

# HEADSTART

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE FOR YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS

Semester 2, 2021 and Semester 1, 2022





# Rise,



The University of the Sunshine Coast acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which its campuses sit. We recognise and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



## DREAMING OF A BRIGHT FUTURE?

Begin with USC's Headstart program.

The Headstart program allows you to complete up to four first-year university subjects (one per semester) while in Years 11 and 12, giving you the chance to gain a taste of university life, enhance your educational performance and explore various careers to prepare you for future study.

**You don't just study university subjects, you become a USC student.**

When you enrol in Headstart, you become a USC student completing university-level subjects with other university students. You will find new and exciting opportunities and challenges as you experience university study first-hand.

### MANAGING YOUR TIME

University is different to school. It's an independent adult learning environment, which means you'll be responsible for your own assessments, attendance and management of your time.

Completing a university subject while still in school is an additional commitment of your time. To ensure you effectively balance your school work with uni, it's best to prepare a study plan early and set weekly goals to stay on top of your studies and don't be afraid to reach out for support if you need it. Years 11 and 12 are busy years for students but it's important to maintain a balance of school work, university study, sport, family commitments and fun.

**FAST FACTS** • 6 Headstart study locations across Australia • ★★★★★ 5 stars for teaching quality 16 years in a row



# BENEFITS OF HEADSTART

Starting university while still in school has many benefits:

- Gain credit towards a USC degree. This means you'll have fewer subjects to study when you start your degree.
- Prepare for university. When you get to university, you'll be well prepared. You'll have already completed study at this level, experienced classes, completed assessment and enjoyed uni life.
- Broaden your education. Select a Headstart subject in an area not offered by your school, or use it as an opportunity to try out future career choices.
- Receive adjustment factors. You'll receive a bonus adjustment to your ATAR for every Headstart course you successfully complete (1 rank per course).
- Gain QCE points. Completed university courses can contribute towards your QCE. One semester counts for 2 credits.\*
- Enhance your school performance. Studying at a more advanced level can improve your performance at school, because you'll be learning new academic skills and will have access to extra study resources.
- Save money. Your first Headstart subject is free and further subjects are at a reduced fee, decreasing the overall cost of your degree.

# and shine.

## You'll be supported all the way

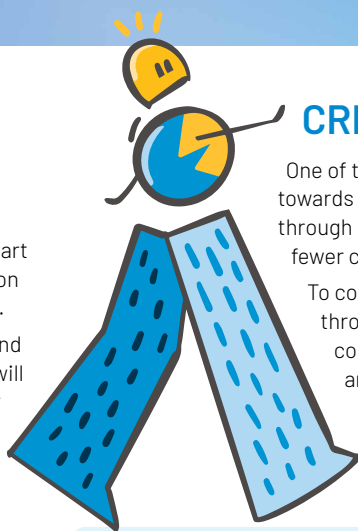
University may seem like a big step, but you'll be supported by USC and your school. Before you start classes, you will be invited to attend an orientation session to help you get started with your studies.

Your school is there to help you balance school and university, and your university subject teachers will give you guidance and feedback throughout your studies.

You'll also have access to USC's student support services, and staff are on hand if you have questions. Services include:

- Career advice, including one-on-one appointments with the USC Career Development Team
- Academic skills workshops, study drop-ins and one-on-one sessions with an academic skills adviser
- Indigenous academic mentoring and services
- Health and wellbeing services, including free counselling sessions

At USC, we're here to help you succeed. Our Student Success Team are experienced students who can talk with you about your studies and give you timely guidance and information to help you thrive. We are likely to reach out to you via phone, email or SMS during your time at USC.



## CREATE A PATHWAY TO USC

One of the great things about Headstart is that it can give you credit towards your USC degree. If you successfully complete subjects through Headstart, then enrol in a related USC program, you'll have fewer courses to complete to get your degree.

To continue your studies at USC after you finish Year 12, you apply through QTAC and include in your application that you have completed Headstart. Then, any applicable Headstart courses are automatically credited once you receive an offer from USC.

