

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



ALL ABOUT FAST FORWARD



About Fast Forward

The Fast Forward Program is a Widening Participation program at Western Sydney University. The program aims to raise educational aspirations for high school students. The program began in 2004 and has continued to grow, offering the opportunity for enhanced academic and personal achievement to a large number of Western Sydney students.

In 2022 there will be over 80 partner schools and approximately 6000 participants.

The program encourages students to strive for their personal best and to see tertiary study as a realistic and viable post-school option. They participate in experiential learning which develops their skills and fosters familiarity with the university environment.

Fast Forward recognises the importance of engaging students with the concept of lifelong learning and the benefits of post-school education as early as possible.

This knowledge equips students to better plan their pathways in the senior years of schooling and post-school study.

The Fast Forward program has been proven to have a positive and lasting impact on students who participate in the program. 64% of 2020 Fast Forward Year 12 students received an offer to study at an Australian university in 2021.

The following elements of the program give students the chance to be involved in a wide range of activities:

Fast Forward 'Welcome to Western'

Students and their parents are invited to attend a celebratory event early in Year 9; this evening welcomes the students into the program.

The event acknowledges the academic potential that led to students' selection in the program.

The evening is also a chance for students and parents to learn about the program and hear from inspirational speakers including Western Sydney University student role models.

Fast Forward University Days

In Years 9 and 10, students attend a Fast Forward University Day at a University campus. They see more of the University and learn about what tertiary education has to offer. They participate in workshops, including sessions on multiple intelligences, career pathways, and critical and transferable career skills. Students have a chance to explore Western Sydney University campuses via an interactive campus challenge. In this activity their teamwork and problem solving skills are put to the test. There are opportunities to meet Western Sydney University students who give an insight into life as a university student by sharing their knowledge and experience. Students also experience 'university taster' sessions.



Western Sydney U Day for Year 11 Students

Western Sydney U Day is a University-wide initiative designed to help senior high school students, particularly those in Year 11, prepare for their course and career journey. Fast Forward students in their senior years will be offered a place at the 2022 event.

The day will provide students with the opportunity to speak to current University students and academic staff. Through interactive workshops and presentations they will experience the range of courses available at Western Sydney University, as well as learn about scholarships, pathways programs and opportunities to pursue their aspirations.

Senior Student Consultations

Fast Forward students in Years 11 and 12 receive opportunities throughout their senior studies to participate in formal one-on-one or small group consultations with Fast Forward Project Officers who will help them make informed decisions about future study pathways.

The consultations are designed to hone in on individual objectives and provide practical guidance about study options. Project Officers work with students to explore early entry, alternative pathways, course structures, application processes, scholarships and other tertiary offerings.

Year 12 Conference

Students in Year 12 will be eligible to attend the annual Year 12 Conference which aims to provide opportunities for students to meet with a wide range of education and industry professionals and explore the options available to them after they have completed their high school learning.

Students will be able to attend a selection of interactive academic workshops and explore state of the art, purpose-built facilities at the Parramatta South campus.

HSC Study Sessions

Students will be able to attend FREE HSC preparation courses. These workshops provide an opportunity to better prepare for the HSC examinations. Courses are led by experts familiar with the requirements of the HSC.

Studiosity

Students will have access to a real-time, online homework centre which includes free online tutoring and the use of an extensive bank of practice questions and quizzes for revision and study throughout the year. Students and tutors can work through problems together and send documents back and forth for review and comment.

Fast Forward Academic Excellence Scholarship

A Fast Forward Academic Excellence Scholarship is available to students who actively participate in the program and make the most of the opportunities it provides, by rewarding their hard work and dedication with financial support for tertiary study at Western Sydney University. A scholarship offer worth \$20,000 will be available through a competitive application process. There are currently four scholarships available each year.

Fast Forward Online Hub

Students will be able to access the newly developed Fast Forward online hub. The resource provides students with access to a suite of engaging and informative online workshops, webinars and wellbeing resources available on-demand. Topics include Matching Interests to Careers, Study Skills, Time Management, Applying for Scholarships and much more. Modules take between 10-30 minutes to complete. Students can access these resources on the Fast Forward Online website:

www.wsu.edu.au/ffonline

As part of the program, students also receive Fast Forward workbooks, newsletters and other helpful tools for their use at school.

Fast Forward is a key program under Widening Participation Future Student Engagement, which focuses on working with schools to improve the educational opportunities and attainment of students in Western Sydney.

'UNTIL I WAS IN FAST FORWARD I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT UNIVERSITY OR WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE. FAST FORWARD HAS BEEN A REAL EYE- OPENER.'

Student from
Mount Carmel Catholic College



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