

# Information for International Students



Hills  
Grammar



# Why Hills Grammar

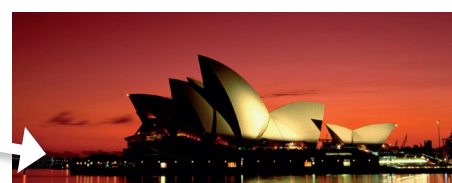
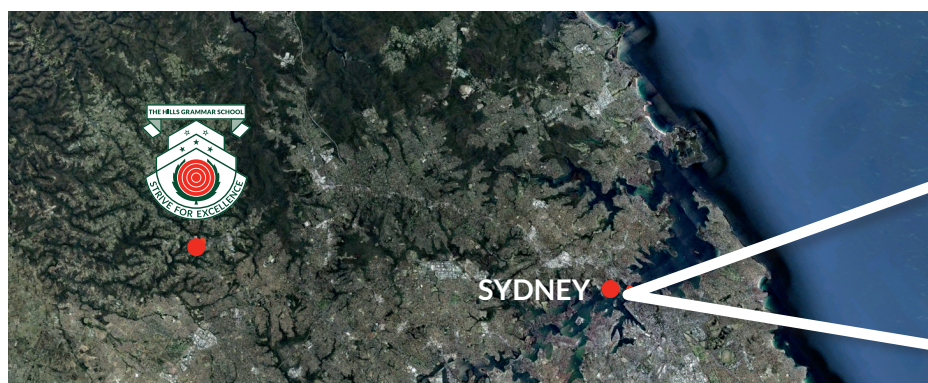
Hills Grammar is an Independent, Co-educational, Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 School which values the inclusion of students from all cultures and religious backgrounds. Particular emphasis is given to academic studies, an appreciation of the arts and to the development of responsible citizenship.

International students are an integral part of the Hills Grammar community. The School values its highly diverse multicultural student population which is enriched by those who come to us from all over the world.

The Hills Grammar School is a registered provider on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS Provider Code 02260G) and complies with the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 and the obligations laid down by the National Code 2007.

Below are some of the reasons why international students choose to come to Hills Grammar.

- Pre-Kindergarten – Year 12, co-educational, independent, non-sectarian school.
- A vibrant community of students from many different cultures, background and faiths.
- Beautiful bushland campus: inspiring natural environment, native wildlife, 16.2ha of landscaped grounds.
- Caring teaching and non-teaching staff, dedicated to the safety and welfare of students.
- A curriculum that is designed to enrich and extend and caters for a wide range of interests.
- Excellent academic results. In past Higher School Certificate results students have placed in the top ten in the state in Mathematics, Latin, Ancient History, Extension 1 English, Modern History, Visual Arts, Hospitality and Information Technology with most of our students gaining first choice entry into University in Australia and overseas.
- Exceptional facilities including climate controlled classrooms, science laboratories, industrial technology workshop, hospitality kitchen, dedicated performance spaces, art studios, gymnasium and fitness centre and an international sized sports oval.
- Extensive co-curricular program, including sport, creative arts, music and leadership.
- Support for Non-English speaking students (ESL).
- A long and successful association with International Students since 1992.



## Transport

The main form of transport to and from school is bus or private car. Trains do not operate near the School, however, buses pick up students from Epping, Cheltenham, Beecroft, Hornsby, Wahroonga, Thornleigh, Normanhurst and Eastwood train stations. International students may need to pay fares on public buses and trains.

Bus routes can be viewed on the website [hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au](http://hillsgrammar.nsw.edu.au)

# A School with Character

## Hills Grammar

vibrant  
community

truly  
independent

intentionally  
co-educational

proudly  
diverse  
and inclusive

forward  
looking  
and thinking

learning and  
learner  
focused

Our students **'Strive for Excellence'** in all they do.  
In so doing, they achieve more than they believed possible.

### Vision

Extraordinary Education:  
Extraordinary Individuals

### Mission

Outstanding teaching within a unique  
learning environment: fostering each  
student's potential for greatness

### Graduate Aim

In partnership with our families, we enable our students to:

- Become confident, resilient and responsible individuals
- Develop a deep understanding across a range of academic disciplines
- Think critically and creatively and embrace life-long learning
- Embody the School's humanitarian values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence
- Understand the importance of an international perspective and contribute positively in our local and the global community
- Develop an appreciation of democratic society
- Display a strong sense of environmental responsibility



Hills International students in class

## Teaching and Learning

At Hills Grammar we aim to educate the whole child from Pre-Kindergarten to graduation at the end of Year 12, through the provision of an enriched curriculum supported by an extensive co-curricular program and an integrated student wellbeing system.

