



Exhibitions and awards 2023

Policy and guidelines



Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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Policy statement

Exhibitions and awards are granted by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) to senior secondary students studying Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) courses and vocational education and training (VET). The awards recognise individual excellence in both Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) courses and VET.

The two peak awards are the Beazley Medal: WACE and the Beazley Medal: VET. Other awards for ATAR courses and VET include exhibitions; special awards and certificates of excellence, distinction and merit.

The final decision on the granting of each award is made by a panel comprising the Chair of the Authority Board, a Board member and the Executive Director – School Curriculum and Standards.

General criteria for eligibility for exhibitions and awards

To be eligible to achieve an award, a student must:

- have satisfied the requirements for a WACE at the time of the determination of the award/exhibition (except for Subject Exhibitions and Subject Certificates of Excellence)
- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
- have been enrolled as a full-time student in a registered secondary school.

Special General Awards, Special Subject Awards, Special VET Awards, and Special Subject Certificates of Excellence may be awarded to students who have satisfied the requirements for a WACE at the time of the determination of the award/exhibition, but do not meet the remaining general criteria for eligibility for exhibitions and awards.

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

Note: as there is no first language syllabus for French, German or Italian, students who do not meet one or more criteria for the relevant background language course (in French, German or Italian) are permitted to enrol in the background language courses. This is on the understanding that they are unable to use the mark from the examination to contribute towards the achievement of an exhibition or award.

An individual enrolled in an ATAR course examination as a non-school candidate is unable to use the mark from that examination to contribute towards the achievement of an exhibition or award.

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.

WACE award score

The WACE award score is based on the average of five equated examination scores in ATAR courses set by the Authority, calculated to two decimal places. At least two of the examination scores must be 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.

The WACE award score is used to rank students for General Exhibitions and thus determines the top student in the state for ATAR courses. The equating process applied in calculating the WACE award score is based on the examination only and is not the same as the scaling process used by Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to determine ATARs, which is based on school and examination marks.

Students can accumulate equated examination marks over their senior secondary schooling. Where students have accumulated equated ATAR course examination marks over two years, the following rules apply in calculating the WACE award score.

- At least three equated ATAR course examination scores must have been obtained in the final year of senior secondary schooling.
- Where a student has repeated a course, only the first equated ATAR course examination score obtained is used.
- Equated examination scores achieved as a non-school candidate in an ATAR course examination do not count towards the WACE award score.

1.2 Beazley Medal: VET

The Beazley Medal: VET is awarded for excellence in studies that include VET qualifications. It is awarded to the eligible Year 12 student who has demonstrated the most outstanding overall performance in a VET Certificate II or higher and in their other WACE achievements.

Eligibility criteria

Students eligible for this award will have:

- achieved a WACE, **and**
- achieved a VET Exhibition (see [sub-section 4.1](#)) in one of the listed industry areas.

Selection process

Short-listing

Students will be short-listed from those nominated for a VET Exhibition (see [sub-section 4.1](#)) based on the recommendation provided by the VET awards selection panel and according to their achievement in WACE courses. An analysis of the grades achieved in WACE courses will be undertaken to compare the achievement of eligible students.

Interviewing

Short-listed students will be interviewed during mid-December by a panel comprising a nominee of the Authority Board, the Authority Executive and nominees from the Department of Education, Catholic Education Western Australia, Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia and Department of Training and Workforce Development. The panel will develop interview questions that will enable students to elaborate on their knowledge and experience of VET and industry placement, and how this supports their post-secondary aspirations.

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

Selection will be based on the evidence submitted at the time of nomination and notes provided by the VET awards panel who nominated the student for the Exhibition award. The selection criteria are:

- performance in the relevant VET award
- understandings of the benefits of undertaking VET as part of the WACE in terms of future career choices and their own personal development
- understandings of the value gained through VET and work placements
- other achievements, such as special recognition by the workplace employer, an industry award or a community award
- achievement in WACE courses (ATAR or General)
- communication 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 fifty highest WACE award scores. General Exhibitions are awarded to recognise outstanding academic achievement in Year 12 ATAR courses with examinations set by the Authority (see [sub-section 1.1](#)).

2.2 General Exhibition (ATSI)

One award, known as the General Exhibition (ATSI), may be awarded to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student who is eligible and achieves the highest WACE award score among those students eligible for this award (see [sub-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 4.

3.1 Subject Exhibitions (ATAR courses)

A Subject Exhibition may be awarded to the eligible student obtaining the highest examination mark for each Year 12 ATAR course with an examination set by the Authority, 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 ATAR course examination for that course.

For Year 12 ATAR courses with an examination set by the Authority with a written component and a practical component, a Subject Exhibition is awarded to the student obtaining the highest examination score. The examination score is calculated as the weighted average of the statistically equated examination marks of the two components.

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

Subject Exhibitions will not be awarded where less than 100 candidates sit the ATAR course examination.

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 has otherwise achieved the requirements for a Subject Exhibition. Only one award will be available in that subject.

3.3 Subject Certificate of Excellence (ATAR courses)

A Subject Certificate of Excellence is awarded to eligible candidates who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates in each ATAR course examination set by the Authority, based on the examination score, 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 Subject 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 score will be determined using an appropriate statistical process to combine the two examination scores.

