

High School Cancer Symposium 2019

High School Cancer Competition 2019

Information for teachers

Thank you for your interest in the ACHSC's High School Cancer Symposium and High School Cancer Competition. This document was prepared by the ACHSC to provide a reference for teachers. It contains further information about our initiatives; outlines registration instructions & registration processes; and what to expect/prepare for the HSCS and HSCC.

Good luck!

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What is the High School Cancer Symposium (HSCS)?

The HSCS is an ACHSC **event** directed at year 10 students which aims to:

- **teach** students about cancer;
- **connect** research and high school communities across Australia; and
- **stimulate interest** in cancer and health sciences research.

It seeks to achieve these goals by providing an immersive experience where high school students can **spend a day in the shoes** of researchers, clinicians, and cancer patients.

Created by the ACHSC in 2015 and first held in 2016, over **160 Victorian year 10 students** and their science teachers have attended the HSCS with resounding success.

The 4th annual HSCS will be held on **Thursday July 18, 2019** at the [Walter & Eliza Hall Institute](#) (WEHI) in Parkville, Victoria.

The theme for the 2019 HSCS is **“Bench to Bedside”**.

By attending the HSCS, students will:

- **Tour** world-class research facilities at WEHI;
- **Gain exposure** to and engage with researchers at all career levels;
- **Share the experiences** of cancer patients and survivors, whilst explore the impact of cancer on their lives; and
- **Hear presentations** from esteemed clinicians, academics, and public figures on topics ranging from innovations in cancer research to the impacts of cancer on our society.

The full program and further details of the 2019 HSCS can be found [here](#). A brief video recap of 2018’s HSCS may also be viewed on [YouTube](#).

While preparation is not necessary to attend the HSCS, the ACHSC suggests for teachers to help students familiarise themselves with the [ACHSC cancer syllabus](#) to maximise the benefit students derive from the day.

The ACHSC hopes that the HSCS experience will pique students’ interest in research and the health sciences, ultimately inspiring them to make their own contribution to the cancer and health sciences community.



What is the High School Cancer Competition (HSCC)?

The HSCC is an ACHSC initiative directed at year 10 students. It is **Australia's first science competition focusing on cancer**. The HSCC consists of a series of multiple choice questions answered individually by students within a 60 minute time frame.

By preparing for and participating in the HSCC, students will:

- **develop a grasp of the principles of cancer biology, genetics, and biochemistry**; and
- be challenged to apply this knowledge in a variety of **problem solving** contexts.

Most questions on the competition paper will require application of knowledge rather than factual recall. Content for questions will be partly drawn from the ACHSC's cancer syllabus, which, along with the HSCC, is designed to be an extension of most year 10 and VCE unit 1&2 science curricula. The ACHSC's cancer syllabus is the first of its kind, and was created with input from teachers, academics, and the ACHSC team.

The ACHSC **strongly encourages participants to prepare** for the HSCC by familiarising themselves with the ACHSC's cancer syllabus, which can be accessed for free [here](#).

This year, the HSCC will be completed on **Friday, 13th September, 2019** at the campus of each participating school. Teachers at each participating school will be responsible for organising a suitable time and venue for students to complete the HSCC paper. Following completion, the papers are to be returned to the ACHSC via mail (using the postal envelope included in the initial pack of papers mailed to schools) for marking.

All participating students will receive a certificate, with **top students based on overall score being rewarded with summer research internship opportunities** at the ACHSC's partner cancer research institutes, such as the **Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute** and the **Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research**.

Further details of the 2019 HSCC, along with sample questions, can be found [here](#).

Please note: **students will not be disadvantaged by completing the HSCC without attending the HSCS**. However, the ACHSC encourages schools to try and attend both the HSCS and complete the HSCC, as these initiatives have been designed to complement each other.

Registration fees

The ACHSC is a non-profit organisation which organises and runs the HSCS and HSCC as **non-profit programs**. All registration fees are reinvested to financially support the implementation and development of the ACHSC's initiatives. The ACHSC will only request registration fees following successful registration of each participating school. The registration process is outlined in the next section ("**How do I register my school?**").

