

What I Wish I Knew podcast transcript



Title: What I Wish I Knew

Episode 4: About Change of Preference – AKA how to maximise offers

Creator: Swinburne Marketing

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[Intro music up]

00:00:04:02 - 00:00:22:23

Sam

Hi everyone, and welcome back to episode four of What I Wish I Knew Swinburne's VTAC podcast for year 12s. I'm your host, Sam Eddy, and I'm joined by Swinburne student Sam and our two VTAC experts, Elise and Amanda. In episode one, we discussed choosing your course in episode two, ATARs and entry requirements and episode three

00:00:22:23 - 00:00:37:05

Sam

It was all about the VTAC applications. So I think it's only right that we now talk about Change of Preference. Elise, can you talk us through some advice on what students do for the different offer rounds? Like if you don't get what you wanted in the first round, what should you do?

00:00:37:08 - 00:00:42:03

Elise

Yeah, definitely. So you potentially get the chance to get one offer per round.

00:00:42:03 - 00:00:58:05

Elise

Now in saying that, that once you get an offer, say in the first round if which is in December. So this year will be in December, that first round, if you get an offer, say for example, your preference four

then in subsequent rounds you're potentially still eligible to get an offer for one, 2 or 3 if you leave them as is.

00:00:58:05 - 00:01:16:00

Elise

But definitely, this is why it's really important to keep your preferences as a wishlist. So making sure that your first preference at the top is always going to be your dream preference. And as Amanda said, even if you don't meet all the requirements, there's a potential that they may still be some spots, albeit less available at later rounds, and that you may still be eligible to get that offer.

00:01:16:00 - 00:01:33:00

Elise

So that's why it's always important to like, say, dream big and, you know, reach for the stars and keep them in order that you're happy with and still keeping your dream course at the top, even if you don't., you didn't meet the necessarily the ATAR that you think you might have needed for it. And yeah, just making sure that you always keeping it as a wish list.

00:01:33:00 - 00:01:49:00

Elise

So you might be eligible for more other offers at later rounds, but it is just one offer per round. So, I know some students sometimes get a bit mixed up because you can put up to eight preferences in and thinking that, you know, if I meet the requirements for all of them, that I might get an offer for 8 to 8 different courses isn't the case.

00:01:49:00 - 00:01:59:14

Elise

So you only get an offer for your highest eligible preference. So that's basically whichever one's at the top of the list or highest on your list, and you're able to get an offer for just in terms of how you've performed in that round and what's available.

00:01:59:16 - 00:02:06:09

Sam

Great. And Amanda, we often say always accept your first, offer. Can you talk to us about why that's important?

00:02:06:11 - 00:02:33:03

Amanda

That's really important because you may actually never get another offer. So, it's all dependent on who accepts those offers and then how many. You know, that's why there's multiple rounds. If you then get a better offer later, the system is actually really fantastic. Basically, what happens is you accept the offer that you prefer. Maybe it's that next offer, and you can enroll in that, but you just need to make sure you then go back and withdraw from the first offer.

00:02:33:03 - 00:02:56:11

Amanda

Because I have had cases before where students have forgotten that step. So they've gotten another offer. They've already enrolled in the first offer, which is great, but they've then forgotten to go back and withdraw from that first offer and then found themselves with two bills, two HECS debt bills. You know, after census date. So I just I always recommend to students that they just keep a list.

00:02:56:13 - 00:03:15:04

Amanda

And if they've put in, if they've already accepted one offer and they've, enrolled, if they then get another offer, first of all, accept the second offer so that you don't lose it. And then just make a reminder to yourself to go back and withdraw from the first one. And the unis are all set up for this. This is what they do.

00:03:15:04 - 00:03:26:23

Amanda

And you don't have to feel like you're offending anyone or you're hurting anyone's feelings. They're okay with it. They'll then take your offer that you would withdraw from, and they'll offer it to somebody else who'll be delighted to get it.

00:03:27:00 - 00:03:28:05

Sam

You don't even have to speak to anyone.

00:03:28:07 - 00:03:30:00

Amanda

No. Yeah, no, it's all done on the computer.

00:03:30:00 - 00:03:31:10

Sam

It's the easiest rejection ever.

00:03:31:12 - 00:03:41:22

Sam

Just click a button. Yeah. Okay. So we have talked so much about preferencing, but one thing we haven't talked about yet, Elise, you can hopefully give us some insight in Change of Preference. What is that?

