



Open High School

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Careers News

Term 1 Volume 2, 2014

In this issue, you will find out about:

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Post School Destinations

Open High School has conducted a **destination report** tracking the whereabouts of our school leavers. The information is used to help the school develop our vocational and educational programs. It is also used in reporting for the annual school report.

Open High School had altogether 583 entries for the HSC Exam in 2013, all of which were Higher School Certificate language courses, namely, Arabic, Chinese, English as Second Language, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

About 15% of students were not contactable. The majority of these students were international students who might have moved back to their home country or had moved to another city to further their education, while others did not respond to the destination survey. Amongst the Year 12 students who responded to the survey, around 98% chose to continue with tertiary education, with the vast majority of them accepting places at university. Our students accepted local, interstate or even overseas university offers.



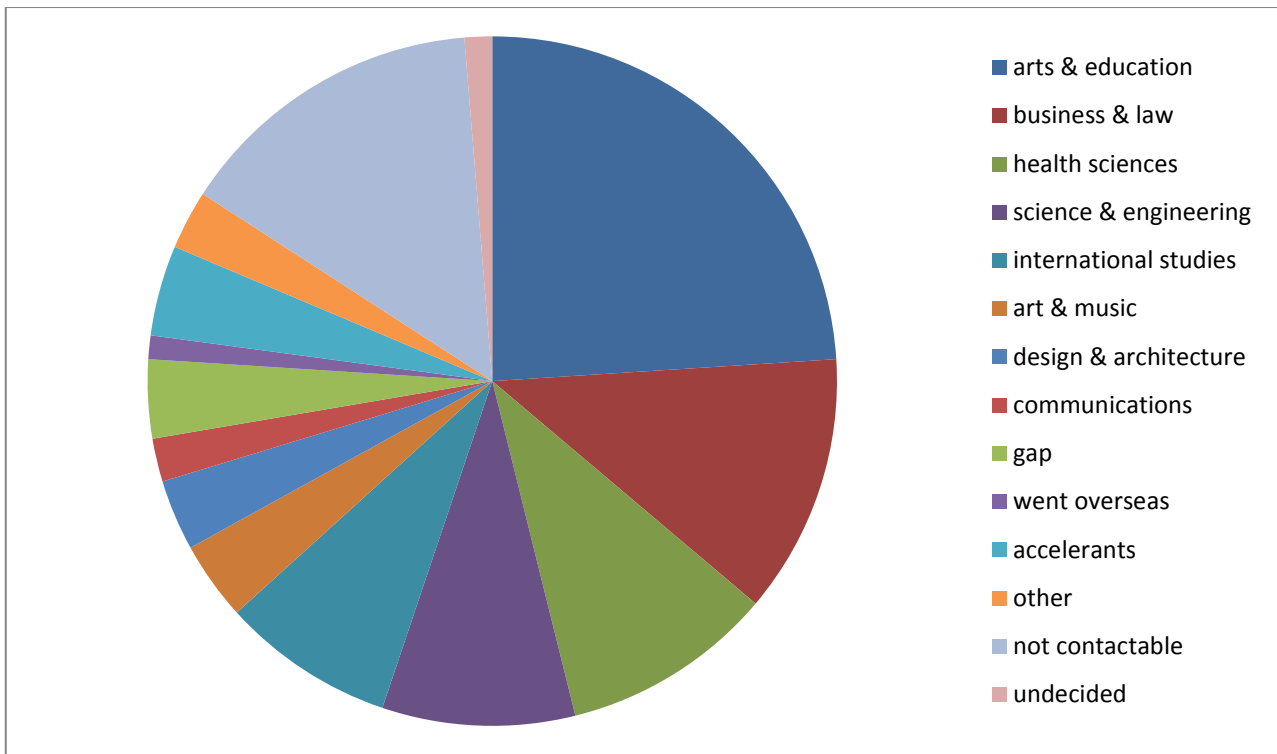
Some regional students chose to study at a university that was close to their residence.

Arts and education related courses gained the top spot (24%) for university offers for our students. Business and law programs attracted 12% of our school leavers. Offers for health and medical-related were strong. Enrolment in international and global studies attracted almost 10% of the students. At least 20% intend to continue to study a language at university level. Some students will study a language as a minor in their degree program while others will study one or more languages as their major studies and have plans to travel to the target language countries.

Those students seeking training at private colleges or similar institutions accounted for 3%. Courses undertaken included bridging course for further studies, theology and flying courses. Meanwhile, those choosing to defer their university study to take up a gap year made up 4% of our graduates.

