

Refinement to Stage 2 and Stage 3 marks processing

Contact

Steve Hoath (08) 9318 8000

steve@tisc.edu.au

In June 2007, the universities agreed that scaled scores from either Stage 2 or Stage 3 of the new WACE courses could count towards university entrance. TISC published a process describing how this would work in 2009, including how a 15-mark increment would be applied to Stage 3 combined marks before scaling.

Based on Curriculum Council research using the 2008 results, it has been agreed that a refinement of the published process will be implemented and applied to the 2009 results. The refinement is designed to ensure that students studying Stage 2 and Stage 3 units from a particular course will be ranked accurately within that course, before the 15-mark increment is applied to Stage 3 marks. This ensures that students studying the more challenging Stage 3 units will receive the full benefit of the 15-mark increment.

Under the revised process, the combined marks for Stage 2 and Stage 3 of a particular course will be placed on the same scale before the 15-mark increment is added to Stage 3 marks. This will be achieved by doing a 'preliminary scaling' of the separate Stage 2 and Stage 3 combined marks for each course, using the familiar Average Marks Scaling process, to produce Stage 2 adjusted combined marks and Stage 3 adjusted combined marks. The 15-mark increment will then be added to the Stage 3 adjusted combined marks.

The resulting distribution of marks for the course as a whole, (i.e. the pooled set of adjusted combined Stage 2 marks and adjusted combined Stage 3 marks, plus increment), is then scaled with all other WACE courses and TEE subjects using the Average Marks Scaling process as usual, to achieve comparability of marks across all WACE courses and TEE subjects.

This refinement is supported by the universities, the Curriculum Council, the Department of Education and Training, Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia.

For more details of the refined process, see 'Marks Adjustment Process for University Admission' on the TISC website at www.tisc.edu.au.