### Academic Program

Hills Grammar offers a broad and rich academic curriculum, with our pre-school, Infants and Primary programs going beyond National and State requirements through the adoption of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program. Our Senior School (Years Seven to Twelve) operates within the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum requirements, leading to an excellent range of Higher School Certificate (HSC) courses in Years Eleven and Twelve. The curriculum at Hills Grammar draws on the best of academic traditions, including the discipline of learning, while also looking for ways to be innovative and forward-thinking as we prepare our students for the future.

### Wellbeing Program

Hills Grammar provides a safe and supportive co-educational environment in which each student is encouraged to strive for excellence in scholarship, personal development and citizenship. Students are better able to achieve these outcomes when they are connected to a healthy, happy and safe community.

Our Student Wellbeing program:

- is designed to nurture and support personal development
- enables, enriches and extends the educational experiences of all students
- provides all students with access to opportunities that promote wellbeing
- supports and strengthens academic, wellbeing and co-curricular learning outcomes
- is built upon the principles of duty of care, effective communication, positive relationships and recognition of each student
- is nurtured, strengthened and enhanced through investment in parent and staff learning opportunities
- develops, in all students, the School's values of Respect, Integrity, Service and Excellence

## Co-curricular Program

The co-curricular program at Hills Grammar is an integral part of the whole school curriculum and provides wonderful opportunities for students to further develop their skills and interests across a broad range of activities including Sport, Creative and Spoken Arts, Music, Leadership, Technology and Service Learning, and Outdoor Education. These activities take place before school, during lunch and after school with further weekend commitments in some areas.

## Staff

International students are supported by a team of staff who liaise with guardians, parents and agents. The Head of International Students co-ordinates programs, monitors the academic progress and wellbeing of international students. Highly trained teachers deliver specialist programs across a wide range of disciplines.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend all of their classes. If a student's daily attendance falls below 90%, a warning letter may be sent home. If a student is absent from school regularly, and after repeated interviews with the Head of International Students, does not make a satisfactory attempt to increase attendance rate, this may result in students being reported to the Immigration Department. In extreme cases, this could lead to a cancellation of a student visa.

## Homework and Assessment

- Students will be assessed across the modes of speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Students will sit placement tests on their first day to assess their English skills.
- Students will be assessed through a mid-term and end of term examination which includes a written response and a speaking and listening task. These examinations, together with a portfolio of work and participation in class activities will determine a student's satisfactory completion of the course.
- Students are given a course outline and a schedule with major examinations within the first few weeks of commencing the course. Class time is allocated to thoroughly explain assessment tasks so that the students understand the requirements.

## Expectations of Progress

Students need to apply themselves to their studies and are expected to make satisfactory course progress. In the event of a student having difficulty meeting course requirements, support will be offered to the student and an intervention policy implemented.

Following this, if a student does not improve sufficiently in order to meet course outcomes, the students will be advised of the School's intention to report the student for failing to meet course requirements.

The student is responsible for:

- Submitting all tasks by the due date
- Ensuring all assessment tasks are their own work
- Doing their best job on all set tasks
- Ensuring course progress is made





## Academic Pathways for International Students

### *What level of English is needed?*

All International primary and secondary students applying for enrolment at Hills Grammar are required to demonstrate their English proficiency. The school recognises testing results from the following,

- Australian Education Assessment Services (AEAS) [www.aeas.com.au](http://www.aeas.com.au) or
- iSTARTOnline Assessment Testing Service [www.istartonline.com](http://www.istartonline.com)

Both tests provide a broad educational profile of the student. Students/parents/carers are required to make their own arrangements to sit the tests and further information can be found at the above listed websites.

The results from the English Proficiency test and the supporting documentation required in the application for enrolment form, are used to determine if the student is eligible to enter directly into Mainstream classes, or enter our Intensive-English classes prior to entering Mainstream.

### 1. Direct Entry into Mainstream Classes

International students whose AEAS or iSTARTOnline results meet School set standards, are eligible to enter directly into mainstream classes. The school will also arrange a pre-enrolment Skype/WeChat interview to confirm the student's suitability for this pathway.

Our School offers a wide range of subjects to the senior students. Class sizes are small and teachers work closely with students to work towards the best possible results.

Students may enroll in the following subjects depending on availability at the time

- English as a Second Language, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Legal Studies, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Modern History, Ancient History, Information Technology, Visual Arts, Drama, Hospitality, Earth and Environmental Science, French, Japanese, PDHPE, Information Processes and Technology.

## 2. Intensive English Course Prior to Entering Mainstream

### High School Preparation Course (HSPC)

Since 2014, Hills Grammar has offered eligible international students the opportunity to study intensive English prior to their High School mainstream enrolment. Hills International Education (HIE) teaches quality intensive English programs which are delivered on campus and often integrated into mainstream classes such as Mathematics, Physical Education and House Tutor Groups.

This way, the students get to know the campus, their peers and their teachers before moving into their mainstream classes. HIE is a nurturing environment with up to 15 students attending at a time and several staff members available to care for their schooling and social needs.