Some 16% of students took advantage of the plethora of double degree opportunities. Degrees in law, commerce, arts and international studies predominated, often as part of a double degree. One student had gained entry to Oxford University and a few others will study their full degree program in the target language countries.

The chart below shows the post school destinations of the class of 2013.



Open High School Class of 2013 post school destinations

Congratulations to Indyana Schneider who has achieved an **ATAR of 99.95** at the 2013 HSC Exam. Indyana studied **Spanish Beginners** with us for her HSC. Indyana was offered but turned down a scholarship from the University of New South Wales and is heading off to the Oxford University. Indyana has shared with us her learning journey and some study tips.

Q: What were the options available to you after the HSC?

I have always wanted to study science and maths here in Sydney and was offered a series of very generous scholarship by the University of New South Wales at the end of last year. Then one day, after chatting with my friend and contemplating the size of the world and its many opportunities, I decided to send in my application to Oxford. It was an impulsive application. I applied to do music there and I was accepted. Before I was accepted, I had to go to Oxford for an interview. The course itself doesn't actually focus on performance but rather, there are a lot of academic papers that are related to music, to write. I can write a paper, for example, on mathematics and music and combine my two passions.

Q: Is there any reason why you decided to turn down the UNSW scholarship offer to take up the Oxford offer?

It was a difficult decision. We, my family and I, weighed up the two different programs and two different universities, countries, hemispheres with the opportunities presented at Oxford, its academic environment and the fact that I could potentially be travelling into London to do my opera singing lessons at places like the Royal Academy of Music... Oxford is definitely the right decision.



Q: Why did you choose Spanish for the HSC?

Well, I do not have any Spanish heritage but I've always said that I am definitely Spanish on the inside. I have had this affiliation with the language and culture of Spain from a very young age and

when I was given the opportunity to do Spanish through Open High School, I could not really say no. Actually, when I was at a flamenco show in Barcelona last December, I realised what it is that I find so magnetic about the Spanish culture. It is the passion. The passion inherent in Spanish culture is just so mesmerizing.

Q: Did the language learning at Open High School help you to get to where you are now?

It was a very interesting approach to learning. I'm actually quite fascinated with the idea of distance learning and the doors it can open. Open High School, firstly, has nurtured my passion for the Spanish language and culture; but it also teaches you a unique diligence. The nature of the course ensures that you learn how to be organised and how to be determined which are both really valuable when you enter the real world. Open High School learning taught me many organisation skills, which in turn, influenced how I tackled all my other subjects, and how I have tackled many a task over the last year. This sense of determination is vital to success – if you put in the work, you really will do well.

Q: Will you continue with Spanish in the future?

Definitely - for both my own enjoyment as well as practical purposes. I have always had this insane attraction to the Spanish language and culture. But when I was in Spain last year, the ease with which I was able to communicate my ideas stunned me. It was astounding how learning a language can open up so many doors. When I was in Italy, France, Austria and Switzerland, there were people who spoke Spanish. It was just an incredible means of communication. I am also planning to learn Italian this year and German is definitely next on the cards.



Q: What will you do upon completion of your university studies?

Hopefully in Oxford, I will be involved in all exciting tasks and projects like writing for the paper, continuing with my language studies, participating in the drama scene and perhaps investigating and researching music through mathematical and medical perspectives. University is about expanding your mind so I guess I will wait and see what happens.

Q: Do you have any study tips to share with other students?

Acknowledge that your way of studying and learning is different to another person. Figure out what works best for you and change your life habits to suit. For example, I know I find it more difficult to work efficiently after 8 pm. So I chose to wake up early. I also noticed that I much prefer to study away from home, but found the library far too social. So I chose to go to my grandparents' house to study – problem solved!



Also I know it sounds cheesy, but choose subjects that you genuinely love. Do what you love. Love what you do. The work that you have to do then will not feel work... most of the time!

I am also an avid list maker. For most of my subjects, I made lists of past mistakes, errors and criticism. For English, I would list elements of my work that had been criticised. For Maths, I wrote down my past paper errors. For Spanish, I had a list of vocabulary that I did not know from previous tests or grammar that I struggled with. Then when it came time for exams, I would read over the list and never made the same mistake twice!

We wish Indyana all the best with her new page in Oxford.

