At UNSW, we are committed to student equity and improving educational outcomes for students underrepresented in higher education. Core to UNSW’s strategy is the objective of transforming our undergraduate population so that it is inclusive of all students regardless of the school they attended or area they grew up in. Our goal is that by 2027, 25% of domestic undergraduate students commencing at UNSW will be from underrepresented backgrounds.

To ensure our community is representative of the broader population, we take a holistic approach to supporting students, from pre-tertiary outreach, to academic, financial and well-being support as they transition to UNSW, through to internship and careers support for graduation and beyond.

Our educational outreach program provides students with academic enrichment opportunities that enhance school-based learning and increase preparedness for and success in higher education. We have brought together a unique set of curriculum-linked learning experiences with an embedded focus on self-efficacy, identifying learning strengths and values-led career choices.

Through our program, we seek to support and extend students’ interest in their own learning and focus on higher-order thinking, metacognition, critical analysis and literacy - all essential factors for post-school success. We guide students to develop their learning goals and participate in experiences that are interactive, experiential, and explore a range of contexts that are unique to UNSW. We also provide an equitable pathway to UNSW through the Gateway Admission Pathway and Program.

The following provides a snapshot of our educational outreach program in 2024. We look forward to connecting with you and your students.

Mary Teague
Director, Access, Equity & Inclusion
Division of Equity Diversity & Inclusion
UNSW Sydney

I’m pleased to share with you UNSW’s 2024 educational outreach program for students attending our Gateway partner high schools.

We would like to acknowledge the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) who are the traditional custodians of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.
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UNSW takes a holistic approach in supporting students who are underrepresented in higher education to access and succeed at university.
Theory of change

The UNSW Gateway Program falls within the pre-access and access phase of the student lifecycle and is underpinned by a tailored theory of change. This theory of change articulates the impact we intend to have and how we aim to have that impact.

THE MAP
Improving student’s understanding of university to aid informed decision-making about post-school options

THE COMPASS
Building student’s learner identity and confidence to successfully navigate their educational journey.

THE KEY
Enhancing students’ academic attainment and reducing barriers to entry for expanded post-school study options.

THE GUIDE
Providing students with trusted information from current university students from equity backgrounds.

Students Build Educational Capacity
- Students develop their understanding of future possibilities and begin to map out their path from school to tertiary education and beyond
- Students develop an understanding of how to use their learning strengths to navigate their education journey
- Students build the skills to enhance their academic attainment

Students Apply
- Students apply their knowledge and skills to achieve academically
- Students make informed decisions about their education futures which suit their strengths, interests and goals
- Students apply through the Gateway Admission Pathway and successfully transition to university

Impact
- Students from underrepresented backgrounds have increased access to UNSW and are set up to succeed
University Ambassadors

Our program is co-facilitated by current UNSW students, most of whom have come through the Gateway Admission Pathway. University Ambassadors serve as powerful role models who demonstrate the opportunities a university education can bring.

Tahrima
Western Sydney, NSW
Bachelor of Law/Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Attending university has always been a high priority in my family. At High School I was a really engaged student and took Legal Studies as an elective, but my interest in studying law, and taking a humanitarian path, was sparked by my background and experiences as a migrant. My mother and I immigrated from Bangladesh in 2007, when I was almost three. We had to use immigration lawyers several times over the years. When I was part way through High School we actually had to go back to Bangladesh and wait for our visa to be reinstated.

I went to Sarah Redfern High School in Minto, in Western Sydney, which was a UNSW Gateway School. My year 12 graduating class had less than 120 students and two pathways: the HSC and a transition pathway. My HSC cohort was pretty small, with just three of us in Extension English by the end, but these small classes were beneficial. There’s no doubt my teachers helped me achieve the results I did.

My school’s careers advisor was proactive in passing on info on university entry pathways and related programs, which led me to apply for the Gateway Spring and Winter Programs in Year 11 and 12.

The programs offered masterclasses in key subjects like English and Maths and practice papers for the HSC. I found these beneficial because the pandemic lockdowns meant we didn’t have formal trial exams, so the HSC was my first official three hour exam for nearly all of my subjects.

After participating in the Gateway Program I was keen to apply for an early conditional offer via the Gateway Admission Pathway because I could see it removed some of the barriers to entry.

I was successful in receiving an early conditional offer with an adjusted ATAR of 85. Having the offer in my pocket gave me the freedom of deciding what I really wanted to do, while knowing that it was possible to get into Law. But I really wanted to make sure that law was right for me, because I knew it was a tough degree.

