StAC Pathways Link Programs (For SY students)

What are Pathways Link Programs?
- Programs are developed and offered by organisations such as TAFE, universities, employers
- Most programs contribute points towards your QCE or help to prepare you in some other way for your pathway through senior years and beyond.

Each Link Program has a set of criteria (developed by the provider organisation and the College) that students must meet.

What Link Programs are available?
While the specific programs on offer will change regularly, in recent years StAC has had Link Programs with:
- The University of Southern Queensland (Head Start, Tertiary Preparation Program)
- The University of Queensland (ESP Program)
- Bremer TAFE (Bremer Accelerated Diploma Program, TAFE Schools Program, Year 10 Taster Program)
- Southbank TAFE (STEP Program)
- SkillsTech, Acacia Ridge (VET in Schools Program)

New programs will be advertised as they become available, so remember to read your emails and the Pathways page of the StAC Portal.

How do I find out more?
- Visit the websites of the organisation offering the program for further information (including timelines).
- Listen to the morning notices in home group time, check the Pathways page on the StAC portal and read your emails.
- Please note that many of these courses are not adapted specifically for school students. They may be standard first year TAFE or university courses.

Who can participate?
Students in the Senior Years precinct can choose to complete an Expression of Interest (form is at the end of this information sheet) for one or more Link Programs.

Check carefully to see if:
- the Link Program is of genuine interest to you and supports the learning pathway you identified in your Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan. In many cases the morning notices, Pathways page or email sent from Pathways will provide a website for you to visit to read more detailed information about the program.
- you meet the set criteria (eg. beginning Year 11 in 2014)
- you can maintain successful grades in your school-based program of study if you take on an additional program. Some programs will require many hours of extra travel and study time.
- you can meet the cost of travel, tuition and learning resources (costs will vary, so check carefully)
- you can meet the learning performance or prerequisite requirements (eg pass in maths/English or average of ‘B’ on report)

Participation in any program requires the support/approval of the College and parents/carers prior to attendance.

Should I concentrate on my StAC based studies or apply for a Link Program as well?
It is very important that you give careful thought to this question before deciding to make an Expression of Interest. While there are definite advantages to undertaking extra studies in an area of interest, you need to be sure that this is the best decision for you.
Please give serious consideration (in consultation with your parent/s) to the following points before finalising your decision.

1. Does the program you are considering still fit into your future career plans?
2. How do you feel you are managing your current school workload?
   - How will you ensure that your school program does not suffer due to your extra studies?
   - There is little point taking on this extra study if it means that your results suffer because you have stretched yourself too thinly.
3. How will you catch up on the class work you miss when you attend your Link Program off campus?
4. Most programs will add approximately 10 extra hours of lectures/study to your program of study. How will you ensure that you can manage this extra load?
5. Are you considering attending university after you finish Year 12?
   - What OP are you aiming for to get into your chosen course?
   - Are you 'on target' for that?
   - Or, do you need to maintain your focus on your existing StAC-based program to improve your results?
6. What prerequisites are needed for the study you are planning after you finish Year 12? You need to make sure that you maintain the highest standard in these subjects (and as well as your other subjects), so as to maximise your OP.
7. Do you have a part-time job? How many hours do you devote to paid work? If your job starts affecting your results at school or for your additional program, would you be willing to quit the job?
8. What other commitments affect the time you have available for assignments, homework and study? Eg. sport, family duties, music. You must make sure that you keep some time for ‘rest and recreation’ – save some time for FUN.
9. How will you get to and from the location of your chosen program?
10. How will you manage the extra costs (these could include travel, tuition & learning materials) associated with doing this program?
11. Are your parents willing and able to support you (cost of travel, tuition & texts) if you take up this program?
12. Who else can you turn to for help?
13. Are you thinking about taking up this option only because you are excited about the opportunity? You are right to feel proud that your results and attitude to your work have led to this opportunity. However, you now need to make sure that you make the right decision for you and your current situation.

How do I get involved?

