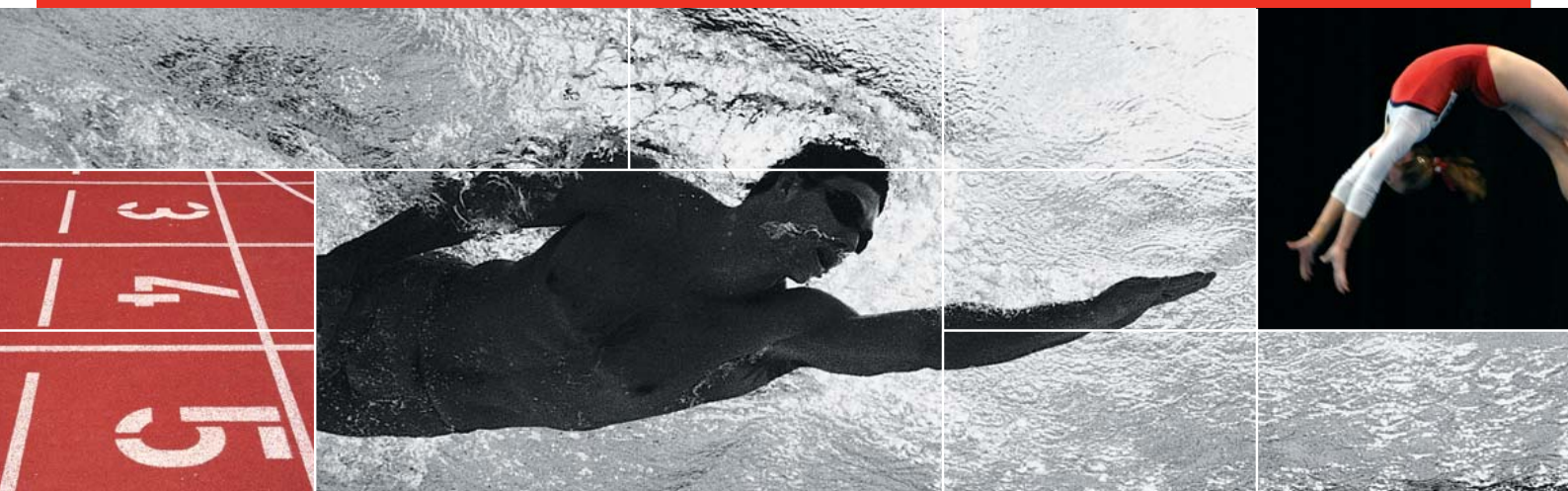




Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF SPORT



STUDENTS YEARS 11-12: INFORMATION ABOUT AIS EDUCATION PARTNERS

ACT secondary school system

The AIS has special resource arrangements with both Canberra High School and University of Canberra Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra (UC SSC Lake Ginninderra), including AIS liaison teachers. These are both ACT Government schools. The sports program covers the voluntary school contribution, with families covering any additional costs.

University of Canberra Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra (Years 11-12)

- > UC SSC Lake Ginninderra and the AIS have had a successful partnership for more than 20 years. Just ten minutes from the AIS, the College provides the education program for residential athletes enrolled in Years 11 and 12.
- > The ACT senior secondary college system for Years 11 and 12 is unique. The responsibility for learning rests with the students and the assessment is continuous from day one over four semesters. There is no major exam (such as the HSC) as in other states.
- > Athletes are expected to behave to the standard of an AIS scholarship holder (as covered in the athletes' code of conduct).
- > More information can be found in 'Questions and answers' and at www.lakeonline.act.edu.au

Start getting organised early

You will need to organise your studies before you arrive at the AIS, so it is important to contact ACE as soon as possible. More information about all these options can be found in 'Questions and answers'.

Note: The AIS does not offer education partnerships with any other ACT secondary schools, government or non-government. If you wish to consider any other secondary schooling options, this will first need to be discussed with your coach and ACE.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

For all school students up to Year 12

When can interstate students join the ACT school system?

In general, the ACT school system enables students to come from interstate at any stage of school year. In the case of years 10 or 12 however, it is preferable that you start at the beginning of the school year to ensure you meet ACT Board of Secondary School Students requirements.

How is the ACT school system different to other states?

In the ACT public school system, students attend a high school for Years 7 to 10 and then a senior secondary college for Years 11 and 12.

How do athletes get to school?

