



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



Exhibitions and awards 2015

Policy and guidelines

Policy statement

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority's exhibitions and awards recognise individual excellence in WACE courses and vocational education and training (VET) at the end of senior secondary schooling. Both general educational excellence and course-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 general exhibition (ESL/ESD), a course exhibition, a VET exhibition, a workplace learning (WPL) exhibition, a certificate of distinction or a certificate of commendation, 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
- not have previously completed the WACE examination for a course that would otherwise have qualified for an award/exhibition
- have satisfied the requirements for a WACE at the time of the determination of the award/exhibition (except for course exhibitions and certificates of distinction).

Students who do not meet the general eligibility criteria may be awarded special general awards, special course awards, special VET awards, special workplace learning course awards and special certificates of distinction.

1. Peak awards

Two peak awards are granted, one recognising outstanding academic achievement (Beazley Medal: WACE) and the other 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 the general exhibition. The award score is based on the average of five untruncated scaled scores, calculated to two decimal places, with at least two from each of List A and List B. The criteria for calculating the WACE award score are outlined in sub-section 2.1.

1.2. Beazley Medal: VET

The Beazley Medal: VET is awarded for excellence in studies that include training qualifications and workplace learning. It is awarded to the eligible student who has demonstrated the best results in a vocational education and training program.

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.

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 grade from two Workplace Learning course units in Year 12 and/or completed, in the final two years of schooling, at least two unit equivalents of Workplace Learning: On-the-job training (WL1) and/or Workplace Learning Employability Skills (WL2).

VET award score

Students will be short-listed according to the VET award score resulting from Rasch analysis of the general proficiency of students. It will be calculated from:

- the grades from pairs of units from Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 WACE courses in the year of graduation, **and**
- the achievement of a course exhibition, special course award, VET exhibition, WPL exhibition, special VET exhibition, special WPL exhibition, certificate of distinction or special certificate of distinction obtained in the year of achieving the WACE.

Selection criteria

The Exhibitions and Awards Committee determines the recommended award winner from the shortlist, according to the following criteria (listed in priority order):

- VET award score (which recognises the grades and awards received for pairs of units studied in Year 12)
- AQF level of the nationally recognised VET qualification
- coherence of the WACE program
- achievement of other Authority awards, for example certificate of commendation or awards achieved in previous year/s.

2. Awards for outstanding achievement

General exhibitions are awarded to recognise outstanding academic achievement. The awards relate to WACE courses. The criteria for the recognition of outstanding achievement in VET are defined in section 4.

2.1. General exhibitions

Forty awards, known as general exhibitions, are awarded to the eligible students who obtain the highest WACE award scores based on the average of five untruncated scaled scores, calculated to two decimal places, with at least two from each of List A and List B. The average marks scaling process is used to determine the scaled scores.

The following course combinations are not permitted in calculating the WACE award score. In cases of such combinations, only the higher of the two scaled marks will count. In addition to the unacceptable course combinations listed on the next page, no more than two courses of Mathematics and Mathematics: Specialist, can be used.

Table 1: Unacceptable course combination list

Unacceptable course combinations for the WACE Award Score

Biological Sciences with Human Biological Science

Chemistry with Integrated Science

Chinese: Background Speakers with Chinese: Second Language

English with English as an Additional Language or Dialect

English with Literature

English as an Additional Language or Dialect with Literature

Indonesian: Background Speakers with Indonesian: Second Language

Indonesian: Background Speakers with Malay: Background Speakers

Japanese: Background Speakers with Japanese: Second Language

Malay: Background Speakers with Indonesian: Second Language

Physics with Integrated Science

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

- Most scaled scores must have been obtained in the final year of senior secondary schooling.
- Where a student has repeated a course, only the first scaled score obtained is used.
- Scaled scores achieved as a private candidate in a course are not permitted in calculating the award score.

2.2. General exhibition (ATSI)

One award, known as general exhibition (ATSI), may be awarded to the top eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student, based on the average of five untruncated scaled scores, calculated to two decimal places, with at least two from each of List A and List B (excluding VET industry specific). At least two units in each course must have been studied and completed during the last two years of senior secondary schooling.

Rules regarding course combinations and inclusion of scaled scores in repeated courses are listed in the general exhibition criteria in sub-section 2.1.

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

In the event that this student wins a general exhibition, he or she will also receive the general exhibition (ASTI).

2.3. General exhibition (ESL/ESD)

One award, known as general exhibition (ESL/ESD), may be awarded to the top eligible student with an English as a second language (ESL) or English as a second dialect (ESD) background, based on the average of five untruncated scaled scores, calculated to two decimal places, with at least two from each of List A and List B (excluding VET industry specific). At least two units in each course must have been studied and completed in the year of the award.

Rules regarding course combinations and inclusion of scaled scores in repeated courses are listed in the general exhibition criteria in sub-section 2.1.

To be eligible for this award, the student must have studied two units of the English as an Additional Language or Dialect course while in Year 12 and have met the ESL/ESD background criteria used to assess eligibility to study this course.