I landed on UNSW because my cousin who studied there told me about the culture and UNSW offered the double degree I wanted to do, with a focus on politics and International Relations through Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Only a handful of students from my school ended up at UNSW and, because of the pandemic, I’d never been to UNSW before I started. I was part of a Peer Mentoring program for students who enrolled through the Gateway Admission Pathway. My mentor was so helpful with practical things around how uni works. I also received check-in calls to see how I was going academically and financially - these calls made me feel supported.

Another challenge I faced in getting to uni was that I wasn’t yet an Australian citizen, because my citizenship didn’t get approved until March 2022 - after uni began. I was able to pay for uni with financial assistance from my grandfather, as well as scholarships. I received a $1,000 UNSW payment, a $5,000 Gateway award and a $5,000 academic achievement scholarship for the highest ATAR in my school.

Right now, I’m in my second year of a combined Bachelor of Law/Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Alongside my studies I work at my old high school two days a week as a student learning support officer. I’m also a University Ambassador allowing me to give back what I received last year.

I know how uni can sometimes feel unachievable from your high school bubble. It looks like a big and scary place. You can feel like you’re not good enough. I want to help other students break down those barriers.

Gateway gave me options. It allowed me to look past the stress around whether I could achieve the mark. It gave me freedom, choice and the time to understand that Law was the right degree, and career, for me.
**Student journey**

**Year 9**

*Imagined Futures*

This research-informed equity and literacy outreach program is curriculum linked and designed in partnership with teachers to encourage students to conceptualise their futures and positively impact their learning trajectory.

**Year 10**

*Gateway Program*

An on-campus experience for Year 10 students to explore their strengths, passions and goals and develop their presentation skills in workshops run by NIDA. Students identify their career goals, write persuasive personal pitches, and practise dramatic techniques for communicating with influence. They also have an opportunity to practise their enhanced skills live, as part of a networking experience.

**Year 11**

*Gateway Program*

The Gateway Leaders Program is an on-campus experience, for select Year 11 students who demonstrate leadership capacity. Students will identify their leadership strengths and harness these to develop goals and strategies to make an impact in their schools and communities. They engage in a communication workshop with Jo O’Reilly, a communication expert with extensive experience at UNSW, AGSM and companies worldwide, before participating in a networking opportunity with other Year 11 students and University Ambassadors.

The Year 11 Gateway Program is a two-day on-campus intensive for students to explore a range of UNSW degrees through cross-faculty experiences, academic skills workshops and opportunities to be immersed in the vibrant UNSW community. This on-campus experience is supplemented by an online Gateway Admission Pathway information session and access to a suite of academically enriching online resources.

**Year 12**

*Gateway Program*

A one-week online program for Year 12 students to prepare for the HSC with subject-specific masterclasses, practice tests, personalised mentoring, and academic skill-enhancing workshops. Students can access exclusive follow-up academic support and tutoring in the lead-up to exams, as well as support in submitting a Gateway Admission Pathway application to secure their place at UNSW. Students can also visit our Kensington campus for interactive faculty experiences and have their burning questions answered by University Ambassadors.

**Support at Uni**

An alternative entry pathway to UNSW for Year 12 students which considers more than just the ATAR. Successful students will receive either early entry to UNSW or a significantly lower ATAR entry requirement for their chosen degree.

Students who come to UNSW through the Gateway Admission Pathway are prioritised for UNSW Equity and Accommodation scholarships and access to the Start@UNSW program to support their transition to university. They also have access to free bridging courses, peer mentoring and additional academic support for some subjects.
The Imagined Futures unit is a Year 9 English curriculum-linked offering for select Sydney metropolitan schools. It engages students in considering their futures, the future world they will inhabit, and how they want to play a role in shaping it now and into the future.

This future-focused exploration is complimented by the development of students’ reflexive practice and metacognitive strategies for improved awareness of learning and capacity to navigate perceptions of themselves as learners for future study.

The unit commences with an exciting on-campus day at UNSW, followed by in-school delivery by English teachers and UNSW University Ambassadors who function as both facilitators and relatable models of future possibilities for students.

> When: Term 2, Weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8
> Where: On-campus and in-school
The UNSW Gateway Admission Pathway and Program (GAPP) combines a unique set of learning experiences with an early admission pathway to maximise students’ post-school success and ensure equitable access to UNSW.

