



# STEM ACADEMY TRIP

# CANBERRA 2019

## APRIL 1-5, 2019

## Preliminary Information Guide

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The following pages provide preliminary information about the 2019 STEM trip to Canberra, to take place during the week of April 1-5, 2019 (last week of Term 1). The following information, including the cost, is subject to change as more details are confirmed closer to the date and the number of students is known.

**Students are required to submit an expression of interest (attached) and pay a deposit to secure one of the limited number of spaces on the trip.**

### Purpose

Canberra is the key centre for science in Australia. Canberra is host to a number of STEM-related research centres, educational centres and facilities which are not present in other parts of the country. It is also one of the most frequently visited places for interstate excursions for students from around the country. This trip will allow students to visit scientific facilities that are only present in the nation's capital – for example, CSIRO, NASA's Deep Space Communication Complex, Geoscience Australia, the Australian Institute of Sport, Questacon, the Australian Defence Force Academy, and others.

### Who can apply?

Any students from Years 7-12 who meet the eligibility criteria below may apply.

Students must have at least:

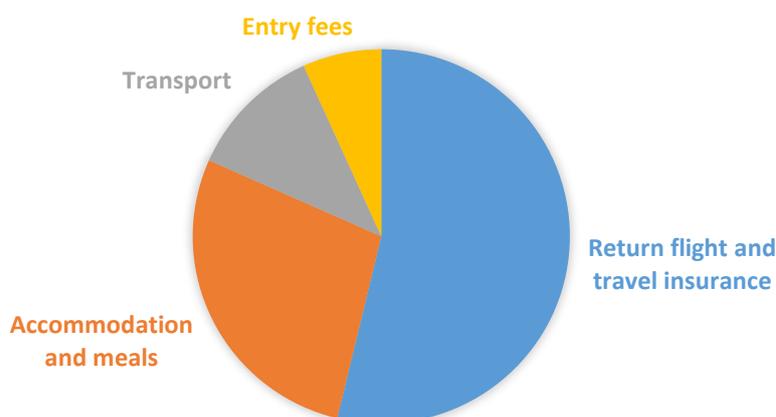
- High academic achievement, particularly in science and/or maths. For juniors, this would be shown by an A for science and at least a B for maths; for seniors, an A or VHA in a mainstream science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics) or maths (Maths B/C, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Maths). Students must not be failing any subjects.
- Behaviour level 1 or 2. (Level change applications are available from house leaders.)
- Attendance above 90%
- School fees up to date.

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places, **priority will be given to STEM Academy students**, then Year 12 students. Places will be filled after this based on merit.

## Cost

The cost of the trip will be approximately **\$1050**. The exact amount will depend on the number of students attending. Effort has been made to keep the cost of the trip as low as possible to make the trip accessible to all students.

The estimated cost has been calculated on a trip involving 15 students and is distributed as follows:



**A deposit of \$250 must be paid by November 9, 2018** to secure accommodation. The balance can be paid all at once or in instalments, but must be paid in full before the trip. Please note that the deposit may be non-refundable depending on the cancellation fees charged by our suppliers.

Students are permitted to fundraise (e.g., selling chocolates, car washing) up until the final instalment is paid. Fundraising activities are subject to approval if being conducted within the school to avoid clashes with other fundraising events (e.g., World's Greatest Shave, the Kokoda Challenge).

## Transport

The school will be flying with Virgin Australia as follows:

- Departing Brisbane airport at 8:45 am on flight VA01210 on Monday, April 1;
- Arriving back at Brisbane airport at 12:55 pm on flight VA10217 on Friday, April 5.

The cost of the flights include insurance (compulsory for school groups) and 23 kg of checked baggage. **Students are required to organise their own transport to and from the airport.** Carpooling is recommended.

Transport to and from the airport and venues will be in two vehicles (8-seater Kia Carnivals or 12-seater Toyota Commuters, or similar), driven by school staff.

## Accommodation

Teachers and students will be staying at YHA Canberra. This is a preferred accommodation provider for many schools visiting Canberra, and is centrally located among the various venues that will be visited.

Students stay in single-sex dorms of four or eight students with bunk beds. The rooms include linen and wi-fi, and are air-conditioned. Students have an individual locker within the room. Lights-out times will be strictly enforced.

## Food

The cost of all but one of the meals is included with the accommodation as part of a package deal with YHA Canberra. Special dietary requirements must be advised four weeks before departure.

There will be a semi-formal dinner at a nearby restaurant on the Thursday night to mark the end of the trip before departure the following day. Students need to bring \$25-35 for this.

## Missed classes and assessment

The trip takes place in the last week of Term 1, 2019. Students are likely to have some exams or assignment due dates that fall within this period. It is the responsibility of students to arrange with their teachers to complete all assessment before departure.

## What to bring

Apart from clothes, toiletries, deodorant, etc., students should also bring:

- compact umbrella
- smart casual change of clothes for the formal dinner
- respectable bedclothes (rooms are shared, and toilets are outside the room)
- water bottle
- sunscreen
- any necessary medication (including motion sickness medication if required)
- mobile phone and charger
- their student ID card

Students are not required to bring a towel or pillow.