In the event that this student wins a general exhibition, this student will also receive the general exhibition (ESL/ESD).

2.4. 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 a general exhibition.

3. Awards for outstanding achievement in a WACE course

These awards relate to WACE courses only and do not include VET industry specific courses. The criteria for the recognition of outstanding achievement in VET industry specific courses are defined in sub-section 4.1.

3.1. Course exhibitions

A course exhibition may be awarded to the eligible student obtaining the highest combined mark for each WACE course, provided that at least 100 candidates sat the examination in that stage of the examination. To be eligible for a course exhibition, the student must have completed at least two course units in the year of the award. No course exhibition will be available for students who have not sat the examination in that course.

Only one exhibition is awarded in each course. Typically, the winner will have completed Stage 3 units in Year 12. Where there are large enrolments in Stage 2 and only a few schools with Stage 3 students, the Exhibitions and Awards Committee will review the top results from both stages.

In the event that there is a tie in the combined mark, then the student with the highest raw examination mark is granted the award.

Course exhibitions will not generally be awarded where less than 100 candidates sat the WACE examination. However, the Exhibition and Awards Committee may decide to award a course exhibition if the achievement is of an exceptionally high standard.

Background candidates sitting a language course examination which includes background and non-background candidates are not eligible for a course exhibition in that course.

3.2. Special course awards

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

Background candidates sitting a language course examination which includes both background and non-background candidates are not eligible for a special course award in that course.

3.3. Certificates of distinction (WACE courses)

Certificates of distinction are awarded to eligible students who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates, based on the WACE course score, or the top two candidates (whichever is the greater number of students) in a course where at least 100 candidates sat the WACE examination. The number of certificates of distinction issued for each course is based on the number of candidates who sat the Stage 3 examination with the exception of Mathematics and Mathematics: Specialist where the number is based on the number of candidates who sat the 3A/3B and 3C/3D combinations.

In the case of language courses which have background candidates, certificates of distinction will be awarded to the top 0.5 per cent of eligible candidates or to the top two eligible non-background candidates (whichever is greater). Background candidates sitting a language course examination, which includes background and non-background candidates, are not eligible for a certificate of distinction in that course.

Where fewer than 100 candidates sat the WACE examination in a course, the Exhibition and Awards Committee may decide to award certificates of distinction if the achievement is of an exceptionally high standard.

3.4. Special certificate of distinction

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

Background candidates sitting a language course examination which includes background and non-background candidates are not eligible for a special certificate of distinction in that course.

4. Awards for outstanding achievement in VET

4.1. VET exhibitions

A VET exhibition may be awarded to the student who is the top student in each industry area for the award of certificate of distinction (VET). The selection criteria and other promotional material for the certificates of distinction (VET) will be posted on the Authority website early in Term 2.

Only one exhibition is awarded in each VET industry area.

4.2. Certificates of distinction (VET)

Certificates of distinction may be awarded to eligible Year 12 students who complete an Australian Qualification Framework VET Certificate II or higher in one of the 13 training package industry areas. The units of competency achieved for the certificate may have been undertaken in VET industry specific courses, VET credit transfer programs and/or VET integrated within WACE courses.

Table 2: Training package industry areas in which certificates of distinction may be granted

| Industry area | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Automotive | Health | Sport and Recreation |
| Business Services | Information and Communications | Tourism, Hospitality and Events |
| Community Services | Music | Visual Arts, Craft and Design |
| Construction | Rural Production | |
| Engineering | Screen and Media | |

Where a school has a student who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in a VET industry area that is not listed above, the school may nominate that student for a certificate of distinction (VET) under the category of 'Other'.

For a specific industry area, the number of certificates 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 2², and
- at least two units of Workplace Learning from:
 - On-the-job training (WL1) and/or
 - Employability Skills (WL2) and/or
 - the Workplace Learning course (WPL)
 - Work Skills for the Music Industry (PWSM for Creative industries: Music VET industry specific course only)
 - Work Skills for the Sport and Recreation Industry (PWSSR for Sport and Recreation VET industry specific course only).

The Workplace Learning units need 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
 - skills and knowledge gained through VET and work placements
 - future career pathways.
- Résumé portfolio submitted with nomination – the student provides a current résumé (maximum of two pages excluding certificates) and copies of certificates relevant to the industry area such as:
 - copies of certificates of training achievement
 - copies of other achievements such as special recognition by the workplace employer, an industry award or a community award.
- 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 the 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.

² Year 12 students who are working toward completion of a Certificate III or higher (e.g. school-based apprenticeships) will be eligible for the award. These students will need to have completed a substantial number of units of competency within the industry area.

Final decision

The selection panel makes its recommendation to the Authority's Exhibitions and Awards Committee.

4.3. Special VET award and certificate of distinction

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

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

5. Awards for outstanding achievement in the Workplace Learning course

5.1. Workplace Learning exhibition

A Workplace Learning exhibition may be awarded to the top student of those awarded a certificate of distinction (WPL). The selection criteria and other promotional material for the certificates of distinction (WPL) will be posted on the Authority website early in Term 2.

