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Acknowledgement of Country

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) acknowledges the Wadjuk Noongar people as the traditional owners of the land on which its offices are situated. The SCSA respectfully recognises Elders both past and present. The SCSA also acknowledges the traditional custodians of lands across Australia where it conducts its business, their Elders, ancestors, cultures and languages.
A message from the Chair of the Board

On behalf of the Board of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA), I am pleased to present this overview of the programs the SCSA has available to international schools.

The SCSA’s vision is to provide quality curriculum, assessment and reporting of standards of achievement for all students studying the Western Australian curriculum, so that they become confident, creative learners and active, informed citizens who contribute positively to society. I am proud of the quality of education programs we offer to Western Australian schools and our international partners.

We build our programs on a solid foundation of research and consultation to ensure we have curriculum and standards that are relevant, evidence-based and forward-looking. Over the years, the SCSA staff have been involved in the development of the Australian curriculum and have worked with thousands of teachers to develop support materials that are grounded in classroom experiences and settings.

The SCSA is committed to clear and high standards, and our focus is on supporting students and teachers in the journey from Kindergarten to Year 12. It is important to us that the thousands of students who have undertaken, or will study, our education programs are equipped, not only with skills in literacy and numeracy, but also with the content knowledge that underpins our courses. Our programs integrate opportunities for students to develop skills they need to be successful in life in the twenty-first century. We, therefore, value skills such as critical and creative thinking, personal and social capabilities, and intercultural understandings.

I encourage you to explore this overview of our programs. You will find some background information about our history and an introduction to the process for prospective schools to express an interest in joining us in a partnership.

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to a partnership with us.

Emeritus Professor Patrick Garnett
Chair of the Board
OUR CURRICULUM

The Western Australian curriculum offered by the SCSA addresses the diverse learning needs and aspirations of students from Pre-primary to Year 12. The SCSA has adopted and adapted Western Australia’s curriculum from the Australian curriculum:

- for Pre-primary to Year 10 in eight learning areas
- for Years 11 and 12 by reviewing our established courses as part of a syllabus reform and continuing our focus on rigour and education standards.

Our education programs, and the resources and support we provide, are designed to make a difference to students’ lives. We do this by ensuring students, teachers and schools have access to high quality, relevant education programs that maximise students’ future opportunities.

We use the latest international research on effective assessment practice to develop support materials for teaching and learning in schools. By reviewing thousands of authentic student work samples from all year levels and year-level syllabuses we capture a wide range of student achievement. We consult with experienced classroom teachers to independently analyse and validate the ranking of student work samples.

The detailed grade descriptions we publish are based on observable behaviours; students are graded on what they know and can do. The grade descriptions are shown through a wide range of annotated student samples (written and audiovisual) selected from the initial ranking process, which we publish online in a secure environment for teachers. These materials help teachers provide detailed and quality feedback on student learning and supports teachers in their planning for student improvement.
OUR PEOPLE

The SCSA is the Western Australian Government certification authority responsible for setting the curriculum for over 1100 schools from Kindergarten to Year 12. Reporting directly to the Western Australian Minister for Education, the SCSA is administered by a Board of educators with experience in curriculum and assessment from early childhood to post-graduate university level.

Our curriculum experts are experienced educators focused on supporting teachers to achieve the best possible outcomes for their students. Our evidence-based approach to curriculum design is validated by university-based academics, curriculum specialists and measurement experts. Our curriculum is subject to regular quality reviews to ensure it remains relevant and student focused.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our international education partners have access to the following curriculum programs:

- **Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline (the Outline)**
  - Kindergarten to Year 10

- **Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)**
  - Years 11 and 12 two-year senior secondary school program

- **Australian Matriculation program (AUSMAT)**
  - Year 12 one-year senior secondary school program
The History of Western Australian Education

Higher Education in Western Australia
The Western Australian Government forms its first university and selects students for further studies.

Secondary Education Authority
A new education authority is created in Western Australia, fulfilling key roles in Years 11 and 12.

Curriculum Council
The Western Australian Government significantly expands and refines the role of the education authority.

Board of Secondary Education
An independent Board was formed to be in charge of courses and end-of-year examinations.

1984

Sunway College
In an Australian first, the Western Australian senior school program is licensed for delivery by an international provider.

1998

TAE to TEE
The end of Year 12 requirements were updated and replaced with a new system called the Tertiary Entrance Examination.

