

Dear Parent/Guardian,

USQ Head Start is an academic extension program for high achieving students in Year 10, 11 and 12. Students are able to experience university by studying one university subject a semester.

Why study Head Start?

Students choose to study a Head Start program because it can give students:

- A taste of university
- Credit towards a related USQ degree
- Entry into a related USQ Degree (as long as prerequisites are met)
- 2 Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) points per unit
- The first course is free (and additional courses discounted)
- A large range of courses to choose from

For more information about Head Start please visit https://usq.edu.au/study/information-for/high-school-students/head-start?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIjLqSzNg09AIVQUorCh0nPQieEAAAYASAAEgI0KPD_BwE

It is essential that students and their families understand the commitment they are undertaking before the commencement of any course. Students partaking in a Head Start course will be responsible for completing the necessary learning and assessment required. USQ expects 10-15 hours of work a week during the semester. It is a school expectation that students maintain passing grades for all other school subjects and remain on track to complete their QCE.

Springfield Central State High supports students throughout their course by utilising the Senior Pathways staff. It is a requirement that upon commencement of an external course, students reduce their school subject load by one subject. It is suggested that this “dropped” subject be an elective subject that falls on the day of the course. Students will be granted an Independent Study Line (ISL) to catch up on missed class work or to complete course work. All students are expected to self-regulate and manage their time efficiently during these lessons. Students failing to meet these expectations may be returned to a structured class environment and possibly removed from their course.

Students undertaking a Head Start course are representing themselves and our school and must demonstrate our school’s core values (Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Resilience) at all times. This includes

- Completing course work on time
- Communicating with staff when help is needed
- Turning up to class on time
- Wearing correct attire
- Reporting absences to the Pathways office via 7131_pathways@eq.edu.au

Springfield Central State High School

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Eligibility

Students must supply their most recent graded report card. The report card must feature a minimum of three (3) senior school subjects and students must have maintained a minimum B average (or 70% or higher). Acceptance into the course is determined by USQ.

Students choosing to participate in Head Start in Year 11 and 12 are classified as being in the "Ranking" Pathway and may choose up to 3 General subjects (including General English). The Ranking Pathway is an alternate way for students to gain entry to university and an ATAR will not be needed. Students doing the Head Start Ranking pathway will have entry to USQ upon successful completion not other universities.

How to Apply

To start the application process please visit our school website and complete the Externals Pathways Application <https://springfieldcentralshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/senior-school/external-courses>

Yours sincerely



Jo Andrews
Head of Department Pathways



Anne Lawson
Principal