

Frequently Asked Questions

ACER Testing Day- what is covered in the test? Is it a difficult test?

The Biomedical Science Academy ACER Testing Day will occur on Saturday 19 June 2021 at BSSSC. The test covers three areas: Reading Comprehension, Abstract Reasoning and Mathematics and Science. The test is skill based rather than curriculum based and designed to identify innate ability rather than acquired knowledge. This test is commonly used Australia wide to identify potential students for participation in accelerated learning or enhancement programs. The test takes approximately 40 minutes for each section.

Can my child prepare for the test?

There is no preparation required to undertake the ACER Higher Ability Selection Test. This forms a part of the selection process. In addition to the test, students will also have an opportunity to speak with an Executive member about their interests, why they want to participate in the Biomedical Science Academy, and to share their future aspirations. This information, in conjunction with their school reports, student responses to the questions in their application, and the ACER Higher Ability Selection Test will be used to determine the best candidates for the program.

We are interested for our child who is in Year 5? What will be the timeline for the process in 2022? Will this be a similar process in the following years?

Applications for 2023 Biomedical Science Academy Program will occur at the beginning of Term 2 2022. Successful applicants will be notified at the beginning of Term 3 2022. A similar process will be undertaken for future Biomedical Science Academy students.

Can in-catchment students apply for the program?

Yes- all students regardless of whether they are an in-catchment, priority out-of-catchment or out-of-catchment enrolment are encouraged to apply for the program.

Will my child be automatically selected in the program each year?

At the end of each year, we will be conducting a review of students in the program for the following year. Students have many aspirations for their future and their interests may change as they are exposed to learning in other curriculum areas. We want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to explore their passions and interests. If your child no longer wishes to participate in the Biomedical Science Academy, their enrolment is secure for future years.

Students are only required to sit the testing once for entry into the program. In subsequent years, the review will involve student and teacher feedback on their progress and commitment to program.

Students may enter the program in subsequent years e.g. Years 7-10.

Are the fees refundable if my child is unsuccessful?

No- unfortunately application fee is non-refundable. This fee covers administrative costs and the ACER High Ability Testing.

Please also refer to the Enrolment Management Plan on our website that states - "To participate in the BSSSC selective entry program, applicants are required to pay the application fee.

Participating in the selective entry program selection process is no guarantee of successful enrolment at BSSSC and any fees paid are non-refundable."



Student Leadership

Will all students have an opportunity to apply for the Student Leadership Program?

All students will have the opportunity to apply for the 'Propel' Student Leadership Program in 2022. An overview of the program and the application process will be communicated to our students and community early next year.

Languages

Which Languages does the College offer?

BSSSC offers both Spanish and Chinese. Students are asked to select their preference at their enrolment meeting. When determining our Language options, the College sought feedback from our local feeder schools. The College sought advice from The University of Queensland as to which were the emerging languages providing global pathways.

Sport

What will the Sporting Program look like at the College?

BSSSC's Sporting Program endeavours to strengthen the connection between sport and physical activity, and health and wellbeing, enabling our students to develop the foundations for an active, healthy life.

All students will engage in Intra-school sport on a weekly basis (House Competition). This will be a regular timetabled lesson each Thursday and is in addition to Health and Physical Education lessons. Students will utilise facilities on the College grounds and at The University of Queensland. Students will always be accompanied by a College staff member.

Additional sporting grounds are currently being developed at Rocklea. Once completed, they will be utilised for sport training and competitions. Intra-school sport will be offered within the timetabled day, whilst sporting clubs and extra-curricular activities will be offered before school, during lunch breaks, and after school hours.

Instrumental Music Program

When will I find out more about the Instrumental Music Program?

Expression of Interest forms to participate in the Instrumental Music program will be collected from students and families during our enrolment interviews. This information is collected to determine the demand for an Instrumental Music program and the particular interests of our student cohort.

Schools are allocated Instrumental Music resources through the Metropolitan Region Music Resource Centre based on the indicated demand. The allocation will be distributed to schools by the end of the year in order to set up the program for 2022. Early in 2022, our Head of Department – The Arts, Renee Place, will contact those families who have submitted an Expressions of Interest to provide detailed information about how the program will be implemented.