Credit may be granted for related degrees at other universities, but this is subject to approval by the relevant university through their individual credit process.

## ELIGIBILITY

We have high expectations for students who start university while still in school. Entry into Headstart is competitive and is based on your academic achievements.

To apply you must:

- be an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or Australian permanent resident (ie domestic student). International students should speak with their school's Headstart Coordinator about their eligibility for the program.
- be completing a full workload of Year 11 or 12 curriculum
- be achieving a B-grade average or better\*\*
- meet any prerequisites applicable to your chosen course
- have approval and a positive recommendation from your school.

\* The required level of achievement is a grade of 4 on a 7-point scale, or a Pass grade.

\*\* Special circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Your school must attach a written statement outlining a case for consideration.

★★★★★ 5 stars in overall student experience and learning resources • 85% of USC graduates employed within 4 months of finishing their degree

# STUDY OPTIONS AND COSTS

## YOUR STUDY OPTIONS

You can choose from more than 70 first-year subjects from a wide range of USC study areas, including:

- Business and commerce
- Communication, design and creative industries
- Education
- Environmental studies
- Health sciences
- Law and criminology
- Languages and linguistics
- Psychology and social sciences
- Science, IT and engineering
- Sport and exercise science

See the complete list of Headstart subjects available on pages 4–5 or visit [usc.edu.au/headstart](https://usc.edu.au/headstart)

## CHOOSING A SUBJECT

When deciding what to study, you might choose a subject that builds on your favourite subject at school, or perhaps you want to expand your horizons by studying something new or that you're passionate about. It's completely up to you how to choose to structure your Headstart study. Make sure you check the subject you want to study is available at the location you'd like to study at, in the semester you'd like to study in. If you're not sure which course to study, check out the career clusters on the Headstart web page to see which courses may interest you [usc.edu.au/headstart](https://usc.edu.au/headstart)

## ATTENDING CLASSES AND STUDY COMMITMENTS

Whether you're studying on-campus or online, as a Headstart student you'll attend the same classes as first-year USC students. Your coursework will include the same readings, assignments and exams.

Each subject is taught over 13 weeks of classes, followed by a two-week exam period (from February to June in Semester 1, and from July to November in Semester 2). You will need to be able to attend classes and complete coursework during this time.

Generally, Headstart students have 3–5 hours of class time per week. Check your course outline online to see how often you may need to head to campus or log in to a class. Classes run between 8am and 9pm, Monday to Friday. A university subject usually requires you to attend a lecture and tutorial each week. Some have an additional workshop, rehearsal or laboratory session, too. Lectures usually run for 1–2 hours with teaching staff presenting themes and concepts related to your subject.

Tutorials are similar to classes you might attend at school. These will be smaller groups and can run for 1–3 hours.

You'll need to set aside 12.5 hours per week for personal study (including class time). This time is when you'll complete set readings, write your assignments and revise for exams. This is in addition to your regular school study.

## COSTS

There is no tuition fee for the first Headstart subject you complete\*. Further subjects have a reduced fee (\$400 in 2020; refer to [usc.edu.au/fees](https://usc.edu.au/fees) for 2021/2022 amount). You may be eligible for a scholarship to cover the cost of your second and subsequent Headstart courses. Find out more about scholarships on page 3.

You should allow approximately an additional \$100 per course for textbooks, photocopying and any other study-related costs.

\*Only applies to domestic students and international students approved through the Sunshine Coast School Alliance. Other international students pay full fees, visit [usc.edu.au/fees](https://usc.edu.au/fees) to check the fee.



"The Headstart program has been amazing. From day one, I've never seen Ben happier. He's been welcomed with open arms by his peers. Everyone has been so helpful. He's made a whole new group of friends. He has a fantastic relationship with his teachers and he feels like he can chat to anyone.

"Ben's whole approach to study has turned very academic – he's a completely different person. He just grew so much overnight that it's really blown me away.

I would highly recommend the program. It's really shown him that university is for everyone; not the select few. I couldn't be prouder."



