



ABOUT APGS

OVERVIEW

The Australian Performing Arts Grammar School (APGS) is an inner city, co-educational secondary school established solely to train, educate and inspire students with a talent in the performing or creative arts. APGS seeks to build confidence and ability in each student through an innovative school programme focusing on academic and performing arts excellence.

APGS caters for students from Years 7-12, with entry to the school based on an audition, interview and exam. Once enrolled students study Board of Studies approved curriculum leading to their HSC, along with a rigorous performing arts programme fostering the development of skills in their chosen disciplines and interests.

OUR CAMPUS

APGS launched its exciting new Broadway campus in 2012, located within close proximity to the Sydney CBD and right in the heart of the education district.

A vibrant and bustling area packed with cafes, shopping and performance venues, the APGS Broadway campus is strategically located close to Central Train Station, Broadway Shopping Centre, Victoria Park, Seymour Centre, Sydney University, UTS and a number of other landmark amenities and educational establishments.

The APGS campus is housed in a magnificent building refurbished with purpose-built facilities for students and staff including auditoriums, learning areas, computer and technology lab, art studio, and a number of specialist rehearsal spaces to cater for dance, drama, music and theatre training. This unique environment is

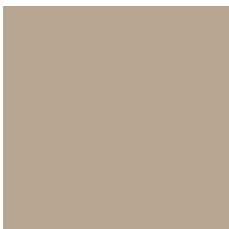
conducive to learning and creativity, further enhanced by the beautiful surroundings with Victoria Park and Lake Northam on it's doorstep.

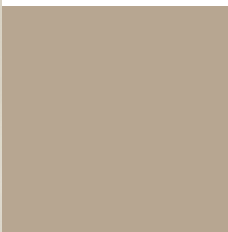
The APGS campus is easily accessible by public transport, located within a short walk from Central railway station and with regular bus services stopping in front of the building from many areas of Sydney.

STRATEGIC LINKS

APGS is an ideal institution through which to build a network of contacts. Outward looking and aware that the arts and entertainment industries turn over billions of dollars, APGS brings to the students working professionals with the energy and vision to make projects happen.

Industry seasoned producers, directors, film makers and performers are regularly invited to share their stories with the students, balancing inspiration with the awareness of the perspiration it takes to forge a career in the arts. Links with other training organizations, local and international, are nurtured as a priority as APGS opens pathways to further learning, whether technical, financial or artistic.







CURRICULUM

The Australian Performing Arts Grammar School brings together young people of creative ability and academic commitment. The School offers an enriched curriculum which fosters independence, self-esteem, and a sense of commitment to the wider community. Our philosophy revolves around the values of respect, commitment and connection, and our students are encouraged to explore ideas and to expand their skills within a framework of trust and encouragement. APGS offers an arts rich and rigorous academic education in an international environment that fosters and provides students with the opportunity to flourish intellectually, creatively, and spiritually.

JUNIOR CURRICULUM

At APGS we offer a diverse curriculum which is delivered in semester blocks. In all subjects, students will be placed with their age cohorts in all subject areas.

To satisfy the BOSTES requirements for the RoSA students must complete a specified number of courses and hours in a variety of subject areas. Some courses are mandatory whilst others are electives. In Year 7 and 8 all students must complete the mandatory areas of study in English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Design and Technology, a language other than English, Visual Arts, Music and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education. At APGS, all students also study their individual performing arts discipline each year. Year 9 and 10 students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and two electives. Mandatory

electives subjects include Drama and Music, with the third elective being either Dance or Visual Arts. Languages may be studied through Distance Education.

SENIOR CURRICULUM

A wide range of Board Developed and Board Endorsed courses are offered at APGS. In the Preliminary Course students undertake 12 units including 2 units of English (which is mandatory) and a minimum of five subjects (10 units including 2 units of English). In Year 12, course offerings include English, Drama, Dance, Music 1, Visual Arts, and then a choice from a wide range of courses which may include courses such as Society and Culture, Mathematics, Business Studies, Ancient History, Geography, Legal Studies, and Biology. The courses offered each year may vary to suit the needs of that cohort. The school also offers a comprehensive range of electives which are not offered on campus through the Sydney Distance Learning High School and Open High School.

Information Technology tools are integrated throughout all aspects of teaching and learning, and the school is well equipped and networked to interactively meet student needs. Students undertake studies across the curriculum to meet all BOSTES requirements. Equal emphasis is placed on academics and performing arts to help empower graduates with diverse study and career pathways for the future.

Students complete their academic studies according to timetable allocations and elective choices over the course of four days. Fridays are dedicated to skills training by industry

professionals. Students are divided into specialized groups according to their chosen major focus area: dance, music, acting or design