1986

The SCSA
An additional review of the Curriculum Council Act 1997 includes a new name and an expansion of its role for Kindergarten-Year 12 students.

2012

New WACE
New WACE requirements implemented and Western Australian curriculum implementation timelines released.

Curriculum and Assessment Outline
Western Australian curriculum published for Pre-primary to Year 10.

2012

1975

1913

1987

1998

1984
The WACE course of Physics can effectively attract the students to focus, to think, and strengthen their ability of applying what they learn to understand the world and explain the things around them.

Wei Ren
WACE Physics teacher
China

WACE’s teaching system makes it easier for me to find my interests and explore my potential in the learning process, so that I can have a clear career plan and learn more effectively towards my goal.

Xiaoqi Ping
Student
China

This programme really trains you for university life in the future, with the high quality assignments and exams that are given.

Nicholas Ng
Former student
Malaysia

I believe having done my AUSMAT has greatly accelerated my learning curve and also helped my transition to university immensely.

Selenge Erdenechimeg
Former student
Singapore
Our Commitment

OUR FOUR PILLARS

Making a difference to students, their teachers and school communities is at the heart of our work. Our education programs and support are defined by the following four pillars.

1. Access and opportunity
   We believe all students should have access to a world-class education that maximises their opportunities. Our courses, and the resources we provide to ensure successful course implementation, build on this belief.

2. Fairness and rigour
   We are committed to maintaining the fairness of our curriculum, assessment and standards of achievement. Our programs are grounded in educational rigour – evidenced by our transparency, integrity, professionalism and accountability.

3. Partners in education
   We build partnerships with the common goal of promoting opportunities for students at and beyond school. We approach our partnerships with an open, supportive and mutually-respectful mindset.

4. Learning for the real world
   We want to best-prepare students for the world beyond school. We provide practical, evidence-based learning that gives students the knowledge and skills they need for success. We ensure our programs remain relevant in an ever-changing world.
OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Our education programs are designed to give students the best possible opportunity to pursue post-school options, whether these be university, training or the world of work.

Students who successfully complete the WACE or AUSMAT program will receive an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) that provides a seamless transition into:

- Western Australian universities
- Australia’s universities, including the group of eight
- leading universities around the world
- a wide range of career opportunities.
Our Kindergarten to Year 10 international education program delivers quality curriculum, assessment and standards for Kindergarten to Year 10 students. Known as the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (the Outline), it is the same education program as that offered to Western Australian students.

The Outline enables all students enrolled in the program to become confident, creative learners and active, informed citizens who contribute positively to society.

Students are able to study this world-class curriculum without leaving their own country. With an opportunity to develop English language skills, students will be well prepared for senior secondary school and universities around the world.

Just as importantly, schools can also include classes in their first language as part of the program.

The Outline provides comprehensive information for schools to plan student learning programs, assess their progress and report to parents. It clearly sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes that all students are expected to acquire. Successful completion of the curriculum provided within the Outline ensures students are best placed to progress their education by studying the WACE at an international school.

The Outline includes subjects spanning the eight learning areas of English, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Technologies and The Arts, which have been adopted and adapted from the Australian Curriculum.
BENEFITS OF A KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 10 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION

Students can acquire the following:

- communication skills
- self-discipline
- teamwork and personal development skills
- self-expression skills
- English language skills, which provide an ideal preparation for higher education at English language schools and universities
- successful transition to senior secondary WACE or AUSMAT programs.

THE EIGHT LEARNING AREAS OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

- English
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Mathematics
- Technologies
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages
- Science
- The Arts
Years 11 and 12

We offer two programs to our international schools: the Years 11 and 12 WACE and the Year 12 AUSMAT programs.

Students can receive an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) through both these senior secondary school programs, that provide a seamless transition into Western Australia’s universities, Australia’s group of eight universities and leading universities around the world. Successful completion of the WACE or AUSMAT opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities.

Successful students receive certification known as the WACE issued by the SCSA on behalf of the Western Australian Government, and an ATAR recognised by universities internationally.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (WACE)

The two-year WACE program is the same as that offered to senior secondary school students in Western Australia.

The WACE requirements include:

- demonstration of a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy, and achievement standards
- completion of a minimum number of units to demonstrate breadth and depth in learning
- completion of at least four Year 12 ATAR courses with at least one pair of Year 12 units from List A (Languages and Humanities) and one pair of Year 12 units from List B (Mathematics, Sciences, Technology)
- students must complete two units of a Year 12 WACE English learning area course.

