



Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

Frequently Asked Questions for teachers and schools

How does a student join the Academy?

- They will need to log on to the website listed below, navigate to the 'Join the Academy' page, download and complete the application – parents or carer's permission is required before applying. They will need a copy of their most recent school report. Both the application and the report will need to be emailed to yiwsa@csiro.au
- To be eligible to join the Academy they will need to be passing Maths, English and Science at school.

Why should they join the Academy?

- By joining the Academy, students 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 field of STEM. Students will receive support and resources from high school through to university and graduate employment. There is no cost to participate in the Academy.

What will they do 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 tailored to students' interest and goals.
 - Access to STEM camps, activities, leadership programs and work placements in STEM organisations.
 - Regular catchups with the Academic Coordinator.
 - Regular online experiences connecting with other students, Indigenous and non-Indigenous women working in STEM and University students studying STEM.
 - Provide resources to support finish high school and university and help make decisions about school subjects and university courses.



Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency

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

Students will need to:

- Work hard at school and university.
- Graduate Year 12 and consider a university degree.
- Attend Academy events and activities.
- Let their Academic Coordinator or Student Advisor know if they need help.
- Do their best to succeed.

What is expected of me as a supporting teacher?

The Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy program activities are delivered outside of school hours, during lunch breaks and during school holidays, however the support of teachers is an important element of the program as CSIRO and the Academy also make available school-based activities.

We ask teachers to:

- Respond to emails and phone calls from Academy staff to support your student's participation.
- Provide information to Academy staff in a timely manner.
- Ensure that you have sufficient capacity to support students in the Academy and the support of your school leadership.

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

- The students' Academic Coordinator will work with you and the student to get extra help.

Will their family/carers need to be involved? What do they need to do?

- The students' family or carers will need to support them– this means helping them get to events or activities, providing information to the Academic Coordinator to help plan camps, activities and attending any activities that they are invited to.

How will the school be involved in the Academy?

- When the student applies to join the Academy, we will ask them to give us the name of a teacher at your school who they would like to work with.
- We will contact you to let you know the student is part of the Academy.
- Students will not need to miss any school to participate in Academy activities.

What benefits are there for the school?

- Registration in the CREST program – the program will be available for the whole school to access, not just Academy students.
- Teachers supporting Academy students can access the specially designed Jarlarla program with Stronger Smarter - <https://strongersmarter.com.au/jarlarla-program/>.
- Opportunities to access CSIRO Education and Outreach teacher professional development programs.

- Access to STEM extension activities for Academy students including Bebras, PULSE@Parkes and Cybertaipan.
- Opportunities to build links and networks to a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM professionals and role models and leaders.

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 connect 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>