To be eligible for a Subject Certificate of Excellence, the student must have completed the pair of Year 12 units in the course in the year of the award and not have previously sat the ATAR course examination for that course.

3.4 Special Subject Certificate of Excellence (ATAR courses)

A Special Subject Certificate of Excellence is awarded to candidates not eligible for the award of a Subject 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 Subject 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 AQF VET Certificate II or higher. 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 sub-section 4.3.

A maximum of one exhibition is awarded in each VET industry area.

4.2 Special VET Awards

A Special VET Award may be presented to a student who has satisfied the requirements for a WACE at the time of the determination of the award/exhibition, but is not eligible for the VET Exhibition because they have not satisfied the remaining general criteria for eligibility, where a student must:

- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
- have been enrolled as a full-time student in a registered secondary school, but who has otherwise achieved the requirements for a VET Exhibition.

Only one award will be available in each listed industry area.

4.3 VET Certificates of Excellence

VET Certificates of Excellence may be awarded to eligible Year 12 students who complete an AQF VET Certificate II or higher in one of the nine industry areas. The units of competency achieved for the certificate may have been undertaken in VET industry specific courses or VET credit transfer programs.

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

- knowledge and experience in the specific industry area, including understandings of new developments and trends in the workplace or industry
- ability to make clear links between their on-the-job and off-the-job experiences and how these opportunities have assisted in shaping a career plan
- demonstration of the Core Skills for Work
- achievement in WACE courses (ATAR or General).

Training package industry areas in which Certificates of Excellence may be granted

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

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

Students who are working towards completion of a Certificate III or higher (e.g. a 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 (220 nominal hours in Year 12) within the industry area.

For a specific industry area, the number of VET 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 fewer than 400 students completing a Certificate II or higher).

Eligibility criteria

Students eligible for this award will have completed, by the end of Year 12, a nationally recognised VET qualification to a minimum of AQF level II. Students are only eligible for this award in Year 12 although they may have completed the qualification in Year 10 or Year 11. Students are also required to have completed at least two unit equivalents of workplace learning in Years 10, 11 or 12. 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

Online nomination that includes:

- a statement of support by the VET coordinator
- a statement of support by the workplace representative
- a student statement and résumé
- an online declaration of support on behalf of the principal.

The student statement requires a student to provide a two-page statement about their interest and experience in the industry area they are being nominated for, 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
- how the training and workplace experiences have shaped their future career pathways.

The student résumé should be no more than two pages.

Step 2: Short-listing

A selection panel will be convened for each industry area. Panel members consist of representatives from school systems/sector 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 the selection panel that conducted the short-listing. The panel will develop interview questions that will enable students to elaborate on their knowledge and experience in the specific industry area and demonstrate the extent to which they have made the connection between their VET program, workplace learning and future aspirations. 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 VET Certificate of Excellence may be presented to a student who is not eligible for the VET Certificate of Excellence because they have not satisfied the general criteria for eligibility, where a student must:

- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia
- have been enrolled as a full-time student in a registered secondary school, but who has otherwise achieved the requirements for a VET Certificate of Excellence.

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 are based 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, accumulates:

- 150–189 points = a Certificate of Merit
- 190–200 points = a Certificate of Distinction.

5.1 Rules for calculating points for Certificates of Merit and Certificates of Distinction

Points for the achievement of a Certificate of Merit and a Certificate 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. If a unit/course is repeated, the result for the first attempt is used in the determination of these awards.
5. Unit equivalents from AQF VET industry certificates achieved can be used to meet the requirements. A maximum of eight unit equivalents can be used. An AQF VET industry 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 and AQF VET vocational certificates may contribute a unit equivalence of up to four units – two Year 11 units and two Year 12 units. Endorsed programs and AQF VET vocational certificates are not allocated points and do not reduce the number of points required.

Table 1: Calculating points for the achievement of Certificates of Merit and Certificates of Distinction

Points per unit	ATAR course	General course	Foundation course	VET industry qualification	Maximum points per VET 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

6. Award approval

The final decision on the granting of each award is made by a panel comprising the Chair of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority Board, a Board member and the Executive Director – School Curriculum and Standards.

7. Certificates and medallions

The recipients of the Beazley Medal: WACE and Beazley Medal: VET receive a certificate, medallion and \$2,000. In the event of a tie for either award, each student in the tie is to be granted a medallion and \$2,000.

The recipients of General Exhibitions, Special General Awards and General Exhibition (ASTI) receive a certificate, medallion and a monetary prize of \$500.

The recipients of Subject Exhibitions, Special Subject Awards, VET Exhibitions and Special VET Awards receive a certificate, a medallion and a book voucher for \$75.

All other award recipients receive a certificate.

8. 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 in February of the following year.

9. Sickness/misadventure claims

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

10. Release of information

The name and school of the award winner is published by the Authority, provided the award winner has indicated that the information is for publication. If a student does not provide permission, only the name of the school is published. Students provide permission for the release of information when they complete the *Online Student Declaration and Permission* in the student portal at <https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au>.