There are many benefits having Intensive English on campus;

- Students are part of the Hills Grammar Community and are involved in many facets of School life
- Students work towards achieving an acceptable level of language proficiency for entry into mainstream classes
- Students are supported academically and socially through a transition program
- Safe and supportive Homestay Accommodation environments can be facilitated by the School
- Students have access to support services, counselling and academic advice
- Students are provided with opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with their peers
- Highly qualified and dedicated teachers deliver the courses

The following High School Preparation Courses are offered to eligible students

- Pre-Intermediate
- Intermediate
- Upper Intermediate

### Sample Timetable

Below is a sample daily timetable for international students in the High School Preparation program

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45 – 9.45	English	English	Language for Science	English	English
9.45 – 10.45	English	English	Language for Science	English	English
10.45 – 11.15	Recess				
11.15 – 12.15	English	Mathematics	English	English	Language for HSIE
12.15 – 1.15	English	English	English	Mathematics	Language for HSIE
1.15- 1.55	Lunch				
1.55 – 2.20	Assembly	House	House	House	House
2.20 – 3.20	Mathematics	English	English	English	PDHPE



Drama in the Blue Box Theatre



Art Classes in the Bush

## Accommodation and Welfare

As an international student at Hills Grammar School, you are required have appropriate parent or carer/homestay accommodation arrangements in place.

To maintain your welfare, you must stay in Australia with:

- your parent or legal custodian or
- a relative who has been nominated by your parents or custodians who is aged over 21 and is of good character, or
- have accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements in place that have been approved by your education provider.

Where required, the School is able to arrange approved Homestay accommodation. Students will need to apply for this at the point of enrolment.

## Guardianship

It is a School Policy that students are required to provide evidence of engaging an I.S.A or other suitable Guardian prior to the first day of school.

Further information about the School nominated guardian service can be found at [studentguardians.com](http://studentguardians.com)

## Passport, Visas & International Student Guidelines

Students are responsible for ensuring that their passport and visa are up to date. The following situations may result in the cancellation of your student visa:

- Failure to maintain satisfactory attendance at School
- Failure to maintain satisfactory academic performance
- Failure to keep the School fully informed of all of your contact details

See Hills Grammar, Guidelines for International Students for further details.

## Overseas Student Health Cover

International students are required to have overseas health cover for the length of their student visa and must show the School a copy of the policy before commencing enrolment.

# Enrolment Process

In order to commence the application process, international students are required to

1. Submit an International Student Application for Enrolment which must be signed by both parents/carers. It is essential that applications include the following supporting documentation
  - a. A copy of the students' birth certificate, translated into English if necessary
  - b. A copy of the information page of the student's passport
  - c. A copy of the student's latest school report translated into English
  - d. A copy of the student's English Proficiency test results (ISTART Online or AEAS).
2. Our International Student Admissions Team will acknowledge your application and may ask for additional information if necessary.
3. All students will be required to participate in a pre-enrolment interview with the Head of International Students or relevant Head of Schools. This is usually arranged over Skype or WeChat at a mutually convenient time.
4. If your application is successful, you will be given a Letter of Offer for Enrolment.
5. To accept the Letter of Offer for Enrolment, you will need to pay the scheduled fees and sign and return all relevant documents to the admissions office.
6. Upon successful receipt of these documents and after payment has been cleared, a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and the Confirmation of Approved Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) will be released.
7. Prior to the commencement date, the School will send the student information about their first day and general requirements regarding uniforms, books and subject choices. Information and contact details about any required Homestay Accommodation will also be provided during this time.



French Language Class



Music Showcase

## Our Graduates

Most students studying at Hills Grammar are aiming to enter university or other tertiary institutions after graduation. Approximately 85% of our graduates continue directly into tertiary studies at universities and colleges of their choice.

The Hills Grammar School offers a broad selection of Higher School Certificate courses and our results over the years illustrate a consistently high standard of attainment.

Nothing illustrates the fruits of an inspiring and nurturing schooling than a look at the graduates' further studies and career paths. Each year the vast majority of our students enter university into their preferred course of studies. The most popular universities are Macquarie University, University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Technology, University of Western Sydney and Australian National University.

While most of the high achieving graduates apply for top universities in Australia, some seek placement in overseas universities. Hills Grammar graduates have gained places in Ivy League Universities such as Brown in Rhode Island, Columbia in New York, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Harvard University in Boston and Stanford in California. Others have studied in prestigious Universities throughout Europe and Asia.



Year 12 Valedictory Dinner



Badminton Co-curricular in the Multi-Purpose Hall








100m Championship Race on the School Oval



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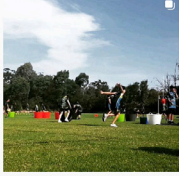







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 Pre-K to 12 • Co-educational • No Religious Bias • Independent  
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