Eligibility
The GAPP is for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who:
- Attend one of our Gateway schools, or
- Live in a low-socioeconomic area based on IRSAD\(^1\) or IEO\(^2\) indexes of SEIFA\(^3\)

The Year 10 Gateway Program is for students who are on an ATAR pathway.

During this on-campus experience, run in collaboration with the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), students attend workshops where they will gain knowledge of UNSW degrees, learn strategies to articulate and develop compelling personal narratives, and adopt practical dramatic techniques to enhance presentation and public speaking skills.

This opportunity is available to a select number of Gateway schools based on a school sign-up process.

\(^1\) Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage
\(^2\) Index of Education and Occupation
\(^3\) Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
Year 11 Gateway Program

The Gateway Leaders Program is a one day on-campus experience for select Year 11 students who demonstrate leadership capacity. Students will identify their leadership strengths and learn how to harness these to make an impact in their schools and communities. They will engage in a communication workshop with Jo O’Reilly, a communication expert with extensive experience at UNSW, AGSM and companies worldwide, before participating in a networking opportunity with other Year 11 students and University Ambassadors.

> When: Term 2, Week 9
> Where: On-campus

Students will:
- Discover how personal strengths and values can be harnessed for leadership purposes
- Learn to communicate with influence through a practical workshop
- Develop leadership goals and strategies to make an impact in their schools and communities

The in-school and online components of the Year 11 Gateway Program are for students on an ATAR pathway. During the Program, students explore their passions and learning strengths, understand the Gateway Admission Pathway and Program opportunities and are supported to start planning their written personal statement as part of their application for an early offer to UNSW in 2026.

In-school workshop – a 60-minute pre-workshop
> When: Term 2, Weeks 2 – 9
> Where: In-school

Students will:
- Reflect on their learning strengths and passions, and understand how these can help them to make informed decisions about future study plans
- Understand the UNSW Gateway Admission Pathway early offer
- Identify how to access online resources that are most relevant to them
- Learn from current university students about how they navigated their transition to university

Online workshop – a 60-minute workshop
> When: Term 2, Week 9, Wednesday 29 June, 5:00pm
> Where: Online

Students will:
- Gain access to detailed information showcasing the range of degree options at UNSW
- Be supported to write a compelling personal statement and learn key information about applying through the UNSW Gateway Admission Pathway for an early offer
- Enhance their study with access to practice questions, sample responses, study notes and review videos through the InspirationED HSC4ME app

The on-campus days encourage students to ambitiously consider the contribution they want to make to society in the future. Students explore UNSW faculties and facilities through a problem-based lens, where they select faculty teams (Business, Science, and Engineering; or Arts, Design & Architecture, Law & Justice, and Medicine & Health) to learn from and collaborate with to solve real-world problems related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Students will have an opportunity to engage in a UNSW-developed VR game, where they will make their mark on the virtual world of UNSW through planting and growing a unique habitat for creatures on campus.

Students also engage in capacity building workshops and experiences to set themselves up for success in their HSC and beyond.

On-campus days
> When: School holidays, Week 1, Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 July
> Where: UNSW Kensington campus

Students will:
- Discover campus and hear about life at UNSW on a guided tour led by current university students
- Explore UNSW faculties and degrees through an immersive cross-faculty workshop addressing real-world challenges
- Enhance their critical and creative thinking skills in workshops that prepare students for Year 12 and beyond
- Connect with current university students to hear first-hand about the transition from high school to university
Year 12 Gateway Program

The in-school component of the program is for Year 12 students on an ATAR pathway. Students engage in meaningful conversations and explore their passions, learning strengths and hopes for the future. Students learn about the content and benefits of the Year 12 Gateway Program and Gateway Admission Pathway, and how it can support them towards their desired futures.

During the online program, students will prepare for the HSC through subject-specific exam practice and workshops led by experienced HSC teachers and markers. Students will also be supported to write their personal statement, a requirement for their Gateway Admission Pathway application.

The on-campus days provide students an opportunity to explore the UNSW campus and participate in university life through interaction with current students, societies and faculties. On the first day, they engage in a variety of faculty-specific immersive experiences, with the opportunity to affirm their interest in degrees and/or areas of study available at UNSW. The second day offers students an experience that authentically reflects the daily life of university students and provides opportunities to independently explore UNSW through building a unique timetable and independently navigating campus while participating in degree aligned tutorials.