A shuttle bus service transports AIS athletes to and from Canberra High School and UC SSC Lake Ginninderra.

What do AIS liaison teachers do?

AIS liaison teachers are provided through a partnership between the school and AIS. It is a good idea to arrange a meeting with the school's AIS liaison teacher for your first day. They are your contact for all school-related issues or questions. They are also there to assist parents and students to establish their own direct relationship and line of communication with the school.

How do ACE advisers help?

ACE liaises with your school's AIS liaison teacher about anticipated absences due to AIS sporting commitments. You can also talk to ACE and your coach about any changes or concerns with your study program so that the appropriate assistance can be provided.

What is the AIS Study Hall program?

The AIS Study Hall program provides extra academic support to help you balance schooling and sporting commitments and achieve your academic potential. The Study Hall program is compulsory for school-age athletes and is located on the AIS campus.

Study Hall tutors provide one-on-one support to help you manage and organise your studies, as well as specialist subject support. For example, Study Hall tutors can help you successfully manage your time by identifying assessment dates and sporting commitment clashes, and planning your study to meet both. This means athletes who are enrolled in formal education have another 'point of call' for their studies, in addition to their teachers, AIS liaison teachers and ACE.

Study Hall is a quiet, comfortable working environment which runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, Monday to Thursday, during the Canberra school terms. The number of sessions you need to attend depends on your type of study, number of subjects and sport expectations. As a guide, tertiary-level students, or those seeking a university entrance Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), attend four sessions a week (eight hours) while accredited-level students, or those pursuing a vocational pathway, may attend from two to four sessions a week depending on sport requirements and study load.

All athletes are encouraged to dedicate additional study time outside of these scheduled sessions to remain on top of their course work. For Years 11 and 12 it is recommended that students undertake on average 3–4 hours per week in additional study for each T subject or 14–16 hours per week for a full subject load (see more details regarding T subjects in the 'What is the difference between T (university preparation) and A (general preparation) level study' section below).

Study Hall provides term and semester reports to parents, coaches and houseparents, which provide feedback on each athlete's study progress and application within Study Hall.

Good communication and organisational skills are essential throughout your career and life, and Study Hall maximises the opportunity to develop these fundamental skills that will support your progress within elite sport and in your non-sporting career aspirations.

For UC SSC Lake Ginninderra students (Years 11 and 12)

How do AIS athletes study at UC SSC Lake Ginninderra?

The ACT senior secondary college system for Years 11 and 12 is unique. The responsibility for learning rests with the students and the assessment is continuous from day one over four semesters.

Year 11 and 12 AIS athletes who remain on scholarship until completing Year 12 usually do five subjects per semester. This includes 'External Sports Studies' which is an accredited subject that largely consists of your AIS scholarship and recognises time attending sports-related training and seminars (such as nutrition, psychology and drug education).

Athletes who will be returning home to complete Year 12 after finishing their scholarship need to check with their home school about the number and type of subjects that need to be completed while living in the ACT.

There are no compulsory courses in any ACT Government college.

AIS athletes can spread out Years 11 and 12 over three years unless they intend to move to a US college after finishing school, in which case they must complete in two years.

Are there end-of-year exams?

- > No, the ACT system is based on continuous assessment. While each semester has testing periods and there may be exams worth 40 per cent, all assessments contribute to the final result. Unlike other states, there are no major final exams of more importance than other exams (such as the HSC).
- > ACT Scaling Test (AST): AIS athletes wishing to gain an ATAR for university entrance sit the AST in Year 12. The AST is used to moderate UC SSC Lake Ginninderra against other colleges in the ACT system. This test involves three papers (multiple choice, short response and a writing test). The college has a comprehensive preparation program and arranges practice sessions and trials for the AST.

What is the difference between T (university preparation) and A (general preparation) level study?

You can choose either a T or A Year 11 and 12 certificate package.

The A package is more flexible and suits those wanting to go on to TAFE and/or vocational courses after school. For this you need 17 standard points over Years 11 and 12 (one subject per semester is one point). At least half the points must come from the ACT system. You will need to complete three minors (each is two semesters of study).

The T package is required for university entrance and you need 20 points over Years 11 and 12 (one subject per semester is one point).

Athletes wanting an ATAR must do a minimum of four tertiary level subjects, which includes three majors (four semesters of study) and one minor (two semesters of study) as well as two other minors of either T or A courses (see more details regarding majors and minors in the 'What do these words mean' section below).

