



# Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

## Information Overview

### The Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

<https://www.csiro.au/yiwsa>

The Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy (the Academy) is part of the \$25 million Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fund, announced by the Commonwealth Government as part of the 1967 Referendum - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Indigenous Education Package.

CSIRO, in collaboration with [CareerTrackers](#), have been provided \$20 million to design and deliver a national 10-year Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy program for high achieving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander female students from Year 8 through to higher education and graduate employment.

### Goals and objectives of the Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

The Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy aims to build a generation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander female leaders, role models, and game-changers in STEM fields.

The project has three objectives:

- The short-term objective of the Academy is to increase female and female-identifying Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student enrolments in STEM classes during high school.
- The medium-term objective of the Academy is to increase female and female-identifying Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student enrolments in STEM based tertiary studies.
- The long-term objective of the Academy is for Academy participants to attain high-quality employment at the end of their participation in the Academy project.

### The Academy Program

The Academy is being delivered through two program elements – High School and Pre-University to Employment. CSIRO leads the high school element, and CareerTrackers leads the Pre-University to Employment element. The Academy is delivered as a place-based program and focuses on a long-term commitment to students and communities.



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Several activities are planned, which will span across the entire project, including:

- Individualised support through learning plans
- Access to mentoring and support from Academic Coordinators and Student Advisors
- Academy assemblies and online learning opportunities
- A holistic approach to support, including social and emotional wellbeing, practical support, and academic assistance, including tutoring.

## High school program element

The high school program element will also include:

- Regional STEM camps and access to additional STEM camps in Year 10
- Access to STEM extension activities such as [PULSE@Parkes](#), [Bebras](#) Computational Thinking Challenge, Creativity in Research, Engineering, Science and Technology ([CREST](#)) projects from Year 9 to Year 12
- Quarterly online virtual assemblies
- STEM work placement opportunities

## Pre-University to employment program element

This program element will also include:

- Access to paid internships
- Summer and Winter programs aimed at developing academic, employment and life skills
- Mentoring

## Place based model

The Academy is run in [target regions](#) across Australia via a staged roll-out, with new regions coming online each year to reach the target of 600 participants by 2023. The planning for the ongoing implementation of the Academy is subject to consultation with a range of stakeholders.

In 2022, the Academy is recruiting students in Year 8 in Tasmania and Victoria, South Australia and Brisbane north. Additionally, due to the interruptions experienced by schools and communities over the last two years during COVID-19, the Academy is also recruiting Year 9 students in the Northern Territory, Brisbane west and Central Western NSW & ACT and Year 10 students in Western Australia, Newcastle and Central Coast, NSW and Greater Western Sydney.

## Contact

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