



KEY MESSAGES

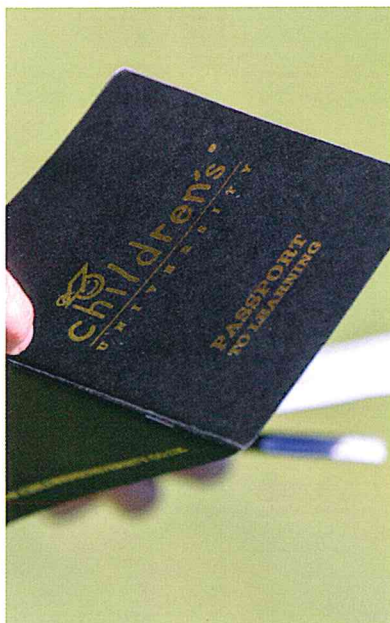


Children's University Australia (CUA):

- offers learning opportunities to children aged between 7 and 14 years (and 5 to 6 year olds with their families) and volunteering opportunities to students aged between 15 and 18 years.
- aims to engage children in non-formal learning and to help children develop self-efficacy, confidence and build aspirations by promoting the learning that takes place outside school hours, and linking to subjects that can be studied at university.
- offers quality-assured, superior educational experiences for children outside of the curriculum and recognises their achievements at formal graduation ceremonies.
- works in partnership with *Public Learning Destinations* including museums, art galleries, libraries, zoos, local councils and sports clubs.
- works in partnership with schools to establish *Restricted Learning Destinations* within the school (for example, book club, chess club etc.) as long as the activities are outside of school curriculum hours (i.e. before school, after school and during recess and lunch times). Children aged 7-14 'travel' to *Learning Destinations* with a *Passport to Learning*. Passports are stamped after each hour of participation in a validated activity.
- has proven to have a positive effect on student attendance, punctuality and behaviour, evidenced by the pilot group of students in South Australia and through formal evaluations with The University of Cambridge (UK). It is particularly effective in enhancing academic achievement and increasing ambition for students from backgrounds where university is not a traditional pathway.
- involves the whole community. You do not have to be a teacher to lead a club at school; leaders of clubs can be parents, volunteers, even older CUA students. For CUA students aged 15-18, hours accumulated through volunteering in this way can be recorded in a *Passport to Volunteering* and can count towards the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) as part of the Self Directed Community Learning Program. *Passport to Volunteering* is also recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.
- Children's University originated in the UK, and is active in Italy, The Netherlands, China, Malaysia, Singapore and now in Australia. These international networks across the Children's University community help children develop into truly global citizens. An example of this is the Go-Global program, which links Australian students with students in other countries.



WHAT IS CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA AND HOW DOES IT WORK?



CUA is hosted and administered by The University of Adelaide at its North Terrace Campus. CUA provides extra-curricular learning opportunities for children aged between 7-14 years and volunteer opportunities for 15-18 year olds; the aim being to engage children and young people in learning in its broadest sense and to provide the scaffolding for them to develop self-efficacy, confidence and aspirations.

The award-winning model, originating in the United Kingdom, is well established and recognised as being effective in enhancing academic achievement and increasing the ambition of students. Although open to all, CUA aims particularly to reach children facing educational and socio-economic disadvantage. Independent evaluations by the University of Cambridge have shown that participation in Children's University makes a difference to children's learning and achievements, both in and out of school.

The CUA concept is relatively simple: it offers superior educational experiences to children outside of school and recognises their achievements through the award of formal certificates. The model leverages local educational and learning activity providers including sports clubs, museums, galleries and school clubs. A strong emphasis is placed on acknowledging the value of accessing the wide range of learning experiences and environments in which children engage. These learning activities must have a link in some way to higher learning, for example, participation in a football club linking to physiotherapy, sports science or sports management.

Each child is issued with a *Passport to Learning* in which the hours of each activity are recorded. Credits are accumulated, and when they reach the hours needed to graduate from CUA, children are awarded with certificates at a formal graduation ceremony held in high profile locations, such as Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide. Graduation levels range from Bronze Award level for 30 hours of learning to Doctorate for 1000 hours of learning. Students aged 15-18 years are issued with a *Passport to Volunteering* to encourage them to participate in CUA by volunteering to run clubs, assist with graduations and events, become role models to younger students etc.

CUA is child directed in that each individual chooses to be involved and picks what they would like to participate in. Children are encouraged to explore and discover new ideas, concepts and experiences via *Public* and *Restricted Learning Destinations*. Organisations wishing to become a *Learning Destination* must have their activities validated by CUA before becoming involved. The activities are practical, fun based and voluntary and could range from after-school clubs (*Restricted Learning Destinations*), to museums, community activities, theatres, parks and galleries... the list is endless!

