



**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN**

**CURRICULUM PROGRAMS**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the SCSA) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The SCSA acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

**This information is effective from 1 July 2021.**

### **Disclaimer**

The contents of this document are commercial-in-confidence and any attachments may be private and confidential and may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure in the public interest. Before taking any action based upon advice and/or information contained in this document, you should carefully consider the advice and information and consider obtaining relevant independent advice.

Users of this information are responsible for checking its currency. This information is reviewed by the SCSA on a cyclical basis, typically every year.

### **Copyright**

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2021

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the SCSA is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the SCSA's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the Copyright Act 1968 or with prior written permission of the SCSA. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the Creative Commons [Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) licence.

# CONTENTS

- 1 SCSA overview
- 2 WA K-10 International
- 4 WACE International
- 7 WAM International
- 10 Endorsed programs
- 11 Administration, resources and support
- 12 Professional learning



# SCSA OVERVIEW

## What does the SCSA do?

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the SCSA) is the Western Australian Government certification authority responsible for setting the curriculum for over 1100 schools from Kindergarten to Year 12. Reporting directly to the Western Australian Minister for Education and Training, the SCSA is administered by a board of educators with experience in curriculum and assessment from early childhood to post-graduate university level. Since 1987, the SCSA has been licensing international schools to deliver its curriculum programs overseas. Through the SCSA's curriculum and support provided to international schools, students are able to access a range of post-school study and work options.

## Which curriculum programs does the SCSA offer?

Overseas schools can be licensed by the SCSA to deliver the following Western Australian curriculum programs:

- Western Australian Kindergarten to Year 10 Curriculum International (WA K-10 International) – Kindergarten to Year 10
- Western Australian Certificate of Education International (WACE International) – Years 11 and 12
- Western Australian Matriculation Program International (WAM International) – Year 12 only.

## How do I apply?

The SCSA will consider applications from overseas schools, or third parties acting on their behalf, to license the delivery of its curriculum programs. It is recommended that schools or third parties contact the SCSA before commencing the two-stage online application process, which can be accessed at:

<https://international-schools.scsa.wa.edu.au/how-do-i-apply>.

## What does the application process involve?

SCSA officers will provide support to the school and/or its representatives during the application process. The information generated helps the SCSA to determine whether a school will be approved, the level of support it requires and to understand the:

- curriculum programs and/or courses that a school wishes to deliver
- resources available to deliver the nominated program
- educational background of students likely to enrol in the program
- school's approach to assisting students to meet desired education outcomes.

The application process, which is typically completed within 4–6 weeks, also includes a:

- meeting with the school and/or its representatives via web-based conference to discuss the school, curriculum program/s and services offered by the SCSA
- visit by a SCSA officer (conducted virtually or in-country) to validate information provided in the online application and to meet with key people involved in the implementation of the curriculum program (if approved).

All applications are reviewed by the SCSA's International Education Advisory Committee (IEAC). The SCSA Board will approve or decline an application based on the IEAC's recommendation. If approved, an agreement between the parties is drawn up and, once signed, preparatory processes commence.





Image: FatCamera via iStock

## WA K-10 INTERNATIONAL

### What is WA K-10 International?

WA K-10 International provides schools with comprehensive information to:

- plan student learning programs
- assess student progress
- report to parents.

WA K-10 International clearly sets out the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes that all students are expected to acquire by completing the curriculum. Successful completion of the curriculum provided within WA K-10 International ensures students are well placed to progress to the WACE International.

### What are the entry requirements for WA K-10 International?

No entry requirements for WA K-10 International are set by the SCSA.

Note: the Western Australian curriculum is written in Standard Australian English.

### How is WA K-10 International structured?

WA K-10 International contains year-level syllabuses for eight mandated learning areas including:

- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies
- The Arts.

Learning areas must be implemented by schools in accordance with the SCSA's *Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy and Policy Standards*. The SCSA provides Scope and Sequence documents which summarise the content and skills needed to be taught for each year level and learning area.

