

SECTION 174, EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) ACT 2006

THE QUEENSLAND ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND TECHNOLOGY

ENROLMENT ELIGIBILITY PLAN

Background

The Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology caters for students in Years 10, 11 and 12, offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma) program as the only curriculum framework in Years 11 and 12. Year 10 students complete a Pre-IB course of study that prepares them for the rigour and skill set required to successfully complete the IB Diploma. Students undergo a selective entry process prior to an offer of enrolment. The IB Diploma Program provides students with the opportunity of global University entry and in most cases advanced standing arrangements with universities. The IB Diploma Program is externally moderated to give assurance to Universities of the high quality of graduates.

Rationale

The Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology recognises as its prime obligation the provision of this specialised educational program for students who, through rigorous testing, are judged to be well placed to achieve the IB Diploma.

This plan sets out the requirements for enrolment of students at the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology.

Enrolment capacity of the academy

The academy currently has the capacity to enrol up to 450 students across Years 10, 11 and 12.

Should this capacity change because of changes to occupancy capacity, this will be advertised through the approval and gazettal of an amended plan including the operative date for the new plan.

Enrolment Policy

Under Chapter 8 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (the Act), a principal must enrol a student at a school the student is entitled to be enrolled at. Students enrolling at the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology must be eligible for general enrolment in State schools and must also satisfy the specific Enrolment Criteria of the academy set out in this plan.

- **General enrolment requirements for State schools**

Prior to assessment against the Enrolment Criteria the Academy Principal must be satisfied that the student meets the general enrolment requirements for State schools. A student must meet the general requirements set out in the Act (for example having an allocation of state schooling remaining, and/or in the case of mature aged students possessing a positive mature age student notice). The Academy Principal may also defer an enrolment decision to the Director-General if a student poses an unacceptable risk to the safety or well being of the school community. Applicants who have been refused enrolment on the basis of the general enrolment requirements may pursue review rights under the Act as advised by the Academy Principal.

- **Enrolment Criteria**

The student must also meet the Enrolment Criteria set out below.

In order to be eligible for enrolment at the academy a student must at a minimum:

- Demonstrate (via presentation of evidence at the time of application) that they:
 - a. have Australian Citizenship or are the child of an Australian citizen; or
 - b. have Permanent Resident status or are the child of a permanent resident; or
 - c. are eligibility under a Visa category; and
- have reached the benchmark results on the *Higher Ability Selection Test*¹; and
- have successfully completed an interview, against the interview criteria and be able to produce documentary evidence of school-based testing at their previous school; and
- can meet the financial commitment of the program fees at the academy.

The academy Enrolment Eligibility Committee (the Committee) conducts relevant tests and interviews and provides advice to the Academy Principal about the student's eligibility under the enrolment eligibility plan criteria. The Academy Principal will consider this advice when determining a student's enrolment application.

- **Processing of enrolment applications**

Enrolment applications are to be made to the Academy Principal who will consider the general enrolment requirements and the assessment advice from the Committee regarding the student's performance against the enrolment criteria for the academy. Students will not be eligible for enrolment unless they have undergone assessment by the Committee.

Vacancies will be filled through a strict rank order. Students will be ranked in order according to their Higher Ability Selection Test results with the highest score meriting the highest ranking and all other scores being ranked accordingly, as long as all other elements of the enrolment process have met acceptable standards. Should more than one round of testing be necessary in any one year, the number of enrolment places remaining from the preceding round of offers will be filled through a strict rank order, as per the above.

Where there are students who were considered by the Academy Principal to have met all enrolment criteria set out above, but who were not enrolled in the year 10 intake due to the academy's capacity being reached, such students will be considered for an intake should vacancies arise in the school year. These vacancies will be filled through continuance of the rank order from the *Higher Ability Selection Test* results. Note: these intakes are not an option for Year 11 or 12 students.

In all cases the parent or student must meet the financial commitment of the program fees at the academy. The Department reserves the right to suspend delivery of educational services should there be failure to pay the program fee.

Queensland Academies Enrolment Eligibility Committee

The Enrolment Eligibility Committee consists of the Executive Director, Schooling Innovation (chair); the Academy Principal; the Executive Director (Schools); a representative of the Academy Parents and Citizens Association and an elected staff representative.

Review of Queensland Academies Enrolment Eligibility Committee assessments

Applicants who have been refused enrolment by the Academy Principal on the basis of a report by the Enrolment Eligibility Committee will be notified in writing of the reasons for the refusal by the Academy Principal.

Applicants may seek a formal review of an unsuccessful assessment by making a written submission to the Assistant Director-General, Education Queensland. This submission should present evidence to substantiate a claim that the stated criteria have not been applied correctly or fairly.

¹ The *Higher Ability Selection Test* is a test developed and scored by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

The Assistant Director-General will, where possible, decide the review and provide written advice to the applicant within 14 days of the applicant's submission. The Assistant Director-General's decision on the review will be final.

Review Date

The Enrolment Eligibility Plan for the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology is operational from 14 November 2008 and will be reviewed annually. This plan remains in effect until a new plan is approved to replace it and while it is under review.

All necessary amendments to this plan will be notified through the approval and gazettal of a new plan.

The provisions of the new plan will come into force either as of the date of gazettal or an operative date stated in the gazette notice.