The establishment of CUA would not have been possible without the support made available by the Federal Government through its Higher Education Participation Program funding. This funding has enabled CUA to secure its place as the first Children's University in the Asia Pacific region.



WHY GET INVOLVED IN CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA?



Nurturing successful, independent learners lies at the heart of CUA. For children to develop resilience, optimism and confidence, the opportunity for self-directed learning beyond the classroom is key. CUA fosters wellbeing by promoting 'free range learning', encouraging children to try out new activities, discover new passions, visit new places and, above all, have fun!

Evaluations have shown that through participating in Children's University, children become adaptable learners, develop stronger aspirations, and are confident to pursue their dreams. In addition, evidence shows that Children's University participants have better attendance, attainment and achievement at school than their peers. (Source: 'Evaluation of the Children's University 2010- Third Report', Professor John MacBeath, University of Cambridge, January 2011)

Benefits for the school:

- Improved student attendance, attainment and achievement
- Opportunities to add to students' learning experiences
- Raise the school profile in the local community
- Increase the breadth of learning provided
- Nurture more confident learners
- Acknowledge learning outside the classroom and its benefits for in-school achievement
- Build relationships within the school community
- Supports the General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum
- Contributes to SACE learning
- Capitalises on existing extra-curricular provision

Benefits for students:

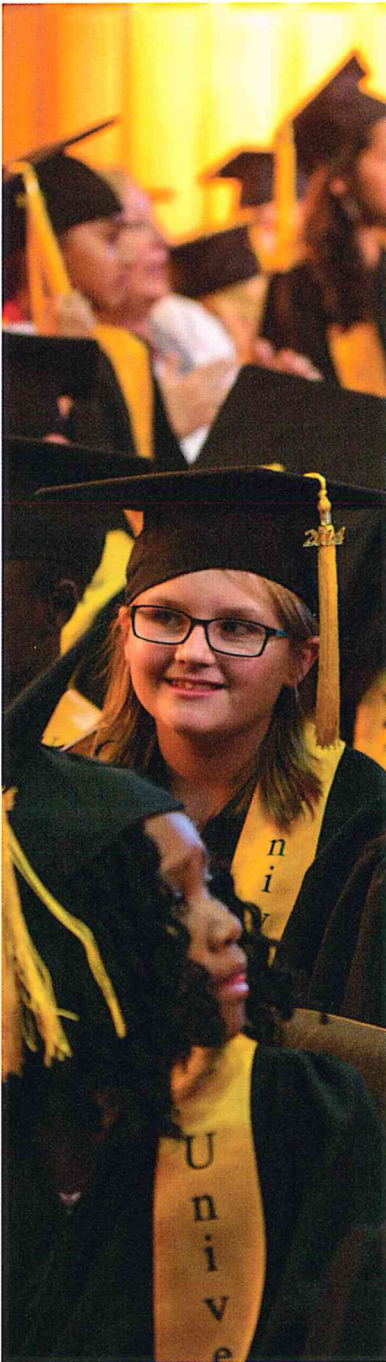
- Extended opportunities to be involved in learning beyond the classroom
- Discover the benefits of self-directed learning
- Explore and develop new talents and passions
- Manage and measure their own success
- Make new friends who have the same/similar interests
- Celebrate and be awarded for their achievements
- Develop leadership skills

Benefits for Parents:

- Quality assured activities out of school that address the needs of the whole child
- Opens up opportunities in a range of learning environments
- Opportunities to celebrate their children's achievements
- Opportunities for parental involvement in school activities



CELEBRATING AND RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT



CUA believes that celebration of achievement plays a key part in raising the aspirations of all children and provides a great opportunity for family and friends to share this experience.

Graduation ceremonies:

The main celebration of achievement takes the form of a graduation ceremony, held in a high profile location such as Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide, local civic centres or Town Halls. These are attended by parents, family and friends.

CUA certificates:

At these ceremonies, children are presented with certificates that recognise their participation in CUA activities. These certificates are awarded on the basis of hours of participation so that they can be gained by all children, irrespective of ability. Certification also provides a record of participation on a cumulative basis that is useful to schools in monitoring children's out of school learning and can help to identify and evaluate the extent of children's involvement.

Certificates can only be awarded to children who have followed courses that have been recognised by CUA, through its validation scheme, as providing high quality education. Again, this ensures that the certificates have real meaning.

Awards structure:

Children are encouraged to progress to higher levels based on the number of hours they have spent participating in CUA activities. Bronze, silver and gold certificates are awarded at CU Undergraduate, CU Postgraduate and CU Doctorate levels. The hours and expectations associated with these levels are outlined below. Honorary certificates are also awarded for outstanding achievement and commitment.



