

OVERSEAS STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY

General Principles

1. Acceptance of students into the Australian Performing Arts Grammar School (APGS) is dependent upon a successful audition, interview and entrance examination. A panel of at least two adjudicators (Head of School and another member of staff) will attend auditions and determine whether the applicant possesses the required academic merit, talent in the performing and creative arts, and ability to perform well in the school. Auditions are held at scheduled intervals throughout the academic year.

Overseas and interstate students may submit an electronic copy of their performance for the audition component. The quality of the recording should be at a level that allows the panel to accurately assess the standard of performance.

2. APGS accepts students applying for Years 7 to 10. Students applying for Year 11 may be accepted with the proviso that the student's subjects match those offered by the school. If the school is unable to accommodate the student's subject selection, then the student will not be accepted into the school.
3. Eligibility for students applying for Year 12 is determined on an individual basis, and dependent on their subject selections and curriculum offerings.
4. All students applying to APGS must possess a strong commitment to the performing or creative arts, be of good character and be prepared to commit to the ethos of the school and follow its code of conduct.
5. The school also reserves the right to deny enrolment to a student whose academic achievements are not consistent with the demands of the school's commitment to maintaining high academic and performing arts standards.
6. Upon enrolment, parents or guardians are required to sign the Overseas Student Enrolment Agreement acknowledging that they have read and understood the school rules and policies, and are prepared to abide by them.
7. Overseas students must provide proof of competence in English and must meet a minimum IELTS Score (or equivalent testing system) of 6.0. While APGS accepts both IELTS and TOEFL, in some countries, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA)/Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) may accept only IELTS to determine English language proficiency. Students should check the website to ensure they are taking the appropriate test. Students without an acceptable level of English will be required to satisfactorily complete an intensive course of English language before being allowed to study at APGS. APGS can advise on an appropriate English language program (the Pre-Enrolment English Program - PEP) in Sydney. On successful completion of the PEP, students are granted direct entry into APGS.

Policy Introduction

APGS caters for gifted and talented students in the areas of Dance, Drama and Music and related areas such as technical aspects of the Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. The school enrolls students locally (within NSW and interstate) as well as from overseas.

All local or overseas students must complete and submit an online Overseas Student Enrolment Agreement which is available on the school website.



Overseas students must not only meet all the pre-requisite performing arts and academic conditions of enrolment at APGS as for local students but must also meet and fulfil all the conditions and regulations of their student visa as determined by government authorities.

All enrolment procedures and practices comply with the various state and federal anti-discrimination laws including the National Code 2007 and ESOS Framework. Students should check the policies on the APGS website for further information on requirements.

All Overseas Student applications must be submitted with supporting documentation including school reports, copy of passport, results of public tests, English proficiency tests, as well as information relating to any special needs. Often these applications will be submitted by Education Agents.

In assessing each application for enrolment, each prospective student's educational needs are considered and where necessary further information is sought in consultation with parents and other relevant people.

Enrolment Procedure

1. Potential students and parents or guardians can contact the school expressing interest in enrolment and receive further information. If requested, a guided tour of the campus can also be scheduled to meet with staff and view facilities.
2. If a student wishes to apply, an Online Application Form will need to be submitted. An application fee will apply for all applications.
3. Based on the eligibility of the application, an audition, interview and entrance exam will be scheduled with the student and parent or guardian.

Overseas applicants who cannot attend a physical audition will need to submit an online audition recording and supporting documentation.

Overseas students applying in Sydney are to perform 2 contrasting pieces of up to 3 minutes each of their choice. An accompanist or backing CD/track/mp3 can be used for performances. Visual art and design majors should present a portfolio of works.

Additional information regarding performance requirements and entrance exam will be emailed to applicants prior to auditions.

4. Interview, audition and entrance exam will all be conducted on the same day.
5. A student wishing to proceed with enrolment with APGS will need to complete the enclosed Acceptance Form and pay the Enrolment Acceptance Fee. Overseas students must also pay, at a minimum, 50% of total tuition fees.
6. Upon completion of Step 5, the student will be officially registered as an enrolled student for commencement on the date listed in the Letter of Offer.