00:03:41:24 - 00:03:53:20

Elise

Yeah no very good question. So you can you can actually change your preferences. So I know we've talked a lot about getting the order right and getting all your preferences in, but once you do receive your ATAR the Change of Preference period will open.

00:03:53:22 - 00:04:12:03

Elise

So basically that's another opportunity to go back in and re-order your preferences if you need to. So that's when a Change of Preference does open again and you'll have another chance to go in and re-order. In saying that as Amanda said, you should still leave your dream course at the top, no matter what. Because like we said, there can be subject adjustments or other boosting factors that might raise your selection rank.

00:04:12:03 - 00:04:31:23

Elise

So you might actually end up getting an offer even though you haven't quite met that ATAR. So it's always good to keep your dream courses at the top. But I think at that time, in Change of Preference, you can make sure you're really, I guess, realistic about making sure you're putting, a suitable pathway option down and that you know, you've done your research to make sure that that is the right pathway course into the course that you want to end up in eventually.

00:04:32:00 - 00:04:42:09

Elise

And then after each offer round there's also another Change of Preference period too. So as we said, always make sure you accept your first offer that you get in the first round. And then, you know, potentially you might get offers in later rounds.

00:04:42:09 - 00:04:51:18

Sam

Yeah. Great. And like all the universities and and that will do Change of Preference expos usually so you can check out the Swinburne website to see when our Change of Preference Expo is happening

00:04:51:18 - 00:05:08:04

Sam

And we'll leave a link in the show notes. Once offers do come out, students have the opportunity to go and have a chat to the universities about their results and say, you know, things about the changed in a good or maybe not so good way. And have conversations around what to do with those preferences and get some advice.

00:05:08:05 - 00:05:08:13

Elise

Yeah.

00:05:08:14 - 00:05:13:19

Sam

Now the turnaround time for Change of Preference is it a long time a short time? How does that work?

00:05:13:20 - 00:05:25:16

Elise

Yeah, it's pretty tight. It's usually maybe two days roughly, which it pretty much is again this year. It's pretty tight. But in saying that, yeah, you just got to make sure you're really on top of it and that you're organized.

00:05:25:22 - 00:05:43:00

Elise

In that time as well, I think, as Sam mentioned, there'll be a Change of Preference support at the institutions as well. And I think the good thing about that is, I know for some students, you might not know exactly what you want to do. For some students, you might have the exact course that you know exactly you want to do that and you want to know the best way to get to that specific course.

00:05:43:02 - 00:06:01:04

Elise

This is a really good time to talk to the institution because they can tell you the exact, you know, alternative degree or diploma or a Cert IV that's going to be most suitable for you, and just making sure you're getting your preferences in, in the correct fashion. But yeah, it is a tight timeline. So, you know, if you get your ATAR maybe it's a little bit lower than you were expecting in your, you know, you get a bit panicky.

00:06:01:09 - 00:06:13:22

Elise

Firstly, don't panic because there's always a pathway and there's always another way around getting into the course that you want to get into, but in saying that, just make sure you're proactive in that timeline and make sure you're getting your ducks in a row in terms of your preferences and the order that you need them to be in

00:06:13:24 - 00:06:14:22

Sam

Very, very quickly.

00:06:15:03 - 00:06:15:24

Elise

Yes. Very quickly.

00:06:16:00 - 00:06:25:12

Sam

Sam, you mentioned not getting the, you know, ATAR that you wanted originally. How did Change of Preference assist you in that journey into tertiary study?

00:06:25:14 - 00:06:39:11

Samuel

I think if I would do it again, I would of gone through the use Change of Preference expos because I can see that like not not a lot of times that students do know what they want to do going into high school.

00:06:39:16 - 00:06:49:01

Samuel

And this gives you like an alternative, piece of information for them to get a better idea on the pathways into university.

00:06:49:06 - 00:07:06:21

Sam

Yeah. And this is where Change of Preference expos are really handy, because if you do miss out just by a few points, don't write yourself off. Come and have a chat to the professionals and the experts who know the answers to these questions, and can guide you to potentially still getting into the course that you wanted to do.

00:07:06:21 - 00:07:19:13

Sam

And it could be just for one of those little side doors we were talking about earlier. Now, you mentioned this already a little bit, but I was hoping you could give us Elise, a bit more insight into the supplementary offer rounds and how that works.

00:07:19:15 - 00:07:28:05

Elise

So what you can also do to give yourself another safety net is tick a box as part of your VTAC application to be considered for supplementary offers.