**Vanessa Watson's** son Ben studied two subjects through the Headstart program.



My second Headstart subject was about behavioural health and how the human mind develops. My tutor was so enthusiastic, it helped me understand the growth and psychology of people and other concepts I still reflect upon in my daily life - It's called self-directed learning. I learned how to manage my time wisely by creating weekly goals, and how to find resources if I needed help.

I love my degree because I get to learn about the human body and practise with heaps of cool equipment. The Paramedic Science labs are awesome. I get to practise my clinical skills with manikins, a simulated ambulance, lifelike blood, needles and heaps more. Most of all, I have a passion for helping people and after my first placement working inside a real ambulance, I knew that this is where I want to be when I graduate.

**Kiah Vescovi** is a Northpine Christian College graduate who is now in the third year of a USC Bachelor of Paramedic Science.



The fact I can be surrounded by older students and still feel really relaxed and know I am more than capable of studying at university-level is really empowering.

Before doing the program, I had never referenced an academic journal or research paper but now I cannot complete a school assignment without using these for my sources.

It also teaches you how to balance school, study, part-time work and other interests and manage your time. Being 16, I didn't really have those skills until going to USC.

Studying a human anatomy subject at university while in Year 11 is part of Chancellor State College student

**Petra Nunn's** plan to eventually become a doctor.

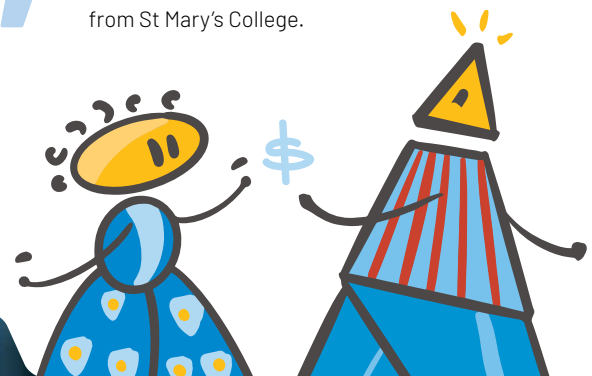


Experiencing university study first-hand alongside undergraduate students while still in high school was very positive and educational.

You have to be independent and responsible for your own assessment however, there were so many resources available, along with dedicated support.

It also expanded my communication and research skills, which I have found to be beneficial in the workplace and throughout everyday life as well.

**Isabella Muza**  
from St Mary's College.



"Hundreds of students from our school have completed USC's Headstart program over the past 10 years, with almost all continuing to some form of tertiary study.

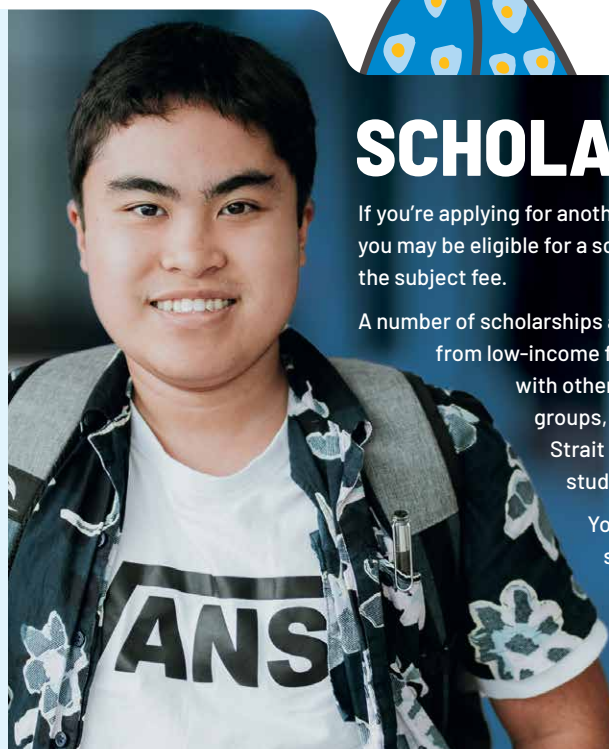
The program dramatically broadens the student's senior pathway options in areas schools cannot possibly cover and they love the exploration of study areas that are unattainable at school.