CELEBRATING AND RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATES

1. CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL: (30 to 400 hours)

The CU Undergraduate Level is the first step on the ladder of CU certification.

Children's University AWARDS

30 / 65 / 100 hours

Children's University CERTIFICATES

130 / 165 / 200 hours

Children's University DIPLOMAS

230 / 265 / 300 hours

Children's University DEGREES

330 / 365 / 400 hours



2. CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE LEVEL: (430 to 800 hours)

As part of the second stage of CU certification, at CU Postgraduate Level we are also looking for tangible outcomes which demonstrate achievement, such as displays, exhibitions, performances and publications.

Children's University POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

430 / 465 / 500 hours

Children's University POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

530 / 565 / 600 hours

Children's University POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS

630 / 665 / 700 hours

Children's University MASTERS DEGREES

730 / 765 / 800 hours





CELEBRATING AND RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATES

3. CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY DOCTORATE LEVEL: (830 to 1000 hours)

For the third stage of CU certification, it is the expectation that CU students at CU Doctorate and Fellowship levels will act as Leaders of Learning for other CU students in their local Children's University.

Children's University DOCTORATES

830 / 865 / 900 hours

Children's University FELLOWSHIPS

930 / 965 / 1000 hours



4. HONORARY RECOGNITION:

Children's University HONORARY AWARDS

These are awarded for outstanding commitment and contribution to the local Children's University, sometimes against the odds. This will reward aspects such as a child's attitude, behaviour, 100% attendance etc.

Children's University OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

These are awarded for excellence in learning and/or high quality work.





GETTING STARTED



One of the first steps in setting up CUA in your school is to appoint a CUA Coordinator to oversee the program. This role can be filled by a teacher or a member of the support staff and could be carried out in a few hours a week after the initial set up stage. The coordinator will oversee the running and validation of CUA clubs (*Restricted Learning Destinations*) in school, manage the issue and maintenance of passports, facilitate the *E-Passport* in school and liaise with CUA around the validation and provision of activities by *Public Learning Destinations*. Training in all of these areas will be provided by CUA as part of the enrolment package.

CUA will also provide assistance in the initial set up and validation of *Restricted Learning Destinations* in the school. These can take the form of school clubs delivered before or after school, at lunchtime or recess and in the holidays. Some schools will already have these in place, and it will simply be a matter of validating these by ensuring the learning fits the criteria laid out in the *Planning for Learning* document. Clubs can be run by teachers, support staff, parents or older students and can run over a short or extended period of time. CUA can provide examples of successfully delivered clubs and advise in the set up and timing of clubs.

The CUA validation process only validates the learning offered. It is the responsibility of the *Learning Destination* (for *Restricted Learning Destinations* this is generally the school) to ensure that standards relating to Health and Safety, Public Liability and Maintaining a Childsafe Environment are adhered to. As part of validation, a representative from the *Learning Destination* signs the Record of Validation to acknowledge that the organisation is aware of this. CUA will assist your school in seeking out *Public Learning Destinations* in your area, and will validate them in the first instance.

Children can be instrumental in bringing new destinations on board - the 'power of the passport' leads them to ask about validating activities they are already participating in such as local football clubs, Girl Guides, Scouts etc.

The membership fee includes provision for an annual graduation for children who achieve the required amount of hours of CUA learning. Graduations will be held in high profile locations, such as the University of Adelaide's Bonython Hall or local civic centres and Town Halls. These occasions are a great way to involve family and friends in sharing the celebration.

CUA also has a *Passport to Volunteering* for students aged over 14 to encourage them to remain part of CUA by participating as volunteers, running clubs, assisting with graduations etc. This contribution is recognised through CUA graduations, is part of the award requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh



GETTING STARTED



Award Scheme and is recognised as part of a SACE Self-Directed Community Learning Program. For more information about getting started with Passport to Volunteering please contact us.

How much does it cost?

CUA charges an **annual** membership fee per participating student. It is important to keep the costs for this initiative to a minimum but also ensure that the initiative is sustainable. The current fee is \$25 per student. This fee includes a *Passport to Learning/Passport to Volunteering* and an *E-Passport* licence. The fee also includes services from CUA as outlined above. Schools may choose how to pass this fee onto their students in order to ensure the participation of all students that wish to be involved. Schools that have been identified as disadvantaged, and all students with a School Card, will be offered a 25% discount on this fee. As we understand that every school has differing needs, we are more than happy to discuss ways we can tailor this fee structure to suit the specific needs of your school and students.



SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



CUA provides 7 to 14 year olds (and 5 to 6 year olds with their families) access to exciting and innovative CUA learning activities and experiences outside of the normal school day. There are opportunities for good quality learning experiences in many places.