## What are the notional hours of delivery for WA K–10 International?

SCSA's notional time allocation guidelines for WA K–10 International assume a 25-hour teaching week over 40 teaching weeks per year. It is recognised that school teaching hours often exceed 25 hours per week and that the length of the school year may vary.

## Are textbooks prescribed for WA K–10 International courses?

The SCSA does not publish, prescribe or endorse textbooks, but supplies a list of textbooks and other resources commonly used by Western Australian schools in Sample Teaching and Learning Outlines for each learning area and year level.

## How is WA K–10 International assessed?

Schools develop assessments in relation to the curriculum content and achievement standards, observing the SCSA's Principles of Assessment. Exemplar assessments and guidance is provided by the SCSA. There are no external tests or examinations.

## What type of moderation activities take place?

Schools can elect to participate in Years 6 and 7 moderation activities. The purpose of the moderation process is to work with schools and teachers to develop a comprehensive and shared understanding of the Years 6 and 7 achievement standards. Teachers will develop an understanding of the benefits and use of marking keys as diagnostic tools and making valid, reliable and consistent judgements on student achievement. Schools who participate in the moderation process with the SCSA will be able to apply the model within their school for school-based moderation and comparability practices across all year levels.

## Where can I find further information?

Further information relating to WA K–10 International can be found at: <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/>.

# WACE INTERNATIONAL

## What is WACE International?

WACE International is a two-year senior secondary program, undertaken in Years 11 and 12.

## What are the entry requirements for WACE International?

No entry requirements for WACE International are set by the SCSA.

Note: The Western Australian curriculum is written in Standard Australian English and course content must be taught in English to prepare students for the final examinations.

## How do we best prepare students for WACE International?

The SCSA can provide a preparatory program in Year 10 to assist overseas students as they transition to Year 11 WACE International studies, manage the transition to a Southern Hemisphere academic calendar and provide additional opportunities to focus on academic English skills.

## What courses can be studied as part of WACE International?

Students in overseas schools may enrol in the following courses as part of their WACE International studies:

- English – English, English as an Additional Language or Dialect, English Literature
- Business – Accounting and Finance, Business Management and Enterprise, Economics
- Mathematics – Mathematics Applications, Mathematics Methods, Mathematics Specialist
- Sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Human Biology, Physics, Psychology
- Technologies – Applied Information Technology, Computer Science
- Languages – Please speak to the SCSA to find out which courses are available
- The Arts – Media Production and Analysis.

## What are the notional hours of delivery for WACE International courses?

Fifty-five hours of student contact time are required for each semester-long unit for each course (subject). While the WACE International is typically a two-year program, schools can discuss alternative delivery arrangements with the SCSA, but must deliver all syllabus content, including the required assessments.

## Are textbooks prescribed for WACE International courses?

The SCSA does not publish, prescribe or endorse textbooks, but can supply a list of textbooks and other resources commonly used by Western Australian schools.

## How is WACE International assessed?

Schools must develop assessments for the assessment types identified in the syllabus for each course delivered. Schools can use the exemplar assessment tasks made available by the SCSA and should observe the Principles of Assessment described in the *WACE Manual*, available at:

<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/further-resources/wace-manual>.

## What type of moderation activities take place?

The SCSA's moderation processes help ensure the fair marking of students and maintains the comparability and credibility of school marks and grades.

## How are final marks calculated for WACE International courses?

Final marks for each student in each course are calculated using 50% of marks from school-based assessment moderated by 50% of marks from the final ATAR course examination.

## What happens with the final examinations?

Final examinations are held at the school at the end of the WACE International program. The examinations are supervised and marked by SCSA contracted and trained personnel.

## What certification and acknowledgement can WACE International students receive?

The certification and acknowledgements that can be achieved by WACE International students includes the:

- Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)
- Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)
- Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)
- Year 12 exhibitions and awards.

## What requirements are needed to achieve the WACE?

These are the minimum requirements for students to receive a WACE through WACE International in 2021 and beyond.

