

The ACER logo is positioned in the top left corner. It consists of the letters 'ACER' in a white, serif font, each letter contained within a separate purple rectangular box. The boxes are arranged horizontally and slightly overlap.

ACER



STAT P

*Special Tertiary Admissions Test*

Assisting tertiary selection



# What is STAT P?

The Special Tertiary Admissions Test - Pacific (STAT P) is a simple, cost effective tool used to identify the most suitable applicants for tertiary level study.

It is based on STAT Multiple Choice, an exam which has been used widely by Australian institutions since 1995 to assist in the selection of students for tertiary courses.

The exam assesses a range of competencies considered important for successful tertiary study, evaluating skills such as critical thinking and understanding and analysis of given information.

STAT P does not test knowledge of curriculum or specific academic content. It is a general aptitude test, the scores of which help selection committees to assess applications across a wide range of disciplines.

The exam consists of 35 verbal reasoning questions and 35 quantitative reasoning questions. Applicants are given 2 hours and 10 minutes to complete the exam. Exam scores are provided for Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning as well as an overall score.

STAT P is produced by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

“ Our team works hard to develop high quality materials that not only provide a reliable and valid assessment tool for our clients, but which are also relatable and engaging for the test takers ”

**Dave Norris**  
Research Fellow and  
Lead Test Developer,  
STAT P



## Why choose STAT P?

Since 1930 **'improving learning'** has been the primary mission of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

We believe in **helping people to achieve their true potential**.

Access to a broad, high quality education plays a major role in this.

### Current Use

#### Australia Awards Selection

Since 2013, STAT P has been a crucial component of the Australia Awards selection process for Papua New Guinea applicants.

These clients have realised the benefits of administering STAT P where results provide information to selection panels about applicants' **academic preparedness** and level of competence for tertiary study.

STAT P enables uniform comparison of applicants ensuring **equity of access** and **merit-based selection**.

#### University Selection

Scores from the STAT P exam help universities to **quickly and easily identify the most capable** applicants and those who are best able to cope with the rigorous demands of university study.

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology and the University of Goroka use STAT P to complement national exam results in their selection process.

“ Discussions with ACER and the supply of the technical report, in addition to the results, strengthened my understanding and were of great value in the short-listing selection process. Working within a unique cultural context, the test results provided a valuable tool ”

Nicole Watson  
Australia Awards Manager,  
Papua New Guinea



## How STAT P works

**We determine your specific requirements and work with you to devise a feasible timeline.**

- What do you wish to achieve by asking your applicants to sit the exam?
- When do you need the exam to take place?
- When are results required?
- How many applicants do you plan to test?

### **We can organise your applicant bookings**

Most institutions self-manage applicant bookings for their test day. STAT P may be part of a larger selection process, used for short-listed applicants only.

However, ACER also offers a sophisticated online booking system available to manage test bookings on behalf of clients.

### **We support you to run the test**

You will be provided with a comprehensive manual detailing all aspects to be considered for successful test day management.

Test materials are delivered securely to your organisation.

### **We provide detailed analysis and reporting**

We don't simply provide test scores.

Our **highly experienced psychometricians** undertake independent checking and analyses of the data.

A comprehensive technical report is prepared with information about the performance of the applicants. It also includes a summary and recommendations.

Together, the scores and report provide an **evidence-based measurement** to select applicants most likely to succeed in academic studies at university level.

“ We are most grateful for the effectiveness and efficiency of the support that the ACER STAT team has provided over the last four intakes ”

**Tiroam Neeri**

Program Manager,  
*Australia Awards Tarawa, Kiribati*



## What to expect from ACER

### **A reliable, stable selection tool to justify decision-making.**

STAT P consists of an external, impartial assessment product and processes. Together with our detailed analysis and reporting, this gives clients the confidence to make informed decisions.

The test is tailored to suit applicants in the Pacific Region.

### **Professional expertise**

Our highly qualified test writers offer a vast collective experience in their respective fields in the sourcing of appropriate stimulus material and writing verbal and quantitative test questions that assess applicants' potential for successful tertiary study.

Test development involves extensive review by panels of experts.

### **A dedicated, experienced administrative team**

- We understand the challenges and time constraints faced by Selection Committees.
- We are committed to working closely with you to ensure a flexible, adaptable approach in order to best meet your needs and the needs of your applicants.
- Our team offers high-standard, reliable customer support and guidance.

### **The per-applicant test fee is inclusive of:**

- Timely delivery of printed test papers and machine-readable answer sheets
- Supervisor Manuals for proper exam conduct, including all relevant procedures and script for instructing applicants
- Sorting and processing of test materials and paperwork on return to Melbourne, Australia
- Secure provision of results within the agreed timeline
- A technical report, including an analysis of test performance and cohort performance.

“ The Admissions Committee and the Academic Board at Unitech have expressed appreciation that the aptitude test scores were available in the selection process. We had a Council meeting too, and members expressed much satisfaction.

Indeed, it seems that everyone at Unitech believes that we have a better group of freshmen this year, and they attribute this to (having required our applicants to undertake) the test ”

Dr Augustine Moshi  
Pro Vice Chancellor Academic  
Papua New Guinea University  
of Technology



## A test-taker's perspective

"I sat the test in 2015 as part of my Australia Awards application to commence study in 2016", Benson recalls.

### Is there a benefit to sitting STAT P?

"Yes. It provides real pressure and helps clarify expectations of Australian universities. It sets in your mind the general expectations of the standards required at tertiary level in Australia. If you do this well then you know you will be able to get through university in Australia – it can give you confidence. By doing this test I also identified areas where I might need to improve further to succeed in my study, such as improving on some of my critical reading, writing and thinking skills".

### What advice would you give to others considering applying for the Australia Awards Scholarship?

"I would encourage others to take the challenge to see what life has got to offer!

Use the sample questions offered for STAT P and take notice of the advice to applicants that is available to help you prepare thoroughly".

**Benson Hahambu**

Master of Development Studies  
School of Public Policy  
& International Affairs  
Murdoch University, WA

Benson, together with his Australian study partner, Stephanie Matulin, developed a project called Papua New Guinea Education Network for Disaster Risk Reduction. They were the 2017 joint winners of the Student Partnership for Impact Award, awarded an AUD \$10,000 grant to help implement their idea in rural regions of Papua New Guinea.

Source: <http://www.australiaawardspng.org>  
August 2017

# The STAT P team



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## Get in touch

### We welcome your enquiry

Find out how to become a client user of STAT P,  
to meet your needs of identifying academic competence  
and to ensure merit-based selection of your applicants.

We look forward to hearing from you.

### Swapna Hegde

Project Director, *Special Tertiary Admissions Test (STAT)*

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