As a member of CUA, schools will be expected to:

- plan and deliver high quality learning experiences for children aged 5 to 14 years in line with the CU Trust *Planning for Learning – A Framework for Validating Learning*
- identify a CUA Coordinator within the school
- ensure all participating students use the CUA *Passport to Learning/Passport to Volunteering* and *E-Passport* to log hours
- provide data about participation when required to by CUA
- pay annual membership charges as outlined in the supporting documentation

CUA will assist with the development and implementation of CUA within the school by providing:

- a support network
- certificates and graduation ceremonies
- support in the use of *E-Passport*
- training for school staff delivering learning activities
- initial support to validate learning activities

If you'd like your school to get involved with CUA, simply fill in the form on the back of this information sheet, and we'll be in touch.



SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We have read and understood the information contained in this pack and would like to become a member of Children's University Australia.

[INSERT SCHOOL NAME]

We would like to begin _____
[INSERT DATE]

and would like an annual membership for _____
[INSERT NUMBER OF STUDENTS]

Comments: _____

Signed: _____
[PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE]

Date: _____
[DATE]

*Disclaimer: It is understood that all schools are responsible for complying with relevant regulations with regard to child protection (as required by State and Federal Legislation) and any matters of risk assessment related to 'restricted' learning activities (clubs at school). Children's University Australia and the University of Adelaide are not responsible for the management of school clubs nor the welfare and safety of children taking part in 'restricted' learning activities. Children's University Australia retains the right to withdraw membership if a school is found to be in breach of the Children's University Australia guidelines.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS



PASSPORT TO VOLUNTEERING – CUA offers a *Passport to Volunteering* for 15-18 year olds. Volunteers can be involved in running clubs, assisting with CUA graduations and being role models for younger children. Volunteering hours are recorded in a *Passport to Volunteering* and their contributions recognised through the award of certificates. SACE students can gain between 10 and 20 credits as part of a Self-Directed Community Learning Program for volunteering.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY E-PASSPORT – An electronic version of the paper passport. The *E-Passport* enables the holder to keep an online record of their activities, and share their experiences with others through rating and commenting on their experiences at *Learning Destinations*.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES – Once students have attained the hours that they need to graduate from CUA (graduation levels are gold, silver, bronze and range from Award to Doctorate), certificates are presented at graduation ceremonies. Students involved in *Passport to Volunteering* also graduate in formal ceremonies.

LEARNING DESTINATION – are places children 'travel' to with their passports to participate in CUA activities. All *Learning Destinations* are quality assured by CUA representatives to ensure they provide suitable learning opportunities. *Public Learning Destinations* can include places like museums, art galleries, zoos and local councils.

RESTRICTED LEARNING DESTINATIONS – Are typically school based clubs; for example, chess, sports, language and dance clubs. *Restricted Learning Destinations* are only accessible to children enrolled at that school.

VALIDATION – All *Learning Destinations*, both public and restricted, are validated by trained CUA representatives to certify that they provide high quality learning opportunities with content that can be linked to areas of further study. Validation is the first step in a club or organisation becoming part of CUA. Many existing school and community based activities, such as sports or language clubs, will find it easy to meet the criteria for validation – an important part of CUA is to support and recognise these already existing activities.



LEARNING DESTINATION CONTACT FORM (see overleaf)



The Children's University Australia (CUA) concept is relatively simple: it offers superior educational experiences for children aged between 7 and 14 years and volunteering opportunities for 15-18 year olds outside of school and recognises their achievements through the award of formal certificates and graduations. The model leverages local educational and learning activity providers (including sports clubs, museums, galleries, school clubs) and has a strong emphasis on experience as a significant learning tool, acknowledging the value of the range of different learning experiences and environments in which children engage.

All learning activities must have a link in some way to a university course eg. Football club = sports engineering, physiotherapy, management, teaching, sciences etc. Each child is issued with a *Passport to Learning* in which the hours of each validated activity are recorded. Once they have reached the required number of hours children will graduate from CUA. Certificates are presented at graduation ceremonies held in high profile locations.

Learning Destinations provide high quality learning activities and experiences and have passed the Children's University quality assurance process, *Planning for Learning*. A *Learning Destination* can range from a museum to a farm to an airport to a corporate business or anything in between, as long as the activity connects with Children's University learning and has realistic links to a higher education program.

Becoming a *Learning Destination* can be a powerful way to engage with the community and contribute to the success and achievement of young people in your region. Being a *Learning Destination* is a great way to promote your organisation to the local community and to engage with young people in your service delivery.

Learning Destinations can enrich communities and build valuable networks that help support children and their families in their educational journey.