It enables an alternative pathway directly to USC and a selection rank and allows students to 'try before they buy' and commit to a whole discipline area.

As a school, having our students go to the neighbouring university breaks down the invisible boundary between school and university, and realises the concept of an all-encompassing educational precinct."



Chancellor State College Guidance Officer **Dominic Towler**

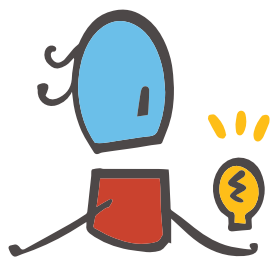


## SCHOLARSHIPS

If you're applying for another Headstart subject, you may be eligible for a scholarship to assist with the subject fee.

A number of scholarships are available for students from low-income families, or who identify with other recognised equity groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, or students with a disability.

You can apply for a scholarship when you submit your continuing Headstart application form.



# EXPLORE YOUR

## BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

BUS102	Economics for Business
BUS104	Discovering Management
BUS105	Marketing Essentials
BUS106	Accounting for Business
TSM102	The World of Tourism, Leisure and Events

## COMMUNICATION, DESIGN AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

CMN101	Introduction to Creative Entrepreneurship
CMN103	Introduction to the Creative Industries
CMN105	Introduction to Screen Media
CMN106	Contemporary Communication Theory and Trends
CMN107	Communication for the Creative Professional
CMN108	Issues in Social Media
CMN116	Playing with Words: an Introduction to Creative Writing Craft
CMN117	Playing with Genre
CMN130	Introduction to Journalism
DES101	Elements of Design
DES102	Visual Storytelling
DES103	Fundamentals of Photography
DES104	Art, Design and Visual Culture
DES105	Introduction to Design and Concept
DES107	Drawing Practice
DRA100	Acting 1: The actor's craft <sup>1</sup>
EGL120	The 'English' Tradition: An Introduction to Literary Studies
FSH100	Introduction to Key Concepts of Fashion
MUS100	Intro to Songwriting and Production
SGD100	Introduction to Game Design
SGD101	Game Art: Introduction to 2D & 3D

With over 70 Headstart courses to choose from at USC, the choice is up to you. You can choose to study Headstart courses available at a campus near you, or select a course which can be studied online. Before selecting a course, check the study location and semester of offer in the course outlines by visiting [usc.edu.au/headstart](http://usc.edu.au/headstart)

Some courses will have additional entry requirements, such as studying Biology at school. Please check below for any additional entry requirements for your course.

Please note: Not all courses are available to be studied in all semesters or at all locations. Course outlines denote semester and location availability.

## EDUCATION

EDU101	Human Development and Learning
EDU103	Integrating ICT into Learning
EDU115	Creative Expression and Play through the Arts
EDU118	Foundations of Numeracy
EDU119	English Language and Literacy

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

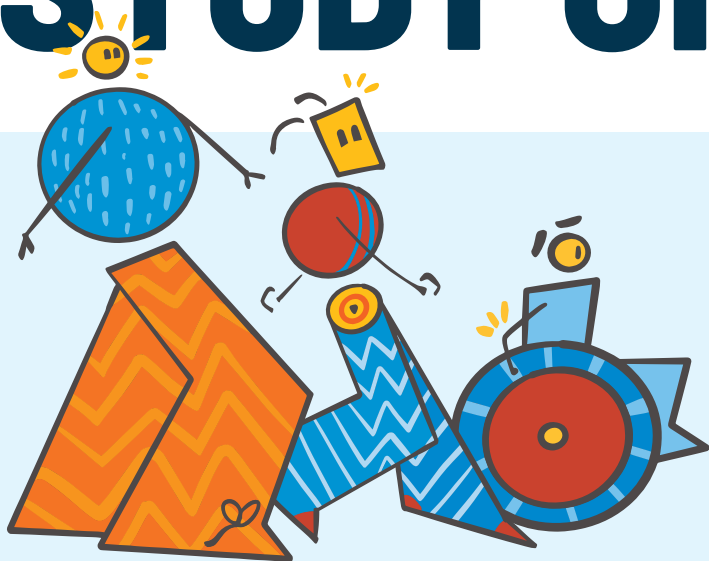
ENP101	Introduction to Urban Design & Town Planning - Studio I
ENP103	Planning Theory, Governance and Politics
ENP104	Planning Economics and Urban Analytics
GE0100	Changing Planet Earth
GE0101	Introducing Human Geographies

