

# PTC NSW Australia International HSC Project - Stage 6 Curriculum Year 11 & 12

SCHOOLS & STUDENTS



# Contents

- 3 Introduction
- 3 Purpose of Stage 6 Syllabuses
- 4 Development of Skills
- 5 Intellectual, Creative, & Social Development
- 5 Flexibility and Preparation
- 6 HSC marks and the ATAR: what's the difference?
- 7 HSC courses
- 8 How your Year 12 qualifications are assessed
- 8 Main type of HSC courses
- 9 Your effort matters
- 10 Window into your HSC results
- 11 Partnerships & Pathways
- 12 Conclusion



# 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.

## Purpose of Stage 6 Syllabuses

### Solid Foundation

The NSW, Australia HSC syllabuses provide a set of broad learning outcomes that summarise the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes important for students to succeed in and beyond their schooling. In particular, the attainment of skills in literacy and numeracy needed for further study, employment and active participation in society and as a global citizen are provided in the syllabuses.

### Curriculum Structure

Encourage students to complete secondary education at their highest possible level.

Provide formal assessment and certification of students' achievements.

### Development of Students

Foster intellectual, creative, ethical, and social development.

Promote the development of students' values, identity and self-respect.

# Development of Skills

## Learning Outcomes

Provide students with skills for further study, employment, and active participation in society and as a valued global citizen.

Provide a flexible structure within which students can meet the challenges of and prepare for:

- further academic study, vocational training and employment
- changing workplaces, including an increasingly STEM-focused (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) workforce
- full and active participation as global citizens
- Flexible thinkers and valuable collaborators

## Application

- application of knowledge, skills, understanding, values and attitudes in the fields of study they choose
- capacity to manage their own learning and to become flexible, independent thinkers, problem-solvers and decision-makers
- capacity to work collaboratively with others



# Intellectual, Creative, & Social Development

## Application of Knowledge

Promote the application of knowledge, skills, understanding, values, and attitudes in chosen fields of study.

Students apply knowledge & skills gained from traditional classroom learning to hands-on and/or real-world settings, creative projects or independent or directed research and in turn apply what is gained from the applied experience to academic learning.

## Collaborative Skills

Collaboration skills are the ability to effectively work with others to achieve common goals through communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Develop capacity for collaborative work and respect for cultural diversity. Collaborative skills include: Time Management; Adaptive Learning; Resilience; Communication; & Conflict Resolution.

# Flexibility and Preparation

## Preparing for Future

To obtain a Higher School Certificate (HSC), you must complete at least 12 units of Preliminary courses (usually in Year 11) and 10 units of HSC courses (usually in Year 12), including English. Most HSC courses are worth 2 units.

## The ATAR

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to all the students in their age group. So, an ATAR of 80.00 means that you are 20 per cent from the top of your age group (not your Year 12 group).

Universities use the ATAR to help them select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank (your ATAR + any applicable adjustments). Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students (eg a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test).

# HSC marks and the ATAR: what's the difference?

The most important thing to know is that HSC marks and the ATAR have different purposes:

- Your HSC mark for each course tells you about your performance in your exam and assessments. There's no quota as to the number of students who can achieve top marks.
- Your ATAR tells you about your position, or ranking, compared to other students in NSW, Australia and reflects your achievement in all your HSC courses. Its only purpose is to help universities select applicants for their courses.

You can think of it like a running race: your HSC is your time (and is not compared to anyone else's time), and your ATAR is your place (first, second, third, and so on).

## Your HSC marks:

- are presented as marks out of 100
- tell you how well you've performed in each of your courses, according to standards set by NESA
- can only be compared to the marks of students who completed the same HSC courses
- are provided by NESA.

## Your ATAR:

- is a rank, not a mark or a percentage
- tells you where you're positioned overall in relation to other students
- tells you how you compare with other students who have completed different combinations of HSC courses
- is provided by UAC.



# HSC courses

There are 100 courses available across the HSC subject selection.

The Only COMPULSORY subject is English.

## HSC Subject Choices:

### English

- General English Studies
- English Standard
- English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D).

