number of Year 12 students who have completed a Certificate II or higher in the industry area in the year of the award, **or**
- a maximum of two (for training package industry areas that have less than 400 students completing a Certificate II or higher).

Eligibility criteria

Students eligible for this award will have completed in Year 12 a nationally recognised VET qualification to a minimum of AQF level II and at least 2 unit equivalents of workplace learning. The workplace learning needs to be undertaken in an industry area that is related to the VET qualification.

Selection process

The selection process involves three steps:

Step 1: Application

- School nomination – completion of a nomination form endorsed by the principal, VET coordinator and an industry representative

- Student statement submitted with nomination – the student provides a two-page statement about their interest and experience in this training package industry area, focusing on the following key areas:
 - on-the-job and/or off-the-job training experiences
 - any new developments and/or trends in the workplace or industry
 - the skills and knowledge gained through VET and work placements
 - future career pathways.
- Résumé submitted with nomination – the student provides a current résumé (maximum of two pages).
- Enrolment report showing current VET enrolment.

Step 2: Short-listing

- A selection panel will be convened for each industry area. Panel members will be nominated by school sector/systems and industry and approved by the Authority. Students will be short-listed for an interview based on the evidence submitted at time of nomination.

Step 3: Interview

- Short-listed students will be interviewed by a selection panel comprising members from school sector/systems together with an industry specific member. The panel will develop interview questions that will enable students to elaborate on their knowledge and experience in the specific industry area. Students may bring a portfolio containing certificates or copies of other achievements relevant to the industry area.

4.4 Special VET certificates of excellence

A special certificate of excellence (VET) may be presented to a student not eligible for the certificate of excellence (VET) because they have not satisfied the general criteria for eligibility but who have otherwise achieved the requirements for a certificate of excellence (VET).

5. Certificates of merit and certificates of distinction

Certificates of merit and certificates of distinction recognise student achievement in the WACE and are dependent on the degree of difficulty of the courses and programs undertaken together with the student's level of achievement. These awards will be based solely on the grades awarded to students by their schools

A certificate of merit or a certificate of distinction is to be awarded to each eligible student who, in their last three consecutive years of senior secondary school WACE enrolment, obtains:

- Certificates of merit 150-189 points
- Certificates of distinction 190-200 points

Rules for calculating points for certificates of merit and distinction

Points for the achievement of certificates of merit and certificates of distinction are calculated according to the following rules and table.

1. Points are accrued at the unit level
2. Points are accrued from 20 Year 11 and Year 12 units of which at least 10 must be Year 12 units
3. The units used to calculate a student's points will be those that maximise the student's score (maximum points = 200)
4. Repeated course units cannot be used in the determination of these awards.

5. Unit equivalents from AQF VET certificates achieved can be used to meet the requirements. A maximum of 8 unit equivalents can be used. An AQF VET certificate II or higher must be achieved. Achieved certificates in the following combination may be used:
 - One Certificate III or above
 - Two Certificate II
6. Endorsed programs may contribute a unit equivalence of up to four units – two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units. Endorsed programs are not allocated points and do not reduce the number of points required.

Points per unit	Course type			VET	
	ATAR	General	Foundation	Qualification	Maximum points per qualification
10	A				
9	B			Certificate IV+ Replaces two Year 11 and four Year 12 units	54
8		A		Certificate III Replaces two Year 11 and four Year 12 units	48
7					
6				Certificate II Replaces two Year 11 and two Year 12 units	24

5. Award approval

The final decision on the granting of each award is made by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Exhibition and Awards Committee.

6. Certificates and medallions

The winners of the Beazley Medal: WACE and Beazley Medal: VET receive a medallion and cheque for \$2000. In the event of a tie for either award, each student in the tie is to be granted a medallion and \$2000.

The winners of general exhibitions, special general awards, subject exhibitions, special subject awards, VET exhibitions and special VET awards receive a medallion, a certificate and a prize.

All other award winners receive a certificate.

7. Course

ATAR courses are those that have 50% external examination and 50% school assessment. General-level courses are those which do not have an external examination but have the school assessment, moderated with externally set written task.

8. Sponsorship

Individuals, educational and business bodies provide sponsorship for the exhibitions and awards, and it is expected that the prizes and presentation ceremony will be self-supporting. The Authority seeks sponsorship for the exhibitions and awards. Sponsorship packages are available for different levels.

9. Awards ceremony

The Beazley Medal: WACE, Beazley Medal: VET, general exhibitions, subject exhibitions and VET exhibitions recipients will be presented with their awards at a presentation ceremony held in February of each calendar year.

10. Sickness/misadventure claims

A derived examination mark resulting from a sickness/misadventure claim may not be included in the determination of exhibitions and awards.

11. Release of information

The name and school of the award winner is published by the Authority unless the award winner has indicated that the information is not for publication. In such cases, only the name of the school is published.