## HEALTH SCIENCES

HLT103	Professional Health Communication
LFS100	Cell Biology <sup>2</sup>
LFS103	Introductory Bioscience <sup>2</sup>
LFS112	Human Physiology <sup>2</sup>
LFS122	Human Anatomy <sup>2</sup>
PUB102	Environment and Health
PUB104	Introduction to Behavioural Health
PUB112	Public Health Foundations



# STUDY OPTIONS



Note: Course information is accurate at the time of printing, but course offerings can change, so go to [usc.edu.au/headstart](https://usc.edu.au/headstart) for up-to-date information.

## LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

CRM101	Introduction to Criminology <sup>3</sup>
CRM102	Understanding Crime
CRM105	Policing
JST101	Justice and the Australian Legal System <sup>4</sup>
LAW101	Foundations of Australian Law A

## LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

JPN110	Japanese A
JPN111	Japanese B <sup>5</sup>

## PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COU180	Introductory Counselling Skills
HIS100	What makes Australia? History of Australian popular culture: The twentieth century and beyond
HIS140	Global Citizens: A History of Humanity
INT101	Introduction to International Relations: An Australian Perspective
INT102	Global Environmental Politics
PSY100	Introduction to Psychology A <sup>6</sup>
PSY101	Introduction to Psychology B
SCS101	Foundations of Human Behaviour <sup>7</sup>
SCS110	Australian Society: How does(n't) it work? - An Introduction to Sociology
SCS130	Introduction to Indigenous Australia
SWK100	Introduction to Social Work Practice Theories

## SCIENCE, IT AND ENGINEERING

CSC100	Computer Science Project and Ethics <sup>8</sup>
ENG101	Foundations of Engineering <sup>9</sup>
ENG104	Introduction to Engineering Design
ICT110	Introduction to Data Science <sup>10</sup>
ICT112	Programming Fundamentals <sup>10</sup>
ICT115	Introduction to Systems Design <sup>10</sup>
MTH103	Introduction to Applied Mathematics <sup>11</sup>
MTH104	Introductory Calculus <sup>11</sup>
SCI102	Biodiversity and Ecology <sup>12</sup>
SCI105	Chemistry <sup>13</sup>
SCI107	Physics <sup>11</sup>
SCI110	Science Research Methods <sup>14</sup>
SCI113	Discovering Science

## SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

SPX101	Introduction to Sport and Exercise Science
SPX102	Introduction to Coaching Science

### FOOTNOTES:

- Headstart students may be required to attend rehearsals in addition to the scheduled classes.
- Must be in Year 12 and studying Biology.
- JST102 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if JST102 has been completed.
- LAW101 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if LAW101 has been completed.
- JPN110 is a prerequisite for this course. Students must successfully complete JPN110 before enrolling in this course.
- SCS101 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if SCS101 has been completed.
- PSY100 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if PSY100 has been completed.
- ICT112 is a prerequisite for this course. Students must successfully complete ICT112 before enrolling in this course.
- There are two 4 hour field trips during the semester that Headstart students need to attend. View the course outline for more details.
- Students are recommended to be studying Digital Solutions in school.
- Must be studying Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics.
- Must be studying Biology.
- Must be studying Chemistry.
- Students are recommended to be studying General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics.

# HEADSTART

## HOW TO APPLY

### APPLICATION DUE DATES

30 April 2021 for study in Semester 2, 2021  
31 October 2021 for study in Semester 1, 2022

Find a subject that best suits your career aspirations or interests, one that will count towards the degree you want to study or that extends on your favourite subjects at school.

# 1

### Assess your options

Take a look through the courses available on pages 4-5 and choose the one that meets your needs.