### History

- Ancient History
- Ancient History 2
- History Extension 1
- Modern History

### Science

- Science Extension
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Earth & Environmental Science
- Investigating Science

### Mathematics

- Mathematics Standard
- Mathematics Advanced
- Mathematics Extension 1 & 2

### Humanities

- Business Studies
- Community and Family Studies
- Design and Technology
- Economics
- Commerce
- Legal Studies
- Engineering Studies

### Creative Arts

- Music 1
- Drama
- Dance
- Visual Arts

### Other HSC Subjects

- Enterprise Computing
- Software Engineering
- Geography
- Society and Culture
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education
- Health & Movement Science

### Languages

- Chinese beginners
- Chinese Continuers
- Chinese & Literature
- Japanese Beginners
- Japanese Continuers
- Japanese Extension

# How your Year 12 qualifications are assessed

If you've completed an Australian Year 12 qualification (eg. NSW, Australia HSC), your admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank, which is usually your ATAR. However, if other factors are considered, these will be combined with your ATAR to adjust your selection rank and make it higher than your ATAR. These adjustments used to be called bonus points.

Some courses specify course prerequisites (eg completing, or achieving a specified standard in, a particular HSC (or equivalent) course), which you must satisfy before you can be considered for an offer.

Most universities also use other criteria when selecting students, such as a personal statement, a questionnaire, a portfolio of work, an audition, an interview or a test, which are considered together with (or sometimes instead of) your selection rank.

## Main type of HSC courses

Students doing the HSC should select courses that align with their abilities, passions and future aspirations.

### Board Developed Courses

Board Developed Courses are the large number of courses set and examined by NESA that can contribute to the calculation of the ATAR.

These include:

- general education courses
- VET Industry Curriculum Framework courses
- Life Skills courses (not examined).

### Board Endorsed Courses

Board Endorsed Courses count towards the HSC but do not have a HSC exam and do not contribute towards the calculation of the ATAR.

These include:

- Content Endorsed Courses
- VET Board Endorsed Courses
- School developed Board Endorsed Courses
- University developed Board Endorsed Courses.



# Your effort matters

## Effort Tracking

### School Implementation Framework

The Effort Tracking Implementation Framework has been developed to help and support schools to implement a school-wide Effort Tracking program.

Effort Tracking is divided into three phases: 1. Planning, 2. Pilot Program and 3. Full-Scale Implementation. It highlights all stages, detailing the considerations required to successfully implement.

## What does Effort Tracking look like in your school?

The Effort Tracking system:

- Highlights clear, data-backed insights into student growth and efficacy
- Provides a reliable mechanism to recognise and encourage all students' efforts
- Motivates and nurtures low-achieving students
- Identifies high-achieving students who are not being challenged
- Fosters growth-mindsets in students and teachers
- Helps align teacher and student expectations
- Develops a systemic focus on the processes of learning
- Builds positive educational values and wellbeing
- Promotes better academic results

Effort Tracking is an additional program available to all HSC registered schools.

Additional information will be provided on request.



# Window into your HSC results

As part of our HSC offerings, we are proud to include an opportunity for each school to measure the success of each HSC candidature and track trends year upon year. This valuable data

## Our Measures

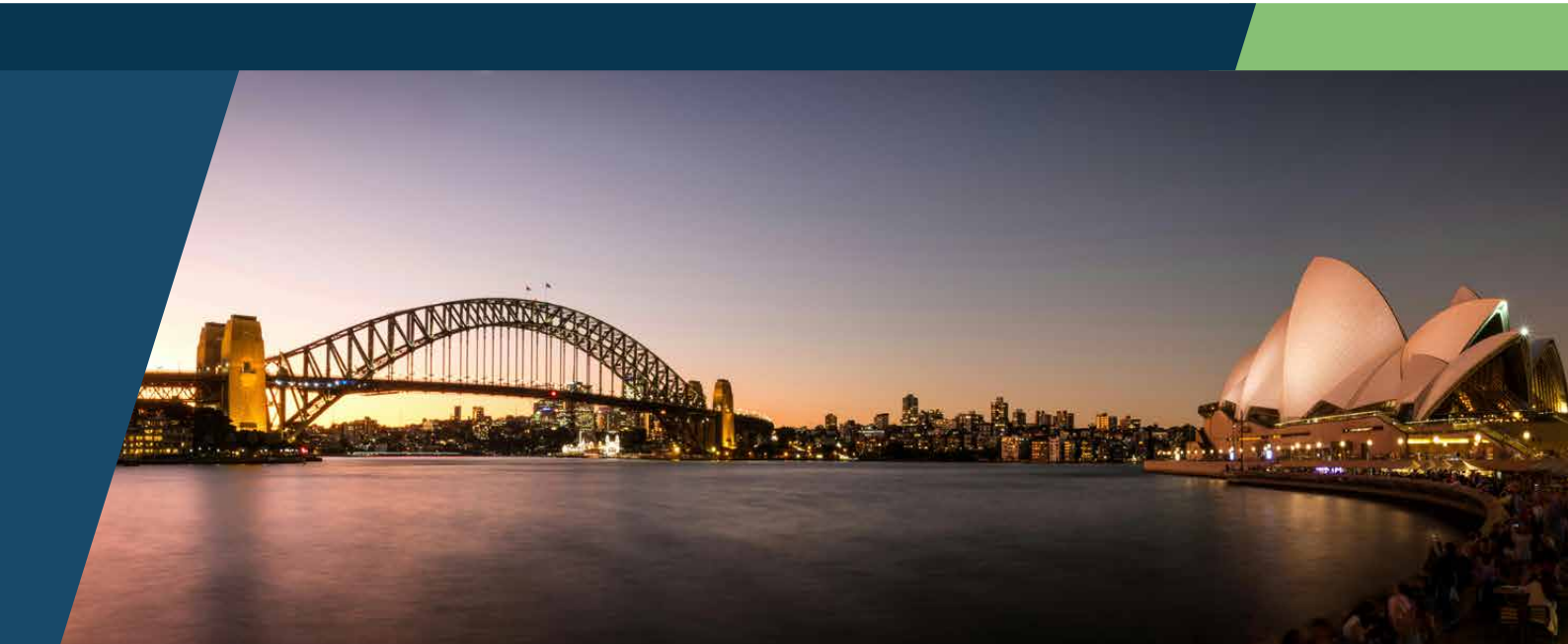
- UniScore: this indicator is an accurate estimate of ATAR for all graduating Year 12 students.
- Value-added (growth) indicators: giving individual students, courses and subject areas an expected range of

