Pathways to University: Outreach Programs for Indigenous Students
Your career starts at UWA

The School of Indigenous Studies (SIS) at The University of Western Australia (UWA) offers a range of programs that bring Indigenous high school students onto campus allowing them to experience university study and life.

If you are not sure what you want to study, the programs run by SIS can help by introducing you to various aspects of the university environment including hands-on activities, meeting tertiary student role models and other Indigenous high school students like yourself. You’ll get guidance from staff at SIS to help you make decisions about your future education.

Check out the programs in this booklet that will expose you to the variety of options available to Indigenous high school students.

Most programs are sponsored, meaning there is no cost involved for students. Students must be enrolled at a school in Western Australia to be considered for these programs.
Year 12 Leadership Seminar

This residential camp is held in Perth annually during the April school holidays. The Seminar has been running since 1980 and is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Year 12 who are considering tertiary study.

Students will have the chance to explore the various areas of study at UWA as well as access information about scholarships and residential colleges. You will also get to participate in personal and academic development workshops, as well as social and sporting activities where you will meet other Indigenous students, network and discuss your future.

sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach/yr12

Year 11 and 12 WACE Revision

SIS offers sponsorship to students wanting to attend WACE Revision Courses with the intention to study at UWA. The WACE Revision Courses are held in the school holidays during April, July and October. Accommodation will be provided for students during the July holiday courses. Students need to be studying subjects offered by the provider and studying towards an ATAR to gain entry into UWA. Places are limited with priority going to year 12 students.

sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach/wace-revision-courses

Year 10 Science Camp

This 5-day camp is held annually in the July school holidays. You’ll be introduced to a range of exciting opportunities on offer from different areas across the University including:

- Engineering
- Sports Science
- Physics
- Geology
- Medicine and Dentistry
- Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing
- Astronomy

Past activities have included plastering, suturing, taking blood pressure measurements, designing and building a water filter, launching rockets and experimenting with liquid nitrogen.

As well as experiencing great hands-on science activities, you’ll participate in a range of social and cultural activities that help you to get to know other Indigenous students. You’ll also have the opportunity to find out what subjects you need to study to get into science, engineering and health-related degrees.

sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach/camp

For more information or to apply contact the School of Indigenous Studies or go to sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach
SIS Outreach Programs

Year 8 Discovery Days
The Year 8 Discovery Days are held during November and aim to introduce Year 8 students to the university environment through a range of hands-on activities at different departments on campus. Past activities have included testing your athletic ability at Sports Science, learning how to sell your favourite fast food at the Business School, apply plaster to an arm like a medical professional or find out where humans evolved from at Human Biology.

sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach/yr8

Career and Education Expos
UWA is also actively involved in various career and education expos. SIS provides information about studying at UWA and can facilitate Indigenous university students to participate as guest speakers.

Campus visits
SIS encourages high schools to bring Indigenous students to the University throughout the year. Information on degree courses, academic support, scholarships, cadetships and accommodation is provided by SIS. Students get the opportunity to meet current Indigenous university students and staff to discuss the various aspects and experiences of university life. Visits take 2-3 hours and may include a tour and activities.

Year 8 Discovery Day registrations will be available online in term 3.
Aspire UWA

Aspire UWA works with partner schools in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Peel, Mid-West and metropolitan Perth to raise aspirations for tertiary education. The program aims to encourage students who would not normally consider university as an option to see the benefits and opportunities that university study offers. Aspire UWA works with high school students, including Indigenous students, and supports them through to successful transition into university.

ALVA Design Studio

The ALVA Design Studio introduces high school students to the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, integrated design, urban design and visual arts through intense tuition sessions with ALVA Faculty academic staff. The program is offered to students entering Year 12 and is held in January each year.

Science Experience

In January every year, the University holds a three-day hands-on Science Experience designed specifically for school students entering Years 10 and 11.

The program provides students with the opportunity to enjoy the wonders of science by performing interesting experiments and investigations and hearing from leaders in science, technology and engineering.

UWA Open Day

UWA Open Day will be held on 14 August 2016 and is a great opportunity for all future students and their families to see and experience the University first hand. All UWA faculties and schools provide information sessions and hands-on activities during the day. SIS staff and students are available to provide information and answer any questions for prospective Indigenous students.

Albany UWA Open Day

Albany Campus Open Day will be in August 2016. Prospective students and families are encouraged to attend if you live in the region.

Students with an aspiration to study at UWA are strongly encouraged to apply for these camps.

For more information contact the School of Indigenous Studies or go to sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach
Pathways and settling into university life

Did you know... Indigenous students can gain entry to UWA without an ATAR?

There are various pathways for gaining entry to UWA, and once you’re here, there is great support to help you settle into Uni.

Support from the School of Indigenous Studies

The SIS Student Services team provides advice and support to students throughout their studies. The School also offers a variety of facilities and services, such as a computer lab, common room and library. Social, cultural and educational activities are ongoing throughout the year and are extended to all Indigenous students at the University and into the wider community.

Accommodation

There are five residential colleges at UWA within walking distance of the campus. Over 90 Indigenous students currently stay in residence at UWA. University Hall is the only UWA-owned residential college, and SIS recommends that Indigenous students studying in the Aboriginal Orientation Course apply for a place at University Hall or St Thomas More.

If you are eligible for ABSTUDY and are a rural student, the total college bill can be covered. You will also receive a reduced living allowance from ABSTUDY (approximately $40 per fortnight). Most of your expenses are covered and you won’t have to worry about cooking or shopping for food and it only takes 5 minutes to walk to uni.

Support in accessing financial assistance

SIS can help you with applications for Centrelink (ABSTUDY) and you may be eligible for a number of scholarships available to Indigenous students in UWA courses. The value of the scholarships vary and details can be found on the UWA website: sis.uwa.edu.au/courses/scholarships

Recreation

There are many student-run clubs and societies that you can get involved with for a break from the demands of study, both social and sporting. The WA Students Aboriginal Corporation (WASAC) offers a range of social and sporting events throughout the year.
What can parents do?

As a parent wanting to support and encourage your child’s dreams and aspirations it helps to know about the high school subjects that will allow your child to get into university. You should also know about university life, including course requirements and support structures at the University. SIS can provide course and study information sessions for parents and guardians, including Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) and scholarship information.

For more information contact the School of Indigenous Studies.