# 2

### Talk with your school

Before you apply for Headstart, you need to talk about your plans with your school's Headstart coordinator.

# 3

### Complete and submit your application

Complete and submit your application to your school's Headstart Coordinator. Once they have approved your Headstart participation, they will send your application and your most recent report card to USC for processing.



## HEADSTART KEY DATES

An important part of being a uni student is staying on top of due dates, and finding a balance between all of your commitments. As a Headstart student, you'll attend class and will be required to complete all aspects of assessment, including exams, so you must be available during exam weeks. View key dates for starting your Headstart studies below, and the full academic calendar, including exam weeks and dates to withdraw, via [usc.edu.au/calendars](http://usc.edu.au/calendars).

### For study in Semester 2, 2021

July 2021 – November 2021

Applications open ..... Now  
Applications close ..... 30 April 2021  
Timetable available on USC website. .... May 2021\*  
Orientation ..... We'll email you

\* May be subject to change. Students will be emailed with more information.

View enrolment dates once they are released at [usc.edu.au/calendars](http://usc.edu.au/calendars).

### For study in Semester 1, 2022

February 2022 – June 2022

Applications open ..... 1 August 2021  
Applications close ..... 31 October 2021  
Timetable available on USC website. .... December 2021\*  
Orientation ..... We'll email you

\* May be subject to change. Students will be emailed with more information.

View enrolment dates once they are released at [usc.edu.au/calendars](http://usc.edu.au/calendars).





# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

## HEADSTART COMMITMENT

### USC Commitment

#### THE UNIVERSITY AGREES TO:

- Provide feedback to the school about student progress and results
- Provide a copy of the student's academic record to the student
- Grant academic credit for a successfully completed course if the student enrolls in a related USC degree
- Provide each student with the rights, privileges and responsibilities granted to other USC students

### Student Commitment

#### THE STUDENT AGREES TO:

- Attend any required classes or orientation sessions
- Complete all assessment items on time and contribute to group assignments and presentations
- Check their university student email account regularly
- Engage with USC Blackboard throughout the semester
- Pay all fees due, including any late fees or fines incurred
- Adhere to the rules and policies of the University
- Have regular meetings with their school to discuss progress
- Notify USC Student Central in writing if they wish to withdraw from their course via email to [studentcentral@usc.edu.au](mailto:studentcentral@usc.edu.au)

### School Commitment

#### THE SCHOOL AGREES TO:

- Nominate only those students who have the ability, motivation and basic knowledge to undertake study at a university level
- Provide appropriate support to the student, including counselling and academic support
- Have regular meetings with the student to identify any problems and report these issues to the university
- Notify USC Student Central in writing of any problems with the student's ability to attend classes or complete the course

## Tips to support your child through Headstart

Headstart can provide your child with a challenge beyond the school curriculum, offering them the chance to gain a taste of university life and enhance their academic performance, and the opportunity to grow as individuals as they combine secondary school and university studies.

You play a valuable role in guiding the student in your life to rise, and shine. Here's some tips to support your student to reach their full potential:

#### PLAN FOR SUCCESS

- Encourage your student to attend all classes, as this is where they'll get the most out of their learning experience and have the opportunity to discuss class content with their peers, lecturers and tutors.
- Create a study plan to help them stay on track, reduce stress and maintain a balance between uni, school and being a teenager.
- Remind your student to ask questions, especially in the first few weeks, and check-in with them regularly to see how they're going.

#### ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

- Uni is different to school, but there's plenty of support available. Encourage your student to find information and services for themselves, and to not be afraid to ask questions or seek support.
- Once your child enrolls into their Headstart subject, they'll become a USC student and will be required to manage their own learning, including being the main point of contact for the university.

#### CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Acknowledging their success and celebrating small achievements throughout the study year will help to maintain confidence and motivation ahead of the next academic challenge.