Registration fees will cover the ACHSC's costs of morning/afternoon tea for students, lunch catering for teachers, venue hire fees, and so on. The ACHSC has endeavoured to price the HSCS and HSCC competitively to maximise accessibility to these programs.

Furthermore, the ACHSC is extremely grateful for the Cancer Council of Victoria's (CCV) support. The CCV will subsidise registration of up to 5 students for the HSCS and up to 20 students for the HSCC for eligible schools in 2019.

Schools eligible for subsidies will be contacted by the ACHSC after successful registration.

HSCS registration

\$10.00 per student

There is a quota of **five (5)** students per school registering for the HSCS.

Given the HSCS's limited capacity, the ACHSC recommend that each school makes the most of the opportunity by sending the maximum number of students. Students should be selected on the basis of their enthusiasm and interest in the HSCS's subject matter.

Students attending the HSCS are also highly encouraged to participate in the HSCC to consolidate their interests. More students can be registered for the HSCC in addition to the 5 registered for the HSCS.

HSCC registration

\$5.00 per student

Schools participating in the HSCC may register any number of students to participate. The ACHSC encourages all interested students to participate in this year's competition.

Teachers who have already registered up to 5 students in the HSCS are encouraged to register additional students for the HSCC if they see fit.

How do I register my school & students?

Registration for the 2019 HSCS and HSCC will be conducted online via the ACHSC's website, Google Forms, and email.

In 2019, there will be 2 options to register your school's year 10 students to participate in the ACHSC's programs.

- 1) HSCS registration (\$10.00 per student; max. 5 students per school)
- 2) HSCC registration (\$5.00 per student)

HSCS registration will open on **Monday, 20th May** and will close at or before 11:59pm on **Friday, 14th June** (depending on when HSCS's venue capacity is met).

HSCC registration will open on **Monday, 20th May** alongside HSCS registration, but will close at 11:59pm on **Friday, 23rd August**.

Unfortunately, the ACHSC cannot accept late registration.

The registration process is the same for each option and consists of 5 steps. Each school's registration is complete only when all students are correctly registered, appropriate forms are completed and submitted, and registration fees are received by the ACHSC.

1. Select and register your students.

The ACHSC encourages students to be selected for the HSCS and HSCC on the basis of enthusiasm and demonstrated interest in the sciences.

Teachers, please use the Google Form links below to register students. Each teacher should register all participating students from their school.

- [HSCS registration](#) (\$10.00 per student; **max. 5 students per school**)
- [HSCC registration](#) (\$5.00 per student)

By registering online, students and teachers will be agreeing to the terms and conditions of the HSCS and HSCC, which are included in the initial invitation email and also available on the [ACHSC website](#).

2. Complete and submit legal forms.

All **students and teachers registered for the HSCS** are required to complete a Media Release Form to participate, which is also included in the initial invitation email and available on the [ACHSC website](#). This can be completed digitally, or as a scanned printed copy (pdf format

please). Teachers will be responsible for collecting, scanning, and sending the Media Release Form to ACHSC to registration@achsc.org.au.

The completed Media Release Form for each student should be **sent as a PDF file and renamed as: School name_First name_Surname** (e.g. Melbourne High School_Jane_Doe). The Media Release Form can be found on the ACHSC's website [here](#).

Teacher and student details will be kept **confidential** throughout this process, and will not be distributed beyond the ACHSC or required partners e.g. the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute. Please refer to the Media Release Form for more details regarding these matters.

HSCC registrants are not required to complete the Media Release Form.

3. Wait for confirmation email.

Once a school has registered students and the accompanying Media Release Forms are received, a confirmation email will be sent by the ACHSC to the email address provided by the teacher. Confirmation is on a strictly **first come, first served basis**.

This confirmation email will be sent within **5 business days** of receiving Media Release Forms for the HSCS, or student details for the HSCC. It will contain **further information** about the HSCS and/or HSCC, as well as an **invoice for registration fees**.

The ACHSC recommends that this invoice is forwarded to your school's respective accounting or finances department.

4. Payment of invoice to complete registration.

Please ensure payment is made **within 5 business days of receiving the invoice**, as registration cannot be processed or completed without receipt of payment. If payment is not received within this allocated period time, entry may be forfeited and students' places will be re-released to the general applicant pool.