It is not recommended that students carry more than \$40 in cash. Although the amount paid to the cashier covers all aspects of the trip, students may wish to purchase food at the airport (both directions); snacks and drinks between the 3 main meals; and/or souvenirs. ATMs and EFTPOS will be available at most venues.

## Draft itinerary

The itinerary on the next page is subject to change. It should be noted that some venues do not allow booking until closer to the date, so it is not possible to provide a confirmed itinerary until February 2019.

## Expressions of interest

**The attached expression of interest form must be completed and submitted to Mrs Keal by the 26<sup>th</sup> of October.**

## Further Information

For additional information, please contact:

- Ben Cossalter (STEM Academy teacher) [bcoss9@eq.edu.au](mailto:bcoss9@eq.edu.au)
- Charmaine Keal (HOD Science) [ckeal1@eq.edu.au](mailto:ckeal1@eq.edu.au)

| Time | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  |
|------|---|--|--|---|---|
| 7    |   | Breakfast  | Breakfast  | Breakfast   | Breakfast   |
| 8    | Departing BNE<br>8:45 am Brisbane time<br>Flight VA01210    |  | Travel to CDSCC  |   |   |
| 9    |   | Walk to CSIRO  |  |   | Travel to NM  |
| 10   |   | CSIRO Discovery Centre<br>(activity)<br>9:00-10:30       | Canberra Deep Space<br>Comm. Complex (pres.)<br>9:00-10:30 | ANU<br>(workshop and tour)                              | National Museum?<br>(self-guided)                         |
| 11   | Arriving CBR<br>11:35 am Canberra time<br>(timezone change) | Morning tea  | Morning tea  | Morning tea   |   |
|      |   |  | Travel to TT   | Travel to AIS   | Travel to airport   |
| 12   | Travel to YHA   | Parliament House (tour)                                  | Telstra Tower  | Australian Institute of<br>Sport (tour)                 | Lunch   |
|      | Lunch   | 12:00-1:00   | Lunch  | 11:30-1:00  | Departing CBR<br>12:15 pm Canberra time<br>Flight VA01217 |
| 1    |   | Lunch  | UNSW SEIT (workshop),<br>and ADFA (tour)                   | Lunch   |   |
| 2    | ANU<br>(AI workshop)  | Travel to GA   | 1:00-3:00  | Travel  |   |
| 3    | War Memorial<br>(self guided)                               | Geoscience Australia<br>(workshop and tour)<br>2:00-4:00 | Travel to YHA  | National Zoo and<br>Aquarium (self guided)<br>2:00-4:30 | Arriving BNE<br>12:55 Brisbane time<br>(timezone change)  |
| 4    |   | Travel to YHA  | Free time  | Free time   |   |
| 5    | Dinner  |  | Travel   |   |   |
|      | Travel  |  | Questacon Q by Night<br>(interactives)                     |   |   |
| 6    | Mt Stromlo Observatory<br>(tour and stargazing)             | Dinner   | 5-7 or 7-9<br>Bookings open Feb 2019                       | Travel  |   |
| 7    | Bookings open Dec 1   |  | Dinner   | Formal dinner   |   |
|      |   |  |  |   |   |

Notes: **Green** indicates venues and timeslots that we have booked. White indicates times for places whose booking schedules for 2019 are not yet open, or that can be moved if needed. **Red** indicates flight times. **Orange** indicates meal times (flexible).

# Expression of Interest - Canberra 2019

By completing and submitting this form, you are expressing interest for your child to attend the 2019 Canberra STEM Academy Trip, subject to availability of places.

The trip is estimated to cost \$1050. You will be invoiced for a deposit of \$250 after receipt of this expression of interest. **Deposits are due by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November.** Note that this deposit may be non-refundable depending on cancellation fees charged by our suppliers. Students who do not make the final list will not be invoiced.

The proposed payment plan for the balance of the cost is:

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December     | \$150 |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February | \$350 |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March       | \$300 |

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## Applicant information (student to complete)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year level: \_\_\_\_\_

I am intending on applying for the **STEM Academy** in 2019\*.  Yes  No

*(\*STEM Academy entry requirements for juniors: As in Science and Maths, and not failing any subjects; for seniors: A in Physics, Chemistry, Biology or an advanced maths subject, and not failing any subjects. Membership of the STEM Academy is not required for the trip, but STEM Academy students will receive priority if applicant numbers exceed capacity.)*

List your achievement grades for all subjects on your Term 3 report card below.

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My current behaviour level is: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Parent/guardian consent (parent/guardian to read and sign)

Please include my child in initial bookings for the 2019 Canberra STEM Academy Trip. I understand that if I wish to proceed with the bookings that a deposit of \$250 is due by the 9<sup>th</sup> November, and that it may not be refundable (depending on cancellation fees charged by suppliers).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return this expression of interest to Mrs Keal in Staffroom 1 by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October.*