#### GUIDE YOUR STUDENT TO THE RANGE OF FREE SUPPORT SERVICES

- As a USC student, your child has access to a range of services available to support student success and wellbeing, including academic and study support, wellbeing and counselling, AccessAbility, careers and employment and Indigenous student support.
- It's important for you to also be familiar with what's available so you can encourage them to reach out if they need to. [usc.edu.au/support](https://usc.edu.au/support)

#### BE FLEXIBLE WITH FAMILY COMMITMENTS

- There are times during the semester when students really need to focus on their studies. They'll be required to complete all aspects of assessment, including exams so they must be available during exam weeks.
- Be mindful when trying to arrange holidays and celebrations so they coincide with quieter times in the academic year, such as between teaching periods. View the full academic calendar via [usc.edu.au/calendars](https://usc.edu.au/calendars).

Visit the USC Parent Lounge for more information and tips on supporting your child on their journey to university at [usc.edu.au/parents](https://usc.edu.au/parents).

# WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT?

## Receive an offer

If your application is successful, USC will email you an official offer that includes instructions to complete your enrolment and attend orientation. Remember to check your email account regularly and throughout any school holidays so you don't miss your offer.

## Organise your timetable

When timetables are released, select your preferred class times. You will receive instructions on how to submit your class preference form in your enrolment and orientation information.

USC will make every effort to enrol you in your most preferred classes, but it's good to have back-up options in case your preferred times are not available.

## Check in with your Headstart Coordinator

As a uni student, you're in control of your studies but it's still important to keep your school informed on your Headstart studies. Make sure to check in with your school's Headstart Coordinator frequently to keep them updated on the course you're studying, your class timetable, and how you're managing with balancing your school and uni studies.



# #LifeatUSC

CONNECT WITH USC



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Uni of the Sunshine Coast



UniSunshineCoast



Starting uni can be an exciting, life-changing experience. But for some, not knowing where to begin can be stressful. To help you get started with Headstart, our students have provided their top tips for success at university.

# 5 TIPS FOR UNI SUCCESS



## Tip 1: Attend Orientation

We'll email you to let you know when Headstart Orientation will be held. This is a great chance to ask any questions you might have about your course, and meet other students in the Headstart program. You're also welcome to attend other Orientation Week (or O Week) activities alongside first-year university students. There's heaps of entertainment and freebies to look out for, too.

## Tip 2: Go to class and put in the work

It can be easy to lose steam to go to class or complete the readings each week, but putting in the work can really pay off. Students who attend all classes and complete weekly activities tend to receive higher grades than those who don't. Your lecturers and tutors are your connection to your chosen industry, so getting to know them will be key in setting up your future career path.

## Tip 3: Get support – you're not alone

University can be an exciting and sometimes unfamiliar journey, but know that you are supported throughout the entire process. When you start, you'll be emailed a Starting at USC Toolkit – make sure you fill this out to receive customised support and tips. Access study resources online via Blackboard and the Student Hub. You can also chat online with a librarian. If you need any help – just ask.

## Tip 4: Find a balance

Uni life gives you freedom to choose how you approach your study. You can start classes later in the day, or study around your school commitments. Using a diary or a planner can help you to keep track of assessment, classes, school commitments, and your social life. Make sure to find a balance between working hard and having fun.

## Tip 5: Get involved

The best part of uni life is meeting like-minded people, and getting involved in a study area you're passionate about. There are plenty of social activities, campus events, clubs, societies and sports teams to get involved in. O Week will introduce you to many of these exciting opportunities, but make sure to keep an eye out for them throughout your Headstart studies.




# USC OPEN DAY ONLINE

[usc.edu.au/open-day](http://usc.edu.au/open-day)

CONNECT WITH USC

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 Uni of the Sunshine Coast

 UniSunshineCoast



## Parents and supporters

We have a dedicated online space with all the information parents need to help your child navigate their way to university.

Make yourself at home via the USC Parent Lounge and sign up for the Parent Lounge eNewsletter while you're there.

[usc.edu.au/parents](http://usc.edu.au/parents)

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about Headstart, get in touch with our Student Central team:

**Call:** 07 5430 2890

**Email:** [information@usc.edu.au](mailto:information@usc.edu.au)

**Visit:** [usc.edu.au/headstart](http://usc.edu.au/headstart)



Rise, and shine.