

USCRL Headstart Academy

Aim:

The aim of this USCRL Headstart would be to get high school students aware of University, give them the chance to begin their degree earlier on and provide them with the opportunity to represent their university, state, and country in Rugby League through tertiary education.

Who:

The program in 2021 will target 6 Local Sunshine Coast students to be selected for the USCRL Headstart Academy.

Trial process:

Students will attend three consecutive dates to train and trial with the USCRL squad. If students can't attend a session, clear and apt communication is acceptable. The dates for the trials as of 4/8/21 will be as follows:

- 20th September
- 27th September
- 4th October

*subject to change due to covid-19 and potential clash of competition dates

After trials students will be advised on if they have been accepted. For those who aren't selected, they will be given plenty of advice and support if they wish to pursue down a tertiary route in the future and given clear communication as to why they were not selected in hopes they pursue personal development.

Students who are accepted will be provided support from USCRL into the application process for the academic aspect of the academy.

Attending a Rugby League Program school is not a standard or advantage, as every child deserves an opportunity and will be assessed equally.

Academic:

Step 1: Assess your options

Check your eligibility for Headstart, figure out what courses you are interested in, and plan which semesters you will study Headstart.

Step 2: Discuss with your school

Get your school's support for your application and check the course you want to study fits in with your school schedule and other commitments.

Step 3: Complete and submit your application

Complete the Headstart application form which can be found on the Application Forms page. Ensure all details are filled out, your school has signed the form and all supporting documentation is included. Relevant supporting documentation may include your most recent report card/progress report, awards, achievements, or references that demonstrate your suitability for the program. Submit via the lodgement details on the form.

Once accepted athletes will be expected to finish their required subject to the best of their ability with academic support being offered by the playing group, USC High-Performance program and other relevant associations with USCRL. Workshops both academically, lifestyle and rugby league based will be provided for the students as this would add to their university experience and upskill USC academy students for the future. As it stands it will cost \$440 for the year for the students, but sponsorships and other avenues are currently being pursued.

USCRL would aim to align them with mentor students who are studying in the field they wish to pursue or show interest for. We would also try to align students timetables where possible so that USCRL/High Performance Headstart have ample academic support.

Performance:

USCRL Headstart Academy students are enrolled at USC and considered as university students. The main aim is to develop their skills in Rugby league to a standard deemed acceptable to a USCRL playing standard, NOT to play these students while they are in the academy. Ideally a training session with the squad once every 2-3 weeks minimum and attendance at home games. This will be after thorough discussion with their parents, schools and USCRL to develop a suitable training program to be implemented to suit their schedule avoiding overload. Although these students are not expected or relied on to play for USCRL, if they are of a high enough calibre and given permission from parents and schools, they could have the opportunity to play for USCRL while still in High school which could lead to Uni representative teams (QLD & Aus). The aim however of USCRL Headstart Academy is to get them in to study at USC and allow them the opportunity to play consistently when they are an undergraduate not as a Headstart student. The incorporation and integration of the Headstart students in the USCRL team will also provide a supportive and safe environment, allowing them to navigate the new challenges of university with additional social support. The USCRL club aims not only on developing a students rugby league ability but also on their development and progression as a person and this aim will also be incorporated into the USCRL Headstart Academy program.

We are a USC student driven and operated club, so any support or advice that can be provided would be greatly appreciated.



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