00:07:28:07 - 00:07:45:04

Elise

So basically what that means is if you don't receive any offers, that you've put in your preference list, we can pass your information on from VTAC to the institutions who may be able to give you an offer for another course that might be in a similar area, similar discipline to one that you've popped on your preference list.

00:07:45:06 - 00:07:59:13

Sam

Now, some institutions don't offer December round offers to certain courses. Is there any way or and anyone can answer this? Is there any way a student can look up that course to see if it is participating in certain offer rounds or not?

00:07:59:15 - 00:08:01:18

Elise

That is a great question. I know Amanda might actually know.

00:08:01:20 - 00:08:01:23

Amanda

It's on VTAC.

00:08:01:23 - 00:08:05:18

Elise

It is on VTAC.

00:08:05:20 - 00:08:30:10

Amanda

Each year there's always a list of courses, that that will make offers. It's the main ones that don't make offers in December I think are medicine. Yeah, yeah. And now for any students listening who are doing the IB, IB is also going to be in the December round offer. So this is for the first time ever, IB students will get an offer at the same time as VCE students, which is great for them.

00:08:30:10 - 00:08:30:19

Sam

Yeah, definitely.

00:08:30:19 - 00:08:33:08

Amanda

Really wonderful for them to be in that same offer round.

00:08:33:09 - 00:08:47:07

Sam

Yeah. But I think it's just a it's a good, good advice to just remember, if you don't get an offer in that first round, it might not be results based. It could be that they're not participating. Even though typically we're saying it's only medicine. Maybe there are other courses.

00:08:47:07 - 00:09:03:18

Sam

So it's worth, you know, seeking out some more information before you change that preference. We are going to do some rapid fire questions. Just to, ease us out of this informative podcast. So, Sam, I'm going to start with you. So as soon as you hear the question, I want you to say the first answer that comes to mind.

00:09:03:23 - 00:09:06:21

Sam

And you can't go back on your answer. Okay? Do you understand the rules?

00:09:06:21 - 00:09:07:09

Samuel

No pressure.

00:09:07:15 - 00:09:09:18

Sam

No pressure at all. All right. High school or uni?

00:09:09:24 - 00:09:10:11

Samuel

Uni

00:09:10:12 - 00:09:11:18

Sam

Exams or assignments?

00:09:11:22 - 00:09:12:16

Samuel

Assignments.

00:09:12:21 - 00:09:15:11

Sam

And best way to mentally prepare for university?

00:09:15:13 - 00:09:16:21

Samuel

Hot chocolate.

00:09:16:23 - 00:09:21:24

Sam

Excellent. All right. These two are just for Elise and Amanda. And then I'm going to alternate between you.

00:09:21:24 - 00:09:27:15

Sam

So Amanda this one's for you. First most common mistake you say you make when applying for uni?

00:09:27:17 - 00:09:29:20

Amanda

Not doing enough research.

00:09:29:22 - 00:09:33:10

Sam

Oh, nice. Elise, your best trick to increase the chance of an offer?

00:09:33:12 - 00:09:39:04

Elise

Making sure you put adequate pathway options and definitely, some diplomas and potentially a Cert IV on there as well.

00:09:39:06 - 00:09:40:19

Sam

Beautiful VTAC answer there.

00:09:40:21 - 00:09:46:06

Sam

And Amanda last one for you. One piece of advice for year 12s feeling nervous about offer day?

00:09:46:06 - 00:10:01:05

Amanda

Take a deep breath. It's all okay. And we don't always make the best decision about what we want to do after school. And it doesn't lock you in forever. So just remember that it's only one step beyond school and you can change your mind.

00:10:01:05 - 00:10:06:01

Amanda

You can take a different path. But you'll get to where you're supposed to go in the end.

00:10:06:03 - 00:10:19:13

Sam

Yeah, absolutely. It's great advice. I would really like to thank you all so much for your, sharing of your wisdom today. It's been really great. I think the listeners will get a lot out of this. A very big thank you to Sam, Elise and Amanda for coming along and supporting you in this.

00:10:19:15 - 00:10:35:19

Sam

And also for all the listeners tuning in. I hope it's been very helpful for you. If you do have any further questions or you just want some more info on any of the topics covered, you can always reach out to our future student advisors for personalized advice on everything and anything VTAC. You can also find the link in the podcast description.

00:10:36:00 - 00:10:40:17

Sam

Good luck with your applications and we will hopefully see you on campus at Swinburne next year.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]