HEADSTART

USC

GET AHEAD WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY STUDIES

SEMESTER 2, 2022 | SEMESTER 1, 2023

USC's Headstart turns 20!

2022 marks the 20th anniversary of USC's Headstart program. Since its inception, Headstart has given thousands of high school students a real advantage in their university studies, enabling them to go on to have successful careers.

Alex Myles
Headstart graduate, 2002
Managing Partner, Mobbs and Company Accountants

Alex was one of USC's very first students to study Headstart in 2002, and to this day he believes the Headstart program set him on the path for a successful career as the Managing Partner for Sunshine Coast Accounting Practice, Mobbs & Company.

Alex values the opportunities Headstart provided him with, in particular the ability to hit the ground running when he studied university full-time. This filled Alex with confidence during his university studies, enabling him to achieve great results and launch into his career in accounting.

Accelerate your learning with headstart

Headstart challenges motivated Year 11 and 12 students with university-level learning, giving you the opportunity to advance your study skills and gain credit towards a university degree. You can pursue a subject of interest, experience life as a uni student and enhance your academic skills as you blend high school learning with university study.

You can 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 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.

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.

Headstart students are a step ahead

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 subject you successfully complete (1 rank per course). [1]

GAIN QCE POINTS
Completed university subjects can contribute towards your QCE. One semester counts for two credits. [2]

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. [3]

SET YOURSELF APART
Add your Headstart studies to your CV to get ahead of the pack by making employers aware that you're eager to learn and challenge yourself beyond what is expected.

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 Experience Mentors 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.

Check your 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.

1   Year 12 Subject adjustment does not apply to the Bachelor of Medical Science or the Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Accelerated). Headstart adjustment does not apply to the Bachelor of Medical Science.
2   The required level of achievement is a grade of 4 on a 7-point scale, or a Pass grade.
3   Domestic students only.
4   Special circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Your school must attach a written statement outlining a case for consideration.

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 [4]
- meet any prerequisites applicable to your chosen course
- have approval and a positive recommendation from your school.

USC

STUDY COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

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. You'll be expected to complete all assessment and contribute to group assignments and presentations.

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 tutorial each week**. Some have an additional workshop, rehearsal or laboratory session, too. Traditional lectures are being replaced with seminars held throughout the semester, supported with interactive online learning materials.

Seminars 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 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.

Just like regular students, you'll need to **check your university student email account regularly** and engage with USC Canvas throughout the semester.

MANAGING YOUR TIME

Completing a university subject while still in school is an additional commitment of your time. To ensure you effectively balance your schoolwork 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 schoolwork, university study, sport, family commitments and fun.

WITHDRAWING FROM HEADSTART

It's important to have regular meetings with your school to discuss your progress. If you're finding it difficult to keep up with the workload, seek support services available to get you back on track. If you've decided that Headstart is not working out for you and you'd like to withdraw from your subject, speak with your school's Headstart Coordinator and then notify USC Student Central via email to studentcentral@usc.edu.au

If you've decided to discontinue your Headstart studies, it's important to formally withdraw from your subject before the academic penalty date to avoid receiving an 'F' on your USC transcript. Withdrawing from a Headstart subject will not affect your GPA at USC.

Sarah Glencross
USC Headstart Coordinator

"The Headstart program gives students the opportunity to broaden their learning, strengthen their study skills and gain an authentic university experience whilst still at high school. This gives students a real advantage when they transition from high school to university as they are well prepared for what university study entails and are often able to gain credit for their Headstart courses which can lighten their study load in their first year.

We find that Headstart students usually perform well in their university studies, with many students achieving distinctions, or even high distinctions in their courses and this sets them up for success in the reminder of their undergraduate studies."

Your first Headstart subject is free!

One of the best things about Headstart is that there is no tuition fee for the first Headstart subject you complete.*

Additional subjects have a reduced fee ($400 in 2021; refer to **usc.edu.au/fees** for 2022/2023 amount).

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

If you're applying for another Headstart subject, you may be eligible for a scholarship to assist with your second and subsequent Headstart courses.

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.

* 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** to check the fee.