Full details of the requirements are listed in the WACE Manual.

Students come from diverse backgrounds and have varying needs. They may be interested in university study, have specific vocations in mind involving further education and training, or intend to enter the workforce after leaving school.

For this reason, the WACE offers a wide range of courses and programs that enable students to study courses that meet the highest education standards and provides pathways to university, training and employment.

The courses available cover a range of learning areas which can align to a number of academic disciplines, including, but not limited to, business, finance, health, the sciences, engineering, mathematics, humanities, law, English and information technology.

AUSTRALIAN MATRICULATION PROGRAM (AUSMAT)

The Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) program is a pre-university program that is recognised around the world.

AUSMAT opens pathways to a wide range of career opportunities. The one-year AUSMAT program is the same as the Year 12 WACE program offered in Western Australia.

Students are required to select five ATAR courses, with at least one from List A and one from List B. Students must complete two units of Year 12 WACE English learning area course.
BENEFITS OF OUR SENIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM

Students are able to study for a world-class qualification without leaving their own country.

The WACE and AUSMAT programs are dynamic, relevant, balanced and academically challenging. They are ideal for our rapidly changing world. Both programs prepare students for a variety of career paths, including medicine, dentistry, finance, business, information technology, science, law, engineering and the arts. Students may successfully transition into further education, training or the workforce.

Students develop communication skills, self-discipline, and respect for themselves, their peers and the world. As well as being provided with a well-rounded curriculum, students develop skills in teamwork, self-expression and personal development.

WACE and AUSMAT graduates can achieve fluency in English, which provides an ideal preparation for higher education at English-language universities.

ASSESSMENT

Final school marks comprise 50 per cent moderated school assessments and 50 per cent external examinations. Teachers develop tasks that meet the requirements of the course syllabus and use support materials and guidance provided by the SCSA. There are different task types that may include assignments, laboratory work, tests and projects.
MODERATION PROCESSES
The SCSA conducts a number of moderation activities, which provide valuable feedback and data to assist schools in improving teaching and assessment processes and meet SCSA standards. These activities include:

- syllabus delivery audits that ensure school planning documents cover the correct syllabus
- document reviews to ensure all planning around teaching, assessment and reporting reflects our requirements
- grading reviews, including school visits where samples of student work are reviewed to identify and discuss the application of marking keys and grade descriptions
- consensus moderation meetings where teachers meet with other teachers to discuss grade descriptions and how these apply to sample student files and proposed grades.

These moderation activities are delivered online and face-to-face.

EXAMINATIONS
There is an external examination for each ATAR course. Examinations are conducted every November. Independent markers mark the examination papers. The same markers mark the examination papers of Western Australian students and offshore students. The SCSA uses ATAR course examination results to moderate school marks to ensure the marks awarded by teachers in different schools are comparable. This ensures that reports are accurate, reliable and can be compared fairly with the performance of other students completing the same program in other schools or colleges.

RESULTS
A summary of results is available to students online at the end of each year.
For students seeking university entrance, an ATAR is calculated by combining the school and final examination score of their best four courses. Detailed results are posted to students. The ATAR is used by university admission centres around the world to process applications for admission to undergraduate courses. Further information about the ATAR is available at www.tisc.edu.au.

With the advanced teaching concepts, the WACE has been devoted to cultivate well-developed generations, giving us the finest environment to study, leading us to be standout individuals on merit, and teaching us how to build up to the upcoming life in universities.

Ann Lee
Student, China
Thanks to AUSMAT I can be a globally competitive student with a lot to offer my country and other nations. Not only am I challenged by this program but I’m also inspired and there can be no better foundation for my success.

**Ruvumbo Thandiwe Gondo**
Student, Zimbabwe

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**Our Partners**

**WHAT DO WE OFFER?**

The following diagram summarises how we support schools.
HOW WE SUPPORT OUR EDUCATION PARTNERS

The SCSA collaborates with schools and teachers in the best interests of the students. We support schools and teachers to develop their understanding of teaching, learning, assessment, standards and reporting for all eight learning areas across Pre-primary to Year 12. This support may be targeted (based on particular learning areas or subjects) or system wide, and provided face-to-face or facilitated online and includes:

1. **Documentation support**
   The SCSA has developed processes and support materials to engage with schools to ensure all documentation meets the requirements of the *Outline*, WACE or AUSMAT programs, and to provide advice on how to achieve full compliance.