Only one exhibition may be awarded.

5.2. Certificates of distinction (WPL)

Certificates of distinction may be awarded to eligible students who complete two units of the Workplace Learning course in Year 12. The number of certificates that can be awarded is:

- 0.5 per cent of the number of Year 12 students enrolled in a pair of Workplace Learning units at the end of Semester 1, **or**
- a maximum of two (whichever is the higher).

Eligibility criteria

Students eligible for this award will, in Year 12, have:

- completed a minimum of two units of the Workplace Learning course
- achieved an A grade in both course units
- completed the units by the scheduled School Curriculum and Standards Authority interview date.

How to apply

The nomination must include the following:

1. Application form completed by the student.
2. Student statement (maximum two A4 pages) which:
 - describes the Year 12 workplace experiences with reference to the range of employability skills, giving specific examples of the student's demonstration of these skills in the workplace context

- demonstrates how the student has applied the employability skills in broader contexts
 - indicates how the workplace experiences have shaped the student's career pathway.
3. Photocopies of the following for at least one of the two or more units completed in Year 12:
- workplace attendance record signed and verified by the workplace supervisor for each unit
 - at least one workplace performance profile/employer feedback report completed and signed by the workplace supervisor and workplace learning coordinator
 - employability skills sign-off verified by the workplace supervisor
 - daily task schedule
 - student assessment outline with marks allocated
 - completed and marked assessment tasks for at least one unit with others to be brought to the interview if short listed.

Selection process

The selection process involves three steps:

Step 1: Application

Schools are required to nominate students using the prescribed form. The completed nomination form must be endorsed by the principal and Workplace Learning coordinator. Attached to the nomination form must be a student statement (two pages) which addresses the three key areas and validation documents.

Each school may nominate only one student. Late applications will not be accepted.

Step 2: Short-listing

A selection panel will be convened. Panel members will be representatives of the sector/systems and the Authority. Students will be short-listed for interview based on the evidence submitted at the time of nomination.

Step 3: Interview

Short-listed students will be interviewed by the selection panel. The purpose of the interview is to enable students to provide evidence which demonstrates their knowledge, understanding and application of employability skills through their workplace learning.

Students will be asked to elaborate on the three key areas covered in the student's statement and will be given the opportunity to respond to questions from the panel.

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. Students must bring to the interview their original Workplace Learning log books and original marked assessment tasks for both units.

Final decision

The selection panel makes its recommendation to the Authority's Exhibitions and Awards Committee.

5.3. Special WPL award and certificate of distinction

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

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

6. Certificates of commendation

A certificate of commendation is to be awarded to each eligible student who, in their last three consecutive years of senior secondary school WACE enrolment, obtains at least 20 A grades in course units (including at least three two-unit combinations). Repeated course units cannot be used in the determination of this award. The number of A grades in course units (including at least three two-unit combinations), may be reduced on a sliding scale to 14, using course unit equivalents (see [Table 3](#)).

6.1. Course unit equivalents

At least 14 A grades in course units (including at least three two-unit combinations) if six unit equivalents obtained from:

- i. endorsed programs; **or**
- ii. units of competency from an AQF VET Certificate II or higher; **or**
- iii. a combination of (i) and (ii).

The intention is that the number of A grades required may be calculated between 20 and 14 as the number of unit equivalents increases from 0 to 6 as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Number of A grades required for a certificate of commendation

| Minimum number of course units with A grades | Number of two-unit combinations required | Minimum number of unit equivalents ^(see note) |
|--|--|--|
| 20 | 3 | 0 |
| 19 | 3 | 1 |
| 18 | 3 | 2 |
| 17 | 3 | 3 |
| 16 | 3 | 4 |
| 15 | 3 | 5 |
| 14 | 3 | 6 |

Note:

Unit equivalents may be from either VET programs or endorsed programs.
VET unit equivalents must be from units of competency within an AQF VET Certificate II or higher.

Repeated course units cannot be used in the determination of this award.

7. Certificates and medallions

The winners of the Beazley Medal: WACE and the Beazley Medal: VET each receives 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 and special general awards each receive a medallion, a certificate and a prize.

The winners of course exhibitions, VET exhibitions, workplace learning exhibition, special course awards and special VET awards each receive a medallion, certificate and a prize.

All other award winners receive a certificate. Certificates are suitable for photocopying.

8. Sponsorship

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

Recipients of the Beazley Medal: WACE, Beazley Medal: VET, general exhibitions, course exhibitions, VET exhibitions and WPL exhibition are presented with their awards at a presentation ceremony in February in the year following the exams.

10. Sickness/misadventure claims

A derived examination mark resulting from a sickness/misadventure claim can be included in the determination of a Beazley Medal: WACE, a general exhibition, a general exhibition (ATSI), a general exhibition (ESL/ESD), a special general award, a course exhibition, a special course award, a certificate of distinction, or a special certificate of distinction.

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.