

HIGH PERFORMING STUDENTS PROGRAM

School Statement of Support



Attn: School Principal and/or Supporting Teacher,

A student at your school has applied to participate in the 2027 High Performing Students Program, coordinated by the Widening Participation Pathways team at the University of Newcastle. Students require permission from their school and parent/guardian to participate.

Please complete the details below and return to the student, to allow their application to be processed by the University.

Applications close during October 2026 and late applications cannot be accepted. If you have any questions, please email the program coordinator at highperformancepathways@newcastle.edu.au

WHAT IS THE HIGH PERFORMING STUDENTS PROGRAM?

This long standing program allows outstanding high school students, of any age, who demonstrate high potential or a gifted nature in one or more subjects at school to enrol in and complete a first year university course, and apply to receive credit towards a future degree. These are real university courses. Outside of their weekly lesson, all course work is to be completed by the student in their own time, and candidates need to be able to balance this with their usual high school, work and personal life commitments and responsibilities. Lessons run throughout Term 1 and 2, once a week either face-to-face at NUspace campus in Newcastle on a Friday afternoon 4pm-6pm or online. We encourage students to consider the benefits of studying in-person on campus as part of this experience where possible. At the end of semester we welcome school staff, participating students and their families onto campus to attend an attainment ceremony to celebrate their achievements.

newcastle.edu.au/study/pathways/high-performing-students-program

DETAILS

STUDENT NAME _____
SCHOOL _____
SCHOOL EMAIL _____
SCHOOL PHONE _____
PRINCIPAL _____
PRINCIPAL EMAIL _____
COORDINATING TEACHER _____
COORDINATING TEACHER EMAIL _____

The principal's email address will be used to:
(1) inform school of successful applicants and
(2) send the principal their end of semester invitation to the HPS Program Attainment Ceremony held at Callaghan Great Hall during 2027 University graduations.

Please also nominate a staff member at your school that the HPS Program coordinator can contact during the program to support the student if there are concerns or exam organisation required.

COMMITMENT AND CONSENT

To be filled out by school principal or a nominated staff member on their behalf.

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I can confirm that this student has:

- Proven themselves a highly motivated and resilient learner who demonstrates independent thinking skills
- Exhibited academic excellence in their current studies and shows a strong ability to grasp advanced concepts
- Displays time-management, organisational and self advocacy skills and/or demonstrates the capacity to seek assistance from teachers, peers or family to continue developing these skills in support of their educational journey
- Demonstrated respect and maturity to staff and students in the classroom and beyond

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I understand:

- the commitments of the program for the student as outline above and on the HPS Program webpage
- that a student studying face to face may need to arrange to leave school early on Fridays in Term 1 and 2 to attend classes commencing at 4pm at the NUspace university campus in Newcastle
- that a student studying online may need to complete an exam or assessment task during school hours, at school, and that the high school is responsible for providing supervision for that student by means of a staff member from the school.

This is a commitment we ask of high schools, in supporting their participating students and the HPS Program coordinator will be in touch if this is the case for your student/s.

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Yes, I am pleased to endorse this student's application and participation in the High Performing Students Program in 2027.

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No. I cannot endorse this application. I have concerns about the student's participation in the HPS program this year.

Signed: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Name of school principal / nominated staff member on their behalf.