

17 February 2017

Advice regarding ENC315116 (English Communications) and the newly accredited
ENG315117 (English).

We have received a small number of enquiries with respect to counting both ENC315116 (English Communications) and the newly accredited ENG315117 (English) in the calculation of the ATAR.

We have requested advice from the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards & Certification (TASC) regarding the level of similarity between these two subjects. We note the key TASC finding was that there is close comparability between the external criteria used for assessment of each of the courses. In particular, only one of the five external criteria is unique to the new English course, and the remaining four are variations on the expired English Communications course. We understand that there has been extensive consultation in the development of the new course, and that most schools are aware of this level of similarity.

As such, and in keeping with past determinations and national practice, we do not consider it fair nor equitable that students are able to count both of these subjects towards the ATAR.

We have also considered the timing of this notification, and whether it is appropriate to grant an exception for students studying in 2017 who had an expectations that both subjects could potentially contribute to their ATAR. While the timing of the advice is regrettable, we have been advised from schools that there is time to revise subject selections in these small number of cases. Our considered position is that a "one off" exception for 2017 is also not fair and equitable for other students.

Kind regards

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Director Academic Quality

Mr Andrew Gillies
Director, Student Operations