### Breadth and depth requirement

Completion of a minimum of 20 units, which may include unit equivalents attained through VET and/or endorsed programs. This requirement must include at least (Explanatory notes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5):

- a minimum of ten Year 12 units, or the equivalent
- four units from an English learning area course, post-Year 10, including at least one pair of Year 12 units from an English learning area course
- one pair of Year 12 units from each of List A (The Arts, Languages, Social Sciences) and List B (Mathematics, Sciences, Technologies).

### Achievement standard requirement

Achievement of at least 14 C grades or higher (or the equivalent) in Years 11 and 12 units, including at least six C grades (or equivalents) in Year 12 units.

Completion of:

- at least four Year 12 ATAR courses (Explanatory note 5), or
- at least five Year 12 General courses (Explanatory note 7) (or a combination of General and up to three Year 12 ATAR courses (Explanatory note 5) or equivalent (Explanatory note 8), or
- a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification (Explanatory notes 9 and 10) in combination with ATAR, General or Foundation courses).



## Literacy and numeracy standard

Demonstration of the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy (Explanatory notes 11 and 12).

More information, including Explanatory notes, is available at:

<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/the-wace/wace-requirements>.

## Where is the WACE recognised?

The WACE is recognised nationally and internationally by universities and other tertiary institutions, industry and training providers.

## How is the ATAR calculated?

The ATAR is calculated by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) using the final marks determined by the SCSA. Find out more by visiting: <https://www.tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc>.

## Where can I find further information?

Further information relating to Years 11 and 12 can be found at:

<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/>.





## WAM INTERNATIONAL

### What is WAM International?

WAM International is a world-recognised pre-university program, providing a seamless transition into universities across Western Australia, Australia (including the Group of Eight) and around the world, including leading universities in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Students can achieve a WACE through the one-year WAM International, which is the same as the Year 12 program offered in Western Australia.

### What are the entry requirements for WAM International?

No entry requirements for WAM International are set by the SCSA.

Note: The Western Australian curriculum is written in Standard Australian English and course content must be taught in English to prepare students for the final examinations.

### What courses can be studied as part of WAM International?

Students in overseas schools may enrol in the following courses as part of their WAM International studies:

- English – English, English as an Additional Language or Dialect, English Literature
- Business – Accounting and Finance, Business Management and Enterprise, Economics
- Mathematics – Mathematics Applications, Mathematics Methods, Mathematics Specialist
- Sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Human Biology, Physics, Psychology
- Technologies – Applied Information Technology, Computer Science
- Languages – Please speak to the SCSA to find out which courses are available
- The Arts – Media Production and Analysis.

### What are the notional hours of delivery for WAM International courses?

Fifty-five hours of student contact time are required for each semester-long unit for each course (subject). While the WAM International is typically a one-year program, schools can discuss alternative delivery arrangements with the SCSA, but must deliver all syllabus content, including the required assessments.

## Are textbooks prescribed for WAM International courses?

The SCSA does not publish, prescribe or endorse textbooks, but can supply a list of textbooks and other resources commonly used by Western Australian schools.

## How is WAM International assessed?

Schools must develop assessments for the assessment types identified in the syllabus for each course delivered. Schools can use the exemplar assessment tasks made available by the SCSA and should observe the Principles of Assessment described in the *WACE Manual*, available at: <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/further-resources/wace-manual>.

## What type of moderation activities take place?

The SCSA's moderation processes help ensure the fair marking of students and maintains the comparability and credibility of school marks and grades.

## How are final marks calculated for WAM International courses?

Final marks for each student in each course are calculated using 50% of marks from school-based assessment moderated by 50% of marks from the final ATAR course examination.

## What happens with the final examinations?

WAM International students can undertake ATAR studies and examinations to receive an ATAR for university entry. Final examinations are held at the school at the end of the WAM International program. The examinations are supervised and marked by SCSA contracted and trained personnel.

## What certification and acknowledgement can WAM International students receive?

The certification and acknowledgement that can be achieved by WAM International students includes the:

- Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)
- Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)
- Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)
- Year 12 exhibitions and awards.