For overseas students, an Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment will be issued in order to process the student visa, along with further information to assist preparations for studying in Australia

Waiting Lists:

Waiting lists may be established for local and non-local students. Parents will be advised in writing if their child is to be placed on a waiting list and his or her position on it. The size of the waiting list should reflect realistic expectations of potential vacancies.

Appeals:

Where a parent wishes to appeal against the decision of the placement panel, the appeal should be made in writing to the Head of School. Where required, the Head of School should provide or arrange assistance, such as an interpreter, to enable the appeal to be set out in writing. The Head of School will seek to resolve the matter.

Enrolment of Students with Special Learning Needs:

Students with Disabilities

The Department of Education and Training provides a range of services and resources to support the education of students with disabilities.

These include:

- Targeted funding, specialist teachers and consultancy services to support students enrolled in regular classes.
- Special classes within regular schools.
- Special schools
- Modifications to buildings to facilitate access.
- Provision of specialised equipment and technology.
- Special transport services.

When considering the enrolment of a student with a disability, all these provisions should be considered. The decision on whether to enrol a student with a disability, and with what level of support, will depend on a number of factors, including the student's educational needs, the expressed desires of parents and caregivers, the capacity of the system to provide the level of support services required generally and at a particular location, and the availability of support services at alternative locations.

In many situations it will be possible to enrol a student with a disability at the school with the necessary level of specialist support. In some circumstances the level of support required, or the specialist nature of that support, will necessitate alternative enrolment options being provided.

In each case, when a student with a disability presents for enrolment, it is the responsibility of the Head of School to ensure that an appraisal of the student's education needs is carried out. For some students appraisal will have occurred as part of a planned transition process. For others, the appraisal will take place at the time enrolment is sought.

Appraisals will involve parents or caregivers and will entail consideration of the students' support needs in areas such as curriculum, mobility, social skills, personal care and communication. It will often involve consideration of supporting documentation from medical practitioners and other health and education professionals. School Education Area (SEA) special education consultants are available to assist in this process, in particular, to identify the resources which may be available to support the enrolment.

Requests for enrolment in special classes or at a special school are considered by an SEA placement panel.

The *Special Education Handbook for Schools* contains descriptions of services available, eligibility criteria for access to services and procedures to be adopted in enrolling students with disabilities.

Enrolment in Distance Education:

The provision of distance education is primarily for the purpose of ensuring access to education for students who would otherwise have limited chances at educational participation.

Part-Time Enrolment:

Students are generally enrolled in a school on a full-time basis. Part-time enrolment is not an option at APGS.

Refusal of Enrolment:

The Head of School of APGS may refuse enrolment of a student on the grounds of previously documented violent behaviour if there is evidence that the student has not learned the appropriate skills to manage this behaviour.

Immunisation:

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents to provide documented evidence of a student's immunisation status on enrolment at school. Where parents choose not to immunise their children, they will be required to remain at home for the duration of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease.

Enrolment of Non-Australian Citizens:

Education is compulsory for non-Australian citizens between the ages of six and fifteen holding a visa granting them permanent resident status.

For non-Australian citizens holding a temporary visa, enrolment is only for that period specified on the visa.

Enrolment of Overseas Students:

Overseas students must not only meet all the pre-requisite performing arts and academic conditions of enrolment at APGS as for local students, but must also meet and fulfill all the conditions and regulations of their student visa as determined by government authorities.

All enrolment procedures and practices comply with the various State and Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws including National Codes 2007 and ESOS Framework.

Updating Student Information:

At least every six months, overseas students are required to confirm or update their contact details, including their Australian residential address, mobile number and email address. Admin is responsible for collecting and updating this information.

Transfer Certificates:

Where students transfer between schools in New South Wales, a transfer certificate must be completed. Every effort will be made to secure transfer certificates from transferring students.