Information Days

IEP Working Adventures Worldwide Online Information Sessions

Date : Wed 19th March, 6:00pm – 6:30pm: Work Canada Job Fair & Work Canada

Date : Wed 19th March, 6:30pm – 7:00pm: Work USA

Date : Wed 19th March, 7:00pm – 7:30pm: Summer Camp USA

Date : Wed 19th March, 7:30pm – 8:00pm: Work Britain & Work Britain Visa Kick Start

<http://www.iep.com.au/Events.aspx>

Blue Mountains JobShop

Wed 19th March, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Katoomba RSL, 82 Lurline Street, Katoomba.

At this event, students can find out and apply for current jobs, apprenticeships and traineeships, get tips from experts about which jobs are in demand, learn how to market themselves and more.

Le Cordon Bleu

21st – 23rd March

If anyone is thinking of a career in hospitality, particularly baking or pâtisserie, Le Cordon Bleu will be attending the Cake, Bake and Sweets show in Sydney. Students will be able to attend special chef demonstrations and speak to recent graduate students and staff about the courses on offer -

<http://www.cakebakeandsweets.com/>

Lattitude Global Volunteering: Online Webinars

Mon 24th March – Thurs 3rd April.

Find out all the essential information about volunteering with Lattitude and the options available.

During the online session, Lattitude staff run through a tailored presentation, returned volunteers speak about their experiences and you will have the chance to ask questions you have. The first webinar is a general overview and then a different program is the topic of the webinar each subsequent day.

<http://www.lattitude.org.au/index.php?nodeId=166>

Anxiety in Teenagers Networking Event

Monday 31st March from 9.00 am – 10.00 am

Turning Point Consulting in Lewisham

Experts in student behavioural issues, transitions and research into wellbeing provide an engaging workshop offering insight into how anxiety is displayed in teenagers as they face unknown situations and challenges throughout their studies with tangible solutions to implement. Read more or register at our website <http://www.turningpointconsulting.com.au/networking-event-registration/> or contact Kathryn Taylor directly at kathryn@turningpointconsulting.com.au or on 0478 570 707.

CSU's My Days are chances for students to find out what studying at CSU would be like.

Albury-Wodonga

11th June: Teaching and Education

Bathurst

29th May: Arts and Psychology

5th June: Teaching and Education

Dubbo

17th June: My Day

Port Macquarie

26th June: Info Day

Wagga Wagga

21st March: Arts, Psychology and Social Work

12th June: Teaching and Education

<http://www.csu.edu.au/go/myday>

The HSC and Careers Expo 2014

29th May to 1st June (10am to 3pm)

Admission fee: \$10 per person

Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney

The HSC and Careers Expo is an important event for Years 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents featuring over 140 exhibitors with HSC resources, tertiary courses and career information. The seminar program features 115 presentations on HSC subjects, tertiary courses, career and study advice.

<http://www.hscandcareers.com.au/>

The Western Sydney Careers Expo 2014

19th June to 20th June (9am to 3pm)

21st June to 22nd June (10am to 3pm)

Admission fee: \$10 per person

Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park

The HSC and Careers Expo is an important event for Years 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents featuring over 140 exhibitors with HSC resources, tertiary courses and career information. The seminar program features 115 presentations on HSC subjects, tertiary courses, career and study advice.

<http://www.westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au/>

University of Wollongong Campus Tours

UOW offers free hour-long tours every Friday between 10.00am and 3.00pm throughout the year.

<http://www.uow.edu.au/future/visit/index.html>

Worlds of Work – The Foundation for Young Australians is excited to offer Worlds of Work (WOW), a national initiative, to schools across NSW. WOW builds the skills and beliefs young people need to make successful transitions into life beyond school. Through facilitated workshops focusing on personal development and future employment and conversations with employees from leading workplaces, this intensive week is a journey to broaden students' view of success and the changing world of work. Contact wow@fya.org.au to find out more

<http://www.fya.org.au/initiatives/worlds-of-work/>

Volunteer / Exchange opportunity

Volunteer Opportunity in Cambodia for students who want to spend 2 or 4 weeks during January 2015. Volunteers will be working on teaching projects in rural schools. This project is intended for school leavers who want to experience volunteering before starting university. For more details about information evenings contact Jean White at Jean@octours.com.au or visit www.octours.com.au

AFS exchange programs

The benefits of an AFS exchange are more than just the excitement, fun and adventure. An AFS experience will also develop a lot of the skills that are critical to success in your future studies, career and personal life. With AFS you don't have to be a top student and have the best grades to go overseas. What you will need is a commitment to education and your community as well as energy, drive and a desire to achieve. You must also have a genuine interest in people and the world around you. AFS has a range of different programs to choose from.