If you are coming at the start of Year 12 and want an ATAR, you will need to continue with three subjects undertaken in Year 11 (if offered in the ACT at tertiary level). Note, marks achieved in Year 11 will not be included in your ATAR, but Year 11 semesters are included in the 20 points. The ATAR is only based on Year 12 marks.

What else is important for going on to university?

As a guide, athletes hoping to gain university entrance generally need average scores in the mid-seventies or higher throughout their time at UC SSC Lake Ginninderra.

Certain university courses have prerequisites and certain combinations of tertiary courses will not score well enough to gain university entrance. It is important to discuss subject choices with your AIS/UC SSC Lake Ginninderra liaison teacher and ACE.

What do these words mean?

- > **Course** — a program of study in a particular subject area, for example, English, Mathematics, Biology.
- > **Line** — timetabled spaces in the week when classes operate. Students need five lines or 20 hours of timetabled contact to be full-time. For AIS athletes, one of these lines can be 'External Sports Studies' which recognises your learning in your AIS sport.
- > **Unit** — courses are made up of a variety of different units. Each unit may be a semester long (one standard unit) or a term long (0.5 standard unit).
- > **Major** — this consists of a minimum of 3.5 standard units. For example, if you complete and are graded in four semesters of English, then you have a major in English (comprising four standard units).
- > **Minor** — this consists of a minimum of two standard units. For example, if you complete and are graded in Psychology 1 and Psychology 2, you have a minor in Psychology (two standard units).
- > **Major/Minor** — this consists of a minimum of 5.5 standard units (five and half semesters).

What does a sample Year 11–12 study plan for a tertiary package athlete look like?

Semester 1, Year 11	Semester 2, Year 11	Semester 1, Year 12	Semester 2, Year 12
English (T) Mathematics (T) Biology (T) History (T) External Sports Studies (A)	English (T) Mathematics (T) Biology (T) History (T) External Sports Studies (A)	English (T) Mathematics (T) Biology (T) Psychology (T) External Sports Studies (A)	English (T) Mathematics (T) Biology (T) Psychology (T) External Sports Studies (A)

This plan fulfils the:

- > 20 points needed for tertiary Year 12 (five units or subjects per semester)
- > three T majors (English, Mathematics and Biology) plus two T minors (History and Psychology — only the best ranked minor is used in calculation of the ATAR) and the A minor (External Sports Studies).

Why are there so many subjects to choose from?

A course is a combination of units with a common purpose. For example, an English course completed over four semesters may include units such as 'Literature and language', 'Children's Literature', 'Writing' and 'Shakespeare'. Because a variety of units is offered each semester, different students may complete their English course with three or four different units. This choice is one of the strengths of the ACT system.

Who can assist with getting studies organised?

- > ACE, if you hold an AIS scholarship
- > AIS liaison teachers

For parents

What can parents do?

Family involvement and strong family/school/community partnerships make a positive difference to a student's academic success. Parents can stay involved with their child's education by:

- > attending information sessions
- > requesting and attending parent/teacher interviews. Interviews can also take place by phone or Skype
- > communicate regularly with your AIS liaison teacher in relation to your child's progress
- > talking with your child about the work they are doing, asking about when assignments are due and asking to see drafts
- > reading regular school newsletters/updates
- > communicating directly with the AIS liaison teachers about any issues and, if not satisfied, seeing the principal
- > encouraging your child to make the most of the support available, at school and at the AIS
- > reminding your child that results and effort are related and they need to work hard in both school and sport.

NEXT STEPS

Contacts

If you have accepted a scholarship at the AIS, contact the AIS ACE program on (02) 6214 1265.

Enrolment documents — UC SSC Lake Ginninderra

Complete and return the following documents with your AIS scholarship forms or directly to ACE:

- > ACT Department of Education enrolment form (including a copy of athlete's birth certificate)
- > General medical information and consent form
- > Acceptance of a place of enrolment at UC SSC Lake Ginninderra form
- > UC SSC Lake Ginninderra Acceptable Use of IT form
- > Student contract
- > Contact information form
- > Authority to use photographs (including video) of children for promotion of public education
- > Most recent year's school reports.

AIS ACE contact details

Manager: (02) 6214 1745

Coordinator: (02) 6214 1265

Adviser: (02) 6214 1393

Adviser: (02) 6214 7334

Email: aisace@ausport.gov.au