



# Higher Education

Research and Assessment



## Focus and Capability

Drawing on extensive expertise and global networks, ACER works with leaders, policymakers, teachers and learners on a wide range of higher education research and assessments. ACER is a leading, full-service, independent, not-for-profit organisation with a proven track record and a global reputation for excellence.

Key higher education expertise:

- ▶ policy research for institutions and agencies
- ▶ selection testing
- ▶ student engagement and the broader experience
- ▶ diagnostic, achievement and outcomes assessment
- ▶ quality assurance and performance measurement
- ▶ graduate outcomes and destinations
- ▶ institutional research and evaluation
- ▶ international education and student mobility

Advanced research and development capabilities:

- ▶ policy analysis and development
- ▶ project design and management
- ▶ consultation and facilitation
- ▶ research review and synthesis
- ▶ survey and sample design
- ▶ questionnaire and test development
- ▶ data collection and validation
- ▶ psychometric and statistical analysis

For further information see: [www.acer.edu.au/highereducation](http://www.acer.edu.au/highereducation)

## Research and Consultancy

ACER's Higher Education Research Program deploys a unique and independent research capability to measure and evaluate higher education outcomes, inputs, processes and contexts. Applied research is conducted in Australia and globally for institutions and governments, and a wide range of stakeholders.

Projects focus on admissions and outcomes testing, large-scale surveying, student engagement, research training and teaching quality, demographic modelling and planning, workforce and leadership assessment, quality assurance, and policy analysis.

Sample research projects and clients include:

- ▶ Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO) – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- ▶ Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE) – participating tertiary institutions
- ▶ Supply of and demand for Higher Degrees by Research qualifications in Australia – Australian Government Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR)
- ▶ Establishing the criterion validity of the Graduate Australian Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) – GAMSAT Consortium
- ▶ ATN Academic Standards Model – Australian Technology Network of Universities
- ▶ Graduate Pathways Survey (GPS) – Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
- ▶ Academic Leadership Capability Framework for Australian Higher Education – Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC)



## Assessment Services

ACER provides a complete range of assessment services for higher education including the design, development and analysis admissions, diagnostic, achievement and outcomes assessments, as well as the provision of innovative and specialised reports. Assessment formats include customised large scale programs for systems and institutions, secure and high stakes tests, institution managed assessments, and computer assisted assessments.

ACER has specialised test development teams in a range of discipline areas. Efficient field operations and integrated quality control mechanisms underpin all projects. ACER has a team of professional data processing staff with expertise in programming and data management who work alongside psychometricians. Teams manage the full assessment administration process: candidate registrations, candidate communications, reporting of results, test centre management, test supervision, and test security.

Sample national and international assessments include:

- ▶ Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT) – graduate medical school applicants Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom
- ▶ Graduate Skills Assessment (GSA) – global
- ▶ International Student Admissions Test (ISAT) – international applicants to Australian universities
- ▶ Mature Students Admissions Pathway (MSAP) – Ireland
- ▶ Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT) – Tertiary Admissions Centres Australia
- ▶ Student Aptitude Test for Tertiary Admission (SATTA) – Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations
- ▶ Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) – undergraduate medical school applicants; Australia, New Zealand



## Corporate Overview

ACER is one of the world's leading educational research organisations. ACER has a strong track record in delivering high-quality, independent research on time and within budget.

ACER is well-known both in Australia and internationally as an objective, ethical research and assessment organisation that improves policy and practice. ACER has a demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively with universities and agencies to produce high quality outcomes.

ACER is an independent, national educational organisation established in 1930. With offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, United Arab Emirates and India, and more than 300 staff, ACER provides comprehensive services to the education community.

ACER's mission is to create and promote knowledge and tools that can be used to improve learning across the lifespan. In pursuing this mission, ACER undertakes a wide range of research and development and provides services and materials in support of educational policymaking and improved professional practice.

## Further Information

### General Enquiries

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