## What requirements are needed to achieve the WACE through the WAM International?

These are the minimum requirements for students to receive a WACE through WAM International in 2021 and beyond.

### Breadth and depth requirement

Completion of a minimum of 10 units, which may include unit equivalents attained through VET and/or endorsed programs. This requirement must include at least (Explanatory notes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5):

- a minimum of ten Year 12 units, or the equivalent
- at least one pair of Year 12 units from an English learning area course
- one pair of Year 12 units from each of List A (The Arts, Languages, Social Sciences) and List B (Mathematics, Sciences, Technologies).



## Achievement standard requirement

Achievement of at least six C grades (or equivalents) in Year 12 units. Completion of:

- at least four Year 12 ATAR courses (Explanatory note 5), or
- at least five Year 12 General courses (Explanatory note 7) (or a combination of General and up to three Year 12 ATAR courses (Explanatory note 5) or equivalent (Explanatory note 8), or
- a Certificate II (or higher) VET qualification (Explanatory notes 9 and 10) in combination with ATAR, General or Foundation courses).

## Literacy and numeracy standard

Demonstration of the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy (Explanatory notes 11 and 12).

More information, including Explanatory notes, is available at:

<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/the-wace/wace-requirements>.

## Where is WAM International recognised?

The WACE is recognised nationally and internationally by universities and other tertiary institutions, industry and training providers.

## How is the ATAR calculated?

The ATAR is calculated by the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) using the final marks determined by the SCSA. Find out more by visiting: <https://www.tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc>.

## Where can I find further information?

Further information relating to Year 12 can be found at: <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/>.





# ENDORSED PROGRAMS

## What are endorsed programs?

An endorsed program is a significant learning program that has been developed for senior secondary students. The program may have been developed by the SCSA, or it may have been developed by a private provider or a school and subsequently endorsed by the SCSA.

## What do endorsed programs consist of?

Each endorsed program consists of a series of lessons, classes and/or activities designed to lead to the achievement of a common goal or set of learning outcomes. Endorsed programs can be delivered as part of the school curriculum or as extra-curricular activities.

## How do students benefit from endorsed programs?

All endorsed programs successfully completed and reported to the SCSA by the school:

- may contribute towards the depth requirement of the WACE
- may contribute towards the C grade requirement of the WACE
- are listed on the student's Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA).

Each endorsed program is allocated one, two, three or four unit equivalents. A student is able to count a maximum of four unit equivalents from endorsed programs for WACE purposes, two in Year 11 and/or two in Year 12.

## What type of endorsed programs exist?

Programs are endorsed in three categories.

### 1. SCSA-developed endorsed programs

These endorsed programs are developed by the SCSA to provide WACE recognition for students undertaking activities of a similar nature and for which no quality-assured certificate or award is issued.

### 2. Provider-developed endorsed programs

These endorsed programs are developed by a private provider, such as a university, community organisation or training institution. Provider-developed endorsed programs recognise structured learning programs that result in the attainment of a quality-assured certificate or award.

### 3. School-developed endorsed programs

These endorsed programs are developed by individual schools in response to a particular need which cannot be met through a WACE course, a VET qualification or another endorsed program.

Information about specific endorsed programs, including a program outline and the completion requirements, can be found at: <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/vet/endorsed-programs>.

# ADMINISTRATION, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

## What academic calendar should the school use?

SCSA's preference is that schools adopt the Southern Hemisphere academic calendar, with adjustments for public holidays. While this can be negotiated, particularly for Kindergarten to Year 10, schools must observe the SCSA's *Activities Schedule*, which is available at: <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/activities-schedule>.

## What about teacher selection?

Teacher selection is at the discretion of the school. Teacher qualifications are as per in-country requirements.

