

The NSW Australia Higher School Certificate HSC

SCHOOLS



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Introduction

Internationally, the HSC is acknowledged by various universities and institutions, particularly in countries such as the UK, India, the USA, and Canada, as an indicator of academic rigor and readiness for tertiary studies. This global recognition is bolstered by the comprehensive curriculum and assessment standards established by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA), ensuring that HSC graduates are well-prepared for further academic pursuits or entry into the workforce.

Under the NSW, Australia Education Act 1990 and the Education Standards Authority Act 2013, the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) has the authority to grant the Higher School Certificate (HSC) to eligible students.

Sections 94 and 95 of the Education Act specifically allow NESA to recognise schools outside of NSW, Australia, enabling these recognised schools to enter candidates for the HSC. This provision ensures that students studying at accredited institutions outside of NSW, Australia can still participate in the HSC examinations, facilitating educational access and opportunities for those who may be living or studying abroad.

The Professional Teaching Council of New South Wales, Australia (PTC NSW, Australia) and member professional teacher associations play a crucial role in the success of international projects related to education, particularly in the context of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) and beyond. PTC NSW, Australia provide vital support by promoting best practices, professional development, and collaboration among educators. We facilitate the sharing of resources and expertise, helping teachers adapt their methodologies to meet diverse international standards. Furthermore, PTC NSW, Australia and member professional teacher associations advocate for high-quality education and uphold ethical teaching practices, which are essential in ensuring that students from recognised schools worldwide receive an education that aligns with the rigorous expectations of the HSC.

PTC NSW, Australia and member associations foster a community of practice that enhances the credibility and relevance of the HSC on the global stage, ultimately benefiting students, educators, and educational institutions alike.



Requirements for Recognition

These are the requirements for recognition:

- 1 The school has approval from the appropriate local government authority to operate as a school
- 2 The school's proprietor is a legal entity approved by the appropriate local government authority
- 3 The school has a viable potential candidature for the HSC
- 4 The school has the capacity to administer the HSC examinations at the same time as they are undertaken by students in NSW, Australia and in a secure manner
- 5 The school and its proprietor have the credibility, financial and educational resources, experience and student enrolments (or potential enrolments) to ensure the viability of providing courses leading to the HSC
- 6 The school will adhere to the NSW, Australia curriculum and NESA's rules and procedures in relation to the award of the HSC
- 7 The school has, and will maintain, appropriately qualified teaching staff to ensure that the educational program is of a certain standard and complies with the NSW, Australia curriculum and assessment requirements for the HSC
- 8 The school has appropriate premises, facilities, resources and equipment to implement the NSW, Australia courses offered
- 9 The school has in place policies and procedures in place for handling complaints and grievances
- 10 The school has in place policies and procedures for notifying NESA of specified matters.



The Process

The process for seeking initial recognition has two steps:

STEP 1

PTC NSW, Australia prepare and submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) outlining how the school plans to comply with the NESAs requirements for recognition.

STEP 2

If an EOI demonstrates that a satisfactory plan is in place, NESAs subsequently invites PTC NSW, Australia to submit an application for initial recognition.

Memorandum of Understanding

- Recognition of a school is finalised by the representative of the school's proprietor via PTCNSW, Australia. PTC NSW, Australia and NESAs sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) detailing the respective responsibilities of each party in relation to the school's recognition
- Recognition lasts for between 2 and 5 years
- A school seeking recognition must be approved or licensed by the appropriate government authority as satisfying local standards to operate as a school
- The school has the capacity to administer the HSC examinations at the same time as they are undertaken by students in NSW, Australia and in a secure manner
- That all students have the required level of English as assessed by PTC NSW, Australia to begin the HSC
- The school has a viable potential candidature for the HSC

Further requirements for the HSC

- Courses of study for each student for each year that comply with a pattern of study for Year 11 and Year 12
- The scope and sequence of learning/units of work mapped against the content and outcomes of the relevant NESA syllabus for each course
- Resources and equipment available for each KLA
- Assessment compliant with NESA outlines
- Teachers have the educational qualifications, expertise and experience to teach the NSW, Australia curriculum
- Teachers are required to have strong skills in spoken and written English.
- Policies and procedures for students to participate in the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy online tests. PTC NSW, Australia to assess HSC minimum standards for literacy and numeracy
- A school must also maintain, until the end of each calendar year, teaching programs for each unit of work for each Year/class that correspond to those identified in the scope and sequence of learning/units of work.
- Schools must be able to demonstrate evidence of alignment between NESA syllabuses and the school's curriculum documentation including scope and sequences, teaching programs and assessment plans used by the school.
- Students have access to resources to support the teaching of courses offered including library facilities, NESA syllabuses and other NESA resources.
- PTC NSW, Australia to assess school buildings and facilities as adequate for teaching of the courses, including any practical requirements
- Details of the facilities available, taking into account the number of students and requirements of each course offered
- A school will have in place and implement documented processes for maintaining records to demonstrate student achievement over the period of recognition

Submission Timeline

01

School outside NSW, Australia submits an EOI via PTCNSW, Australia to NESA for recognition

02

EOI is considered in relation to Requirements 1 to 6

03

EOI refused: school may submit an EOI via PTC NSW, Australia the following year

04

EOI accepted: school is invited to apply for Initial Recognition from NESA supported by PTC NSW, Australia and RANGS Online

05

School submits an Application for Initial Recognition to NESA supported by PTC NSW, Australia and RANGS Online

06

Recognition granted: MOU finalised and certificate issued by November of the year prior to HSC commencement

07

School operates with Initial Recognition for one-two years

08

School applies for renewal of Recognition via PTC NSW, Australia and RANGS Online by 31 March in the year in which Initial Recognition is due





Summary

PTC NSW, Australia's CEO has permissions to proceed from the senior School Recognition Director at NESA. Conversations have begun and the development of an HSC hub internationally is feasible, and PTC NSW, Australia is recognised by NESA as the assisting body for the project.

There are many steps, however the PTC NSW, Australia CEO's expertise and professional connections with NESA will ensure that the process of application and success of recognition is very

Further Information

Please visit www.ptc.nsw.edu.au/international-projects/ for more information and to fill out an expression of interest form. To discuss this opportunity in more detail, please contact David Browne at ceo@ptc.nsw.edu.au.

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