5. Encourage your students to prepare.

Following successful payment, the ACHSC will provide a **second confirmation email** indicating completion of registration for the HSCS or HSCC. **Congratulations!**

When preparing for the HSCC, as well as in the lead up to the HSCS, we encourage teachers to lead students by consulting our [syllabus](#) to gain a sense of the expected level of knowledge and thinking. Preparation for the HSCS is also recommended so that students can gain as much as possible from the activities on the day and guest speakers' presentations.

For more information on registration, please direct questions to info@achsc.org.au

What should I expect on the day of the HSCS?

What is required of teachers?

Attendance

One teacher from each participating school is required to accompany and supervise their students during the HSCS. Teachers' basic details are required for administrative purposes, and should be provided during registration.

Preparation

Prior to the HSCS, teachers should encourage students to familiarise themselves with the ACHSC's official free syllabus, found [here](#). The ACHSC also encourages teachers to spend time discussing and explaining some of the concepts with prospective participants, as this will maximise the benefit that students take away from the HSCS.

Catering

Lunch will be provided **for teachers only**. Please advise the ACHSC via email of any special dietary requirements (e.g. allergies, religious, etc.) and we will strive to fulfil them; however, *the ACHSC is unable and not liable to accommodate all specific dietary requirements*. Individuals with specific requirements are advised to bring their own food. Alternatively, there are a number of cafes in the Parkville precinct.

What is required of the students?

What should students bring?

Students should bring a **packed lunch, stationery** (pencils, pens, erasers, notebooks, etc.) and **photo ID** for registration purposes (e.g. learner's permit, library card).

Please **avoid bringing bulky school-bags if possible**, as storage space is limited and the ACHSC cannot guarantee the security of belongings kept in storage.

Syllabus

Students are **expected though not required** to be familiar with the content of the syllabus, available freely on the ACHSC website [here](#). An understanding of the salient points of the reference material will be invaluable at both the HSCS and HSCC.

Catering

Lunch is not provided for students attending the ACHSC. The ACHSC advises students to bring a **packed lunch and some snacks for the day**. Alternatively, there are a number of cafes locally which teachers may take students to, if they wish.

The ACHSC will supply light refreshments and snacks during breaks throughout the HSCS. Please advise the ACHSC of any special dietary requirements (e.g. allergies, religious, etc.) and we will strive to fulfil them; however, *the ACHSC may be unable and is not liable to*



accommodate all specific dietary requirements. Individuals with specific requirements are advised to bring their own food.

What should I expect for the HSCC?

What is required of teachers?

Preparation

The ACHSC **strongly recommends** for teachers to help students prepare for the HSCC by helping students familiarise themselves with the ACHSC's cancer syllabus, which is free to download and distribute. It can be accessed via the ACHSC website or through this [link](#).

The HSCC is not a test of recall ability; rather, it is designed to encourage students to apply the concepts in the ACHSC syllabus in solving a series of multiple choice questions.

Furthermore, students will not be disadvantaged by completing the HSCC without attending the HSCC.

Logistics

Following successful registration, schools will receive a **mail package** near the HSCC date containing HSCC papers, answer sheets, and a prepaid return envelope. Each paper will also contain instructions for teachers and students. Teachers may wish to prepare some 2B pencils for students to use when filling out the HSCC answer sheets.

Teachers are expected to organise a time and place on **Friday 13th September 2019** for their registered students to complete the High School Cancer Competition. The HSCC is a **60 minute long paper** to be **completed under standard test/examination conditions**.

Once students have completed the HSCC, teachers should **return answer sheets only** using the prepaid envelope. The ACHSC will then mark the answer sheets and notify the winners of the HSCC through their teachers, before distributing participants' certificates. The ACHSC will then correspond with the winners of the HSCC to organise their internships.

What is required of students?

As previously outlined, the ACHSC recommends for students to familiarise themselves with the ACHSC syllabus.

On the day of the High School Cancer Competition, students should carefully read the instructions on the cover page of the paper. They should ensure that their answer sheets are completed appropriately, using pencil, and that their details are correctly filled in. Otherwise, standard examination conditions apply.

The ACHSC wishes teachers and students all the best for their preparations for the HSCC!