

ISS2023

150 students from across Australia and around the world
will be selected to travel to Sydney to attend
The Professor Harry Messel **International Science School • 2–15 July 2023**

Applications due **6 April 2023**
sydney.edu.au/science/iss

Amazing science, amazing experience: In July 2023 150 top science students from nine countries — Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, the USA and the United Kingdom — will gather at the University of Sydney for a two-week fully residential program of inspiring lectures by leading researchers, laboratory tours and hands-on activities, all complemented by a rich schedule of social events. It's an experience you don't want to miss.

Calling all science-mad year 11 and 12 students: if you're in year 11 or 12 in an Australian secondary school, and if you've got a talent for STEM subjects and a passion for science, you really should apply.

What does it cost to come to the ISS? Nothing! Yes — really. Full scholarships, each worth around \$4000, will be awarded to all students selected to attend ISS2023. The scholarships cover transport to Sydney, all accommodation and meals for the two weeks, and the full ISS program of academic and social events.

About The ISS

The ISS has been running since the 1960s — it's a prestigious and inspiring program. We have some amazing speakers from across a wide range of research disciplines, and a packed schedule of events.

Here's a taste of what's in store.

The ISS2023 Lecture Series — daily talks by leading researchers across the STEM landscape, including:

- Quantum Computing
- Carbon Capture Engineering
- Dark Matter Cosmology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Chemical Sensors
- Stem Cell Medicine
- and Great Moments in Science with the incomparable, incorrigible Dr Karl Kruszelnicki

Tours & Activities to give you a real sense of research-level science:

- Visit cutting-edge research labs to get your hands on some amazing science gear
- Meet some of our best young researchers and find out what your future in science could look like
- Build bridges, crack codes and compete for glory in the Science & Engineering Challenge

A Packed Social Calendar to help you all get to know each other:

- See the city of Sydney at its shining best and dance your legs off during the ISS Harbour Cruise
- Nightly social events including trivia competitions, movie nights, and the infamous ISS Talent Quest
- Soak up the grandeur of the University of Sydney's Great Hall for the ISS2023 Gala Reception

Thank you so much.
This was a once in a lifetime,
life-changing experience!
— Student at ISS2022

How To Apply

The selection process is through an **online application form**: go to

sydney.edu.au/science/iss

You need to provide: your personal details (address, contact phone number and email address, parent/guardian consent); your school details and your most recent academic results; and a Letter of Reference from your school.

Then you need to do some writing: a 500-word **Personal Statement**, telling us why you should be selected to attend the International Science School.

From the applications we receive, our selection panels in each Australian state and territory will select the scholarship winners to attend ISS2023. Overseas scholars are selected by our partner organisations in their country.

The Indigenous Scholars Program

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in science and engineering. This is why the ISS aims to bring talented, enthusiastic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students together with like-minded scholars from around the globe, to inspire and encourage them to consider a future in science, engineering and technology.

The ISS2023 Indigenous Scholars Program reserves **five scholarships** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants. The scholarships are awarded against the same selection criteria, but only Indigenous Australian students are eligible for these reserved places at the ISS.

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student in grade 11 or 12 in 2023, if you enjoy science, if you want to meet people from across Australia and around the world with similar interests ... then the International Science School is for you!

A Few FAQs

- **Is there a cut-off criteria attached to school grades?** No. We are looking for high-achieving students who are very capable at science subjects — but we also want well-rounded, mature, talented students with a keen interest in science, and we want to find students who will truly benefit from the experience, wherever they are.
- **Does the ISS take place during the school term/semester?** It depends on which state you live in — the program runs during the NSW school holidays, but that's not necessarily true in your state. So your school and your parents/guardians must approve your absence for the duration of your program.
- **Is the ISS really free?!** Yes! All travel, accommodation, meals and activities are provided through generous donors to the University of Sydney's Physics Foundation.
- **Will I be properly supervised and cared for?** Absolutely! We take student welfare, safety and happiness very seriously. A team of experienced ISS staff will supervise and mentor students at all times, with a team of dedicated senior supervisors on-call day and night.

What are you waiting for? Applications due **6 April**
sydney.edu.au/science/iss



ISS is amazing ... the greatest experience
a young person with a passion for science could have.

— Student at ISS2019

Application Criteria, Terms & Conditions

1. Number Of Students

The number of ISS scholarships offered to Australian students in each of the states will be approximately:

NSW 50 — VIC 10 — QLD 10 — WA 5 — SA 5 — ACT 2 — TAS 2 — NT 2

A further **five scholarships** will be allocated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students according to demand. Scholarships are awarded to students from eight countries overseas:

China 10 — India 5 — Japan 10 — New Zealand 5 — Singapore 5 — Thailand 7 — UK 5 — USA 5

2. School Year Level Of Students

Students at an Australian school in **years 11 and 12 in 2023** will be considered for scholarships to ISS2023. It is generally expected that applicants will be between 15 and 18 years old in July 2023, but 14-year-olds may be offered scholarships under exceptional circumstances.

3. Selection Criteria Guidelines

The following selection criteria should be used as a guide, though may vary depending on state examination requirements:

- a. **The ISS celebrates excellence.** Students should be achieving the highest award in the top-level syllabi of English and STEM subjects in their year 10 exams (e.g. 'A' grade, or >80%, or equivalent). Students are required to provide their most recent results during the online application process. Students in year 12 in 2023 should demonstrate continuing excellence in these subjects.
- b. Students must submit with their application written supporting comments from their Head of Science Department and/or School Principal in the form of a **letter of recommendation**.
- c. Applicants should be assessed by their school's Head Science Teacher and Principal as one of the top science students in their year group at school. Preference may be given to students whose vocational interest is a career in the sciences.
- d. Students should be studying at least 50% STEM subjects in year 11 or 12. Engineering, psychology, geography, geology, geophysics, environmental science and computer science are all regarded as 'STEM subjects' for these purposes.
- e. Students should be able to represent their school and state at the International Science School. Along with their academic records, the 500-word **Personal Statement** will be used to assess each student's application for ISS2023. The statement gives students a chance to tell the selectors about their breadth of experience, their goals and ambitions, and what they can do beyond school assessments.
- f. The **ISS2023 Indigenous Scholars Program (ISP)** reserves up to five scholarships that may be awarded to talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. An applicant who indicates on their application form that they wish to be considered for the ISP Scholarships will enter into the main round of scholarship awards. If the ISP applicant is unsuccessful in the main selection round, they will enter the selection process for the ISP scholarships, which will be judged against the same criteria (3.a through 3.e) above.