## What resources does the SCSA make available to schools?

The resources made available by the SCSA include:

- detailed year-level syllabuses – the SCSA provides schools with full access to syllabuses, sample course and assessment outlines, sample tasks and past examinations (with marking keys)
- targeted teaching, learning and assessment resources. These reflect the intercultural complexities of overseas delivery and include preparatory programs that help students and teachers transition seamlessly to Western Australian curriculum programs
- annotated work samples – the SCSA's extensive range of annotated student work samples, assessment pointers and grade descriptors can be used by teachers and schools to make fair and valid judgements of student performance
- examinations and statistical reports – in Year 12, the SCSA provides and administers fully invigilated external examinations that measure student achievement, followed up with statistical reporting and data analysis that enables schools to review their approach to teaching and assessment.

## How does the SCSA support teachers and schools to deliver its curriculum programs?

The SCSA supports teachers and schools to deliver its curriculum programs by providing:

- documentation support – international education officers engage with teachers to ensure their documentation meets WA K–10 International, WACE International or WAM International requirements and provide advice on how schools can achieve full compliance
- pedagogical support – the SCSA facilitates forums that provide teachers and schools with an opportunity to reflect on their teaching practices and develop targeted strategies to improve student performance
- grading support – detailed grade descriptions based on observable behaviours are made available to teachers. Illustrated by a wide range of annotated student samples, these assist planning and help teachers provide detailed and quality feedback on student progress
- moderation – the SCSA provides processes to assist schools to develop their understanding of the standards implicit in the Western Australian curriculum
- school visits and ongoing support – regular in-country visits (international travel permitting) and a dedicated school liaison officer to give teachers and schools a single point of contact to help them leverage the full benefit of the SCSA's curriculum and assessment experience and expertise
- networking support – the SCSA provides opportunities for teachers to share examples of students' work and to investigate and discuss student achievement (marks and grades) in relation to published marking keys, judging standards materials, and grade descriptions for all learning areas
- timely curriculum and assessment advice and ongoing support to schools, which promotes student achievement.

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

## What professional learning does the SCSA provide for school leaders?

The breadth and depth of the SCSA professional learning helps school and curriculum leaders to transition into delivering the Western Australian curriculum, in addition to providing ongoing support.

The SCSA's professional learning modules will assist school and curriculum leaders to:

- understand the mandated requirements of a licensed school
- facilitate the school's implementation of the Western Australian curriculum
- develop policy, as required
- develop whole school curriculum planning, as required
- map links to the school's current education system, as required.

The professional learning is conducted through face-to-face sessions, either online or in-country, self-directed learning opportunities and tailored offerings.

The design and delivery of the SCSA's professional learning is customised to the needs of the school to ensure improved outcomes for students.

## What professional learning does the SCSA provide for teachers?

The SCSA offers a range of professional learning specifically designed to meet the needs of teachers in overseas schools. These modules can be tailored to your specific needs and/or areas of interest.

The SCSA's professional learning modules will assist teachers to:

- understand learning area syllabus content
- understand the SCSA's mandated teaching, learning and assessment requirements
- design effective lesson plans
- implement the Western Australian curriculum in the classroom
- address pedagogy to meet the ways of teaching and learning in the Western Australian curriculum
- address the specific needs of the different phases of schooling
- optimise their ability to deliver the Western Australian curriculum
- reflect on their professional practice.

## What other types of professional learning are offered?

Regular and ongoing opportunities exist for teachers to explore, analyse and plan their teaching, learning, assessment and reporting practices with international education officers. These officers are specialists in the fields of teaching, learning and assessment and can be contacted by phone, email or via online communication platforms.

## How is professional learning facilitated?

The SCSA facilitates professional learning online, utilising both interactive (i.e. live) and on-demand (i.e. prerecorded) formats, and face-to-face during in-country visits, as travel restrictions allow.

## MORE INFORMATION

Find out more by visiting our website:  
[international-schools.scsa.wa.edu.au](http://international-schools.scsa.wa.edu.au)

## CONTACT POINTS

To discuss pricing models or to complete an expression of interest in the Western Australian curriculum programs, contact us on:  
+61 8 9273 6300 or [int.ed@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:int.ed@scsa.wa.edu.au)