2. **Grading support**
   The SCSA publishes materials that demonstrate State standards for all learning areas, such as grade descriptions and student work samples, and our curriculum specialists work closely with schools to evaluate and provide feedback on how to apply these standards.

3. **Professional learning**
   The SCSA provides professional learning to develop teaching, learning, assessment and reporting documents and strategies. These well-established practices reflect the principles of teaching, learning and assessment in schools. This includes classroom strategies, developing assessment tasks, and using data through a number of statistical reports made available by the SCSA to improve student performance.

4. **Pedagogical support**
   The SCSA facilitates forums to reflect and provide advice on teaching and assessing practices to identify practical ways to improve student results and advise on effective approaches to the external examination.

5. **Networking support**
   The SCSA provides opportunities for teachers to share examples of student work to investigate and discuss student achievement in relation to published marking keys, judging standards materials and grade descriptions for all learning areas.
Australia is currently the third most popular destination for international students in the English-speaking world, and many international students choose to study here because of our cultural diversity and the high quality of our education.

Perth is the vibrant capital city of Western Australia, best known for its sunshine, friendly residents, culinary experiences and pristine beaches, so you will never be short of things to do. Not only does Perth give students a safe environment to learn in, but it gives students the opportunity to network and learn from industry professionals. The opportunities are immense.

Western Australian universities regularly visit overseas schools to discuss course options and transitioning for overseas students. The SCSA is available to assist schools offering its curriculum programs to be included in these visits.


Frequently Asked Questions

The following FAQs and answers are provided to assist schools in understanding some of the key requirements regarding the delivery of the SCSA’s curriculum programs.

For further FAQs and answers go to: https://international-schools.scsa.wa.edu.au.

**Schools**

**Q** What is the Kindergarten to Year 10 Western Australian (WA) curriculum and what are the mandatory requirements?

**A** The Kindergarten to Year 10 Western Australian curriculum is embedded in the SCSA’s *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* (the *Outline*). The *Outline* provides Pre-primary to Year 10 year-level syllabuses across the eight learning areas of English, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Technologies, and the Arts. It also includes support for children in Kindergarten. A school delivering the Western Australian curriculum must teach the curriculum content of all eight learning areas relevant to each year level.

**Students**

**Q** Will I receive a senior secondary certificate that is recognised globally?

**A** Yes, students who successfully complete the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) or Australian Matriculation (AUSMAT) programs will receive WACE certification. The WACE is recognised for entry to universities in Western Australia, Australia’s group of eight universities and leading universities around the world, including in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Successful completion of the WACE or AUSMAT programs opens pathways to a wide range of post-school opportunities. All senior secondary students will receive a Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA). The WASSA is a transcript of grades and marks that may be used for additional information by employers, universities and further training providers.

**Parents**

**Q** What is the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank?

**A** The ATAR ranks a student’s position relative to all other students who have undertaken their final ATAR course examinations. The ATAR is calculated by the Tertiary Institute Services Centre (TISC) using a student’s best four scaled ATAR course scores (the scaling process is completed by TISC). The ATAR can be used to gain entry to universities in Western Australia, Australia or world-wide.
The WACE syllabus, with its totally English academic program, forced me to improve and adapt to the challenge ... it was a good decision for a student like me who seeks an international professional career.

Nguyen Anh Thi

Vietnam
Prospective international education partners supply information which the SCSA uses to evaluate school preparedness to deliver the nominated education programs. Through this process, commercial arrangements are discussed and relevant timeframes established. All applications for accreditation must be approved by the SCSA’s Board using a two-stage online application process. International Education team members are available to provide guidance and support to complete and submit an Expression of Interest.

Schools that are accredited to deliver the SCSA’s education programs will receive induction training and other guidance to support them to deliver the approved education programs. The SCSA will also provide experienced education professionals to work with its international education partners to provide support and advice about curriculum delivery and assessment.

**EXPRESSING INTEREST**

Please visit our international education website or speak to one of our international education consultants to commence the process to become an SCSA education partner.
More information

For more information please visit www.international-schools.scsa.wa.edu.au or contact us at int.ed@scsa.wa.edu.au.