Aspire UC is an outreach initiative of the University of Canberra (UC) established in 2010. The program is primarily funded by the Federal Government’s Higher Education Participation Programme (HEPP).

Through Aspire UC, the University of Canberra works with a number of schools across regional NSW to support the educational aspirations of students from Indigenous, financially disadvantaged, and/or regional backgrounds. Aspire UC aims to encourage post-school education to secondary school students who are traditionally less likely to participate in higher education. The program offers specifically tailored, age-appropriate activities for year 10 students, as they enter their senior years at high school and begin to explore options for their future.

In addition, Aspire UC offers teachers, Careers Advisors, school leaders, families and communities opportunities to learn and grow alongside their young people.

Schools in the Aspire UC network have the opportunity to take advantage of a range of free activities and information sessions.

**PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

Aspire UC consists of two components:

1. **ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**
   On Campus activities, such as UC 4 Yourself provide students with the unique opportunity to explore a university campus participating in a number of hands-on sessions whilst engaging with current students, staff and academics.

2. **IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**
   Teachers can select activities from a wide range of themes linked to the NSW curriculum based on the needs of the students. The in-school component provides an opportunity for students to be introduced to a range of options and benefits associated with Higher Education, without leaving their school.

*Please refer to the Aspire UC booking form for session details, participant capacity and scheduling details for both on-campus and in-school activities.*

**“MY EXPERIENCE AT UC WAS AMAZING! IT CHANGED MY WHOLE PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT I WANT FROM MY FUTURE.”**

**“VERY INFORMATIVE, I FOUND OUT A LOT ABOUT POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR MY FUTURE EDUCATION. I HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT I’LL BE ABLE TO DO AS FAR AS UNIVERSITY.”**

YEAR 10 MULWAREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, GOULBURN NSW
SELECTING STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

The Aspire UC activities are designed for students in year 10. School staff should use their discretion when selecting students to participate. The program is specifically designed to target students who have:

- Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander background;
- The potential to progress to higher education;
- Little or no family experience of higher education;
- A history of financial disadvantage;
- A rural and/or regional background.

“THE UC ASPIRE TEAM WERE ENGAGING, WELL INFORMED, AND ENTHUSIASTIC. THEY REALLY INSPIRED MY STUDENTS TO ASPIRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.”
CLASSROOM TEACHER, BEGA HIGH SCHOOL

ASPIRE UC FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION

All components of Aspire UC are evaluated by participants, supervising teachers and Aspire UC team members with feedback used to inform our processes and improve programming for future students. Student responses highlighted a greater interest in university and being better able to see themselves at university in the future.

School leaders’ and teachers’ responses to the classroom program delivery have been extremely positive with regards to the quality and relevance of the Aspire UC program. In addition, teachers have also reported an increase in students’ interest in post-school options.

“My experience was fantastic. It really helped me decide what I am going to try and work towards. Also, I loved the Expo because it gave you an idea about some of the [different] subjects.”
YEAR 10 YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

“For more information
Widening Participation, Student Engagement
University of Canberra
T 02 6206 3972
E aspire@canberra.edu.au
www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/widening-participation/aspire

THE UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA ASPIRE PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED A GENUINE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR RURAL STUDENTS FROM LOW SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS TO REDEFINE THEIR LIFE GOALS..... I FULLY ENDORSE THIS PROGRAM AS I BELIEVE IT IS REALISING ITS OBJECTIVES OF FOSTERING ASPIRATION IN YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO TRADITIONALLY DO NOT ATTEND UNIVERSITY. I HOPE OUR SCHOOL CAN CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM WELL INTO THE FUTURE.”
PRINCIPAL, BOOROWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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