If you and your parent/s have
- considered all of the issues raised in this information sheet, and
- have read all the information about your chosen Link Program

Return the completed form to Ms Collier (Pathways Coordinator). You can also scan a copy of this form and email it to lcollier@bne.catholic.edu.au.

What happens after I submit my Expression of Interest?

You will be notified about the approval status of your Expression of Interest by email. Not all Expressions of Interest to do a Link Program are approved, as your school performance may not meet the conditions/criteria of the Link Program or the college may have other valid concerns about your ability to handle the additional workload.

If your Expression of Interest is approved, complete the application process for the Link Program you have chosen. Remember that each organisation (eg TAFE or Uni) has its own process, so follow instructions provided by the organisation.

Ms Laura Collier
Pathways Coordinator
St Augustine’s College, Springfield
lcollier@bne.catholic.edu.au

Expression of Interest form starts on the next page.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR StAC PATHWAYS LINK PROGRAMS 2013
St Augustine’s College, Springfield

Student: HG: Yr: 10 / 11 / 12

This is an expression of interest only and does not imply automatic College support for student participation in the selected programs.

These programs are offered through StAC links with other organisations. If both StAC and the parents/carers support the student’s expression of interest, the next stage will include completion of the expression of interest/enrolment/permission documents required by those external organisations.

Instructions
♦ Read the Pathways Link Programs information, which accompanies this form, then complete this form.
♦ Complete this form if you have found a Link Program you would like to do.
♦ Return the completed form to Ms Collier (Pathways Coordinator). You can also scan a copy of this form and email it to lcollier@bne.catholic.edu.au. (Please be patient, Ms Collier also teaches 4 classes)

PART 1

Date of birth ___________________ Name of Parent/Carer ___________________
Home Address ___________________ Suburb _______________ P’code ______

Contacts for Parent/Carer/Student

Work Ph ___________________ Mobile Ph (Parent) ___________________ (student) ___________________
(Parent) ___________________ (Student) ___________________
Email ___________________ Email ___________________

List all of the subjects you have studied/are studying. If you have not yet started year 11/12, list the subjects you have selected.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Subjects studied/selected</th>
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**PART 2**

Provide details about the Link Program for which you would like to apply.

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<tr>
<th>Program Name and other relevant details</th>
<th>Which course/subject area/industry area? (eg. Hairdressing, engineering.)</th>
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<td>(Remember that many Link Programs offer a range of different options at several different locations on different days – so give enough detail, so we know what you want!)</td>
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**PART 3**

STUDENT

**Why would you like to apply for the Link Program you selected in Part 2?**
(This is your opportunity to convince parent/s & College that you would make the most of this opportunity.) Give sufficient detail to show how you meet the criteria for student involvement in your chosen program.

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**PLANNING NOTES (OFFICE USE)**
**PART 4**

**PARENT / CARER**

Are you prepared to support your student’s participation in the program selected in Part 2? Have you considered any associated costs/transport, which are the responsibility of the student/parent/carer?

Comments……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
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**PART 5**

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

While seeking approval to undertake a StAC PATHWAYS LINK Program:
- Return this Expression of Interest to Ms Collier (Pathways Coordinator) in the Pathways Centre or via email (with scan of this form attached) at lcollier@bne.catholic.edu.au.
- Be prepared to attend an interview, write a letter of application, attend an information session, prepare a resume/statement etc if required by the College or the external learning organisation.
- Understand that this Expression of Interest does not guarantee that you will be able to participate in a StAC Pathways Link Program.

Once you are given approval to undertake a StAC Pathways Link Program:
- Undertake a full program of study until your Link Program is fully in place.
- Once your Link Program is in place, maintain a commitment to your remaining College learning program.
- Arrange suitable transport to and from the location of your Link Program.
- Complete and return all necessary forms.
- Be prepared to maintain regular contact with Ms Collier to report on/check on the progress of your school work as well as your Link Program.
- Follow the codes of behaviour expected of you at StAC and while participating in your Link Program. (Seek help if you are not sure what is required).

I accept the student responsibilities as outlined above.

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<th>Student signature</th>
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**PLANNING NOTES (OFFICE USE)**