<http://www.afs.org.au/scholarships/>

OC Tours

OC Tours runs school tours, small group & personalised tours, and volunteer programs in rural Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Their volunteer program places students in teaching projects in rural schools, and is intended for school leavers interested in volunteering during their gap year.

www.octours.com.au

Antipodeans Abroad

Volunteer or work overseas to broaden your horizons, reward yourself, have a break from study and return more focused. Add value to your CV or choose a placement that will complement your tertiary studies. Information evenings for parents and students are held every couple of weeks. To find out more visit: <http://www.antipodeans.com.au/Home.htm>

Scholarships

Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships

These Scholarships are administered by a number of universities throughout Australia and are designed to assist Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander students to enter University studies with greater ease. Students must apply directly to the University where they are intending to study. Application due dates for Indigenous Scholarships depend on the University where you are applying to study.

To find out if your University administers the Scholarship, type into a Google search “Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships” and then the acronym of the university – “UQ” “UNSW” “UWS” “UWA” etc.

Alternatively, contact the university directly.

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/HigherEducation/StudentSupport/CommonwealthScholarships/Page/default.aspx>

University of Western Sydney: The Academy Scholarships

The Academy at UWS offers substantial financial support for high-achieving students who are committed to academic excellence and to making a contribution to their community. Scholarships include the VC Leadership Scholarship, valued at \$10,000 per year, and the Dean’s Scholarship and Academic Excellence Scholarship, valued at \$5,000 per year. The University of Western Sydney also offers other scholarships.

<http://www.theacademy.edu.au/scholarships>

Youth Off The Streets 2014 Scholarship Program

Nominations for the Program **close Fri 4th April**.

Provides financial support for young people who need help to pursue their talents. The scholarship is valued at \$6,000 and can be used in any education or training course.

Contact: (02) 9330 3500 or scholarship@youthoffthestreets.com.au

<http://foundation.youthoffthestreets.com.au/scholarshipprogram>

Other Information

The School for Excellence: Getting the Most Out of the Time Spent at School

This article discusses some ways for students to make the most of their time at school so that they can spend less time after school working.

<http://www.tsfx.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/HSC-2014-Study-Tip-2.pdf>

The Good Universities Guide now available as a free eBook - From the publishers of Job Guide, The Good Universities Guide has been redeveloped for over 23 years with the input of Australian career advisers, students and universities. Taking up from where Job Guide leaves off, what makes The Good Universities Guide unique is that it rates the quality of institutions and courses on offer against a comprehensive list of criteria relevant to students and their advisers. The digital edition of the Guide can be viewed at <http://ebook.gooduniguide.com.au>.

Hobsons Course Finder: Good Universities Guide 2014

Hobsons Course Finder allows you to search through the Guide's unique five-star ratings, which cover every university in Australia. The independent ratings cover all aspects of university life.

<http://www.hobsonscoursefinder.com.au/ratings/>

Australian Catholic University: 2014 Year 10 and 11 Course Guide

This course guide provides information that can help Year 10 and 11 students when they are choosing their final subjects in high school.

http://www.acu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/566371/FINAL_STR1559_Year_10_and_11_Guide.pdf

Charles Sturt University Year 10 Information Page

This webpage is designed for year 10 students possibly considering university study once they have finished year 12. The page features advice regarding year 11 and 12 subject selection, what to do if they are unsure about what they want to do as well as career planning advice.

<http://www.csu.edu.au/oncampus/getting-to-uni/year-10-information>

The Job I Love Guide

'The Job I Love' allows students and jobseekers find out about occupations and careers within the service industries. It has information about qualifications, how to find training, and what course goes with what job.

<http://www.serviceskills.com.au/the-job-i-love-careers-guide>

Tech Tools to Assist Learners with Disability

This article outlines a range of programs & tools that can be of use to learners with disability. The various tools are all designed to make access to computers easy for people with disability.

<http://www.diip.com.au/tech-tools-assist-learners-disability>

Youth Central: 6 Tips for Surviving Year 12

This article aims to help students get through their challenging final year of secondary school by providing six helpful tips for 'survival'

<http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/Studying+%26+Training/Secondary+Study/6+Tips+for+Surviving+Year+12/>

Martin College: How to Improve Concentration

This article details some things that students can do to improve their concentration & remain focused.

<http://blog.martincollege.edu.au/index.php/studying/improve-concentration>

How to De-stress During Exams

Bond University has released this funny video which is filled with tips to de-stress during exam periods.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4IHCwY838s>

For career information, please contact: Ms A Lam (Careers Adviser & Chinese Teacher)
9381-4815 or angela.lam@det.nsw.edu.au

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