HSC results and ATARs based on school Year 10 academic data (scaled by us).

- Average Scaled Mark (ASM): a year-by-year comparison of whole school HSC marks.
- Median ATAR: a year-by-year comparison of whole school median average ATAR.
- HSC subject area analysis: how each subject area (faculty) performs relative to all students' results and value-added (growth) measures.
- Course analysis: how each HSC course performs relative to each other.
- Trend analyses: positive or negative trends in HSC results by subject area and course over 6 years.
- Student Performance (relative to all other courses) and Achievement (relative to the school average)

Additional information will be provided on request.





## Partnerships & Pathways

Collaboration with PTC NSW, Australia and the HSC (Higher School Certificate) hub offers international schools a unique opportunity to enhance their educational offerings and align their curricula with recognised Australian standards. By integrating the expertise and resources provided by these partnerships, international schools can implement best practices in teaching and assessment that are reflective of the rigorous standards internationally recognised in New South Wales. The PTC NSW, Australia unique collaboration not only elevates the quality of education but also ensures that students are well-prepared for their academic futures, whether they choose to pursue further studies in Australia or access Australian and International universities while at home.

The connection with Australian universities through the PTC NSW, Australia partnerships also facilitates access to valuable resources, research, and professional development opportunities for educators in international schools. Teachers can engage in training programs and workshops that enhance their instructional skills, fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation. This professional development is critical in helping educators adapt to the diverse needs of their students, promoting inclusive teaching practices that recognize and celebrate cultural differences. Additionally, these partnerships encourage networking among educators, allowing for the exchange of ideas and experiences that can lead to improved teaching methods and student engagement.

Furthermore, collaborating partners with PTC NSW, Australia and the HSC hub helps international schools create pathways for their students to transition smoothly into Australian higher education. By aligning with the HSC framework, schools can provide students with qualifications that are recognised and respected in Australia, and internationally, thus opening doors to further education opportunities.

This alignment not only enhances the credibility of the school's academic programs but also boosts student confidence, knowing they are receiving an education that meets international standards.

Ultimately, PTC NSW, Australia collaborations position international schools as leaders in global education, equipping their students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in an interconnected world.

Your HSC is your passport to a world of opportunities!

# Conclusion

## Key Takeaways

Completing the HSC gives you the best opportunities for your future, helping you on the path to becoming a leader in your community. A good education is the key to a great future and will help you discover and achieve your goals and dreams. Students who finish the HSC get better jobs, earn more, and live healthier lives than students who leave school early. The HSC is a great way to show employers that you are a great bet – and it's something you can use all through your life.

## Future Impact

In addition to determining university eligibility, the HSC is important because it can impact a student's career prospects.

Many employers consider a student's HSC results when making hiring decisions, and high grades can access even more job opportunities.

## Further Information

Please visit [www.ptc.nsw.edu.au/international-projects/](http://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](mailto:ceo@ptc.nsw.edu.au).

**David Browne**  
CEO  
Professional Teachers' Council NSW, Australia  
Email: [ceo@ptc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ceo@ptc.nsw.edu.au)