Petra Nunn
Headstart student, Chancellor State College

"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.

Explore your study options

With over 90 Headstart subjects to choose from at USC, the choice is up to you. You can choose to study Headstart subjects available at a campus near you, or select a subject which can be studied online.

Before selecting a subject, check the study location and semester of offer in the subject outlines by visiting **usc.edu.au/headstart**

Some subjects will have additional entry requirements, such as studying Biology at school. Please check for any additional entry requirements for your subject.

Choose 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

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

Tom Longhurst
Headstart student,
Mountain Creek State High School

"I chose Headstart because I wanted to challenge myself, to see how I could adapt to a university style of learning. I studied 'Introduction to Coaching Science' because I really love cricket – and that's one way I can have a career centred around my sport.

Rocking up the first day was a bit nerve-wracking, but I soon realised no one knew I was a high school student and even when they did, they were really nice.

It was good to compare my expectations of university work and schoolwork. I had a lot of uncertainty about what uni was like, but I found the study achievable."

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

ACC106	Accounting Principles[1]
BUS101	Exploring Business Research
BUS102	Economics for Business
BUS104	Discovering Management
BUS105	Marketing Essentials
TSM102	The World of Tourism, Leisure and Events

COMMUNICATION, DESIGN AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

CMN101	Introduction to Creative Entrepreneurship
CMN103	Introduction to the Creative Industries
CMN104	Introduction to Screen and Media Industries
CMN105	Creative Production
CMN106	Contemporary Communication Theory and Trends
CMN107	Communication for the Creative Professional
CMN109	Editing for Professionals
CMN116	Playing with Words: an Introduction to Creative Writing Craft
CMN117	Playing with Genre
CMN120	Introduction to Contemporary Global Media and Communication
CMN130	Introduction to Journalism
CMN150	Digital Journalism
DES101	Elements of Design
DES103	Fundamentals of Photography
DES104	Art, Design and Digital Culture
DES105	Design Methods
DRA100	Acting 1: The actor's craft[2]
DRA102	Exploring Twentieth Century Theatre[2]
EGL120	The 'English' Tradition: An Introduction to Literary Studies
FSH100	Introduction to Key Concepts of Fashion
MUS100	Intro to Songwriting and Production[2]
MUS101	Intro to Songwriting and Performance[2]
SGD100	Introduction to Game Design
SGD101	Game Art: Introduction to 2D and 3D
SGD102	Introduction to Games Programming

EDUCATION

EDU101	Human Development and Learning
EDU103	Teaching with Technology
EDU115	Creative Expression and Play through the Arts
EDU118	Foundations of Numeracy
EDU119	English Language and Literacy

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

ANM102	Endangered Animals and their Conservation[3]
ANM103	Animal Form, Function and Evolution
ANM104	Marine Vertebrates: Sharks, Seabirds, Fish, Turtles and Whales[3]
ENP101	Introduction to Urban Design and Town Planning — Studio I
ENP103	Planning Theory, Governance and Politics
ENP104	Urban Economics and System Analytics
GEO100	The Changing Planet
GEO101	Space, place and the Anthropocene
SUS101	Foundations of Sustainability

HEALTH SCIENCES

HLT103	Professional Health Communication
HLT140	Think Health
LFS100	Cell Biology[4]
LFS103	Introductory Bioscience[5]
LFS112	Human Physiology[6]
LFS122	Human Anatomy[6]
NUT102	Food in Society
PUB102	Environment and Health
PUB104	Introduction to Behavioural Health
PUB112	Public Health Foundations

FOOTNOTES:

1. BUS106 is an antirequisite for this course.
2. Headstart students may be required to attend rehearsals in addition to the scheduled classes.
3. This course includes a field trip.
4. Must be in Year 12 and studying Biology. LFS103 is an antirequisite for this course.
5. Must be in Year 12 and studying Biology. LFS100 is an antirequisite for this course.
6. Must be in Year 12 and studying Biology.

LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

CRM101	Introduction to Criminology
CRM102	Understanding Crime
CRM103	Punishment and Corrections
CRM105	Policing
JST101	Justice and the Australian Legal System[1]
LAW101	Foundations of Australian Law A

LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

JPN110	Japanese 1
JPN111	Japanese 2[2]

PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COU101	Theories of Conselling: From Freud to Integrative Practice
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[3]
PSY101	Introduction to Psychology B
PSY102	Current Directions in Psychology[4]
SCS101	Foundations of Human Behaviour[5]
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
SWK172	Introduction to Social Work and Human Services

SCIENCE, IT AND ENGINEERING

CSC100	Computer Science Project and Ethics[6]
ENG101	Foundations of Engineering[7]
ENG103	Introduction to the Internet of Things[8]
ENG104	Introduction to Engineering Design
ICT110	Introduction to Data Science[9]
ICT112	Programming Fundamentals[9]
ICT115	Introduction to Systems Design[9]
MTH103	Introduction to Applied Mathematics[8]
MTH104	Introductory Calculus[8]
SCI102	Biodiversity and Ecology[10]
SCI105	Introductory Chemistry[11]
SCI107	Physics[8]
SCI110	Science Research Methods[12]
SCI113	Discovering Science
SEC100	Foundations of Computer Security

SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

SPX100	Physical Activity and Health[13]
SPX101	Introduction to Sport and Exercise Science
SPX102	Introduction to Coaching Science
SPX121	Exercise Prescription and Programming 1

FOOTNOTES:

1. LAW101 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if LAW101 has been completed.
2. JPN110 is a prerequisite for this course. Students must successfully complete JPN110 before enrolling in this course.
3. SCS101 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if SCS101 has been completed.
4. PSY100 or PSY101 must be completed prior to or concurrently with this course
5. PSY100 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if PSY100 has been completed.
6. ICT112 is a prerequisite for this course. Students must successfully complete ICT112 before enrolling in this course.
7. This course includes a field trip.
8. Must be studying Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics
9. Students are recommended to be studying Digital Solutions in school.
10. Must be studying Biology.
11. Must be studying Chemistry.
12. Students are recommended to be studying General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics.
13. PUB104 is an antirequisite for this course. Do not enrol in this course if PUB104 has been completed.

HOW TO APPLY

1 Assess your options

Take a look through the subjects available on **pages 5–6** and choose the one that meets your needs. 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.

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.

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**

➔ FOR STUDY IN SEMESTER 2, 2022
    July – November 2022

Applications open .... **NOW**

Applications close .... 13 May 2022

Timetable available on USC website .... May 2022*

Orientation ....We'll email you ✉

➔ FOR STUDY IN SEMESTER 1, 2023
    February – June 2023

Applications open .... 2 August 2022

Applications close..31 October 2022

Timetable available on USC website .... December 2022*

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**

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.

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.

5 TIPS FOR UNI SUCCESS

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.

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 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, our Student Experience Mentors will be in touch with advice and tips on getting started at USC. Access study resources online via Canvas and 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. Orientation will introduce you to many of these exciting opportunities, but make sure to keep an eye out for them throughout your Headstart studies.

Information for parents and supporters

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.

Information for schools

To give students the best chance at succeeding in Headstart, it's important that schools only nominate students who have the ability, motivation and basic knowledge to undertake study at a university level.

If a student is having difficulty with their Headstart subject, provide appropriate support, including counselling and academic support and encourage them to seek support services at USC.

Have regular meetings with the student to identify any problems and notify USC Student Central of any problems with the student's ability to attend classes or complete the subject.

Tips to support your student through Headstart

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

- Encourage your student to find information and services for themselves, and to not be afraid to ask questions or seek support.
- Once your child enrols 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.

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**

Parent Lounge

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

#LifeatUSC

@usc.australia

@usceduau

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Uni of the Sunshine Coast

UniSunshineCoast

USC OPEN DAY

USC Moreton Bay
Sunday 24 July

USC Sunshine Coast
Sunday 7 August

Join us at our
FACE-TO-FACE OPEN DAY
or immerse yourself in our
ONLINE EXPERIENCE
usc.edu.au/open-day

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Got questions?
We're here to help.

Phone: 07 5430 2890

Email: information@usc.edu.au

Visit: usc.edu.au