



Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

Frequently Asked Questions for parents

How does my child join the Academy?

- They will need to go to the website listed below, navigate to the 'Join the Academy' page, download and complete an application – they will need your permission before they apply. They will also need a scanned copy of their most recent school report
- To be eligible to join the Academy they will need to be passing Maths, English and Science at school
- They will also need to be attending school in the region identified on the application page

Why should they join the Academy?

- By joining the Academy, they will have the opportunity to be mentored by a dedicated CSIRO Academic Coordinator and undertake activities to help them work towards a career in the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). They will receive support and resources throughout high school through to university and graduate employment. There is no cost for them to participate in the Academy

What happens in the Academy?

- The Academy will offer a range of activities including:
 - A STEM Camp for Year 8 students
 - An opportunity to participate in the Creativity in Research, Engineering, Science and Technology ([CREST](#)) Awards
 - A personalised plan that is tailored to their interests and goals
 - Access to STEM camps and activities throughout high school
 - Regular catch-ups with an Academic Coordinator or Student Advisor to make sure they're getting the support they need
 - Work placements in STEM organisations
 - Access to leadership programs
 - Regular online experiences where they can talk to other students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous women working in STEM and students studying STEM at university



Australian Government
National Indigenous Australians Agency

- Help to make sure that they have access to the resources they need to finish high school and university
- Assistance to make decisions about school subjects and university courses

What will be expected of them if they join the Academy?

- That they will:
 - Work hard at school and university
 - Graduate Year 12 and consider a university degree
 - Attend Academy events and activities
 - Respond to emails and phone calls from Academy staff
 - Provide information to Academy staff in a timely manner
 - Treat your fellow Academy participants with respect and courtesy
 - Let your Academic Coordinator or Student Advisor know if you need help
 - Do your best to succeed

What if they fail maths or science in high school after joining the Academy?

- Their Academic Coordinator will work with them to get extra help

What will I need to do?

The Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy program activities are delivered outside of school hours, during lunch breaks and during school holidays. To make sure that your child (if selected to participate in the Academy program) is fully supported during their participation in the Academy program, and the Academy is delivered effectively, we ask parents/carers to:

- Respond to emails and phone calls from Academy staff to support your child's participation
- Help your child get to events or activities
- Provide information such as consent forms to Academy staff in a timely manner
- Let us know if there are changes in your circumstances that will affect your child's participation in the program

Will their school know about the Academy?

- Yes, when they apply to join the Academy, we will ask them to give us the name of a teacher at school that they would like to work with
- We will contact the school to let them know that they are part of the Academy
- We will make sure that they don't miss any school to participate in Academy activities

What if they want to leave the Academy?

- They can leave the Academy at any time; however, they may not be able to re-join the program if they change their mind later

What if they don't want to go to University?

- The Academy is for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are interested in going to university and studying or working in STEM

- If they are a part of the Academy, they will have the opportunity to see what it's like to go to University
- Not all high school students know if they want to go to university – we are encouraging applications from students who have an *interest* in university and studying or working in STEM
- If they definitely don't want to go to University or have other interests, there are other programs available that Academy staff can give them information about

Will I get help at university?

- Yes, CareerTrackers are partners with CSIRO in the Academy program. When they start university a CareerTrackers Advisor will work with them and guide them through the program. They will be provided with world-class training throughout their academic career and be connected with a global network of like-minded Indigenous professionals.

For more information or to apply:

Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

(07) 3833 5660 or yiwsa@csiro.au

<https://www.csiro.au/en/Education/Programs/Young-Indigenous-Womens-STEM-Academy>