Online program

> When: Term 2, Week 10, Monday 1 - Thursday 4 July
> Where: Online

Students will:

- Access subject-specific HSC seminars run by HSC markers to hone their content knowledge and refine their exams skills
- Benefit from practice papers and individualised written exam feedback to support their HSC preparation, and gain access to the InspirationED HSC4ME app for further academic support
- Gain the opportunity to receive 8 hours of free online tutoring in a subject of choice through Cluey Learning
- Be inspired by current students and academics with their questions answered in faculty Q&As, to support making informed decisions about future degree choices
- Connect with current UNSW students to learn about what university is really like
- Be supported with specialised guidance on the application process for early offers to UNSW and access resources for writing an effective personal statement
- Learn about the many alternate pathways and support systems on offer at UNSW

On-campus days

> When: School holidays, Week 1, Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July
> Where: UNSW Kensington campus

Students will:

- Participate in immersive faculty experiences to explore the range of degrees, and post-study careers available to UNSW students
- Discover the UNSW campus and hear about student life through guided tours led by current students
- Connect with current students, academics, and university support staff to have all their questions about degree options, support services, and daily life at UNSW answered
- Build a personalised timetable and attend lectures and tutorials to receive an authentic university experience

UNSW Open Day - Open Day is UNSW’s final large-scale event before the HSC.

> When: Saturday 6 September
> Where: UNSW Kensington Campus and UNSW Paddington

Students will:

- Gain detailed advice from academics and current students about their dream degree
- Learn about the Gateway Admission Pathway early entry application process
- Discover the UNSW campus guided by current UNSW Students
- Explore UNSW Accommodation
- Attend lectures and receive advice on student life
Gateway Admission Pathway

We know that the ATAR alone is not the only measure of students' academic potential or success at university. The Gateway Admission Pathway is an alternative entry to UNSW for eligible Year 12 students which provides early entry or a significantly lower ATAR entry requirement for a range of degrees.

Who is eligible?
To be eligible for the Gateway Admission Pathway, students must:
• Be an Australian resident
• Be completing an Australian Year 12 qualification in the year of application
• Attend a Gateway school or live in a low-socioeconomic area based on IRSAD and IEO indexes of SEIFA

How does it work?
Students apply through the Gateway portal by submitting a written personal statement that answers three questions about themselves. The applications are assessed based on students' personal statements and Year 11 results. Successful students will receive either an early offer or early conditional offer for their chosen UNSW degree.

What is the difference between an early offer and early conditional offer?
Early offers for a UNSW degree are made in Round 1 and only require a student to complete the HSC and attain an ATAR (regardless of the result).
Early conditional offers require students to complete the HSC and achieve the Gateway Adjusted ATAR for their chosen UNSW degree.
The Gateway Adjusted ATARs provide students with a significantly lower ATAR than the lowest selection rank.

When do applications close and when are offers released?
In 2024, there will be two offer rounds for the Gateway Admission Pathway:
Round 1: early offers and early conditional offers
Applications open - April 2024
Applications close - July 2024
Offers released - September 2024
Round 2: early conditional offers
Applications open - September 2024
Applications close - November 2024
Offers released - December 2024
Firm offers, post ATAR release: December 2024
Please check out our website in early 2024 when specific dates are released.

Ongoing support
Students who come to UNSW through the Gateway Admission Pathway are prioritised for scholarships and receive exclusive access to ongoing academic and transition support.

Complimentary outreach opportunities at UNSW Sydney
Students can access further opportunities through the UNSW Future Students Team that complement the UNSW Gateway Educational Outreach Programs. Years 10 – 12 can participate in on-campus faculty workshops, campus tours, degree information sessions in school and online.
Timeline and key dates

Year 9
- On-campus university experience days
- University Ambassador led in-school workshops

Year 10
- Confirm attendance at Year 10 Gateway Program on-campus day

Year 11
- Confirm Year 11 Gateway Leaders Program attendance
- Year 11 Gateway Leaders Program
- Confirm Year 11 Gateway in-school workshop
- Year 11 Gateway Admission Pathway and Program online session
- Year 11 Gateway online resources available
- Year 11 Gateway on-campus days

Year 12
- Confirm Year 12 Gateway in-school workshop
- Year 12 Gateway Program registrations close
- Year 12 Gateway online program
- Year 12 Gateway on-campus days

Gateway Admission Pathway
- Round 1 – early and early conditional offers (NSW and ACT HSC students)
  - Applications open
  - Applications close
  - Offers released
- Round 2 – early and early conditional offers (IB and interstate students)
  - Applications open
  - Applications close
  - Offers released
  - Firm offers to UNSW, post ATAR release
Schools on this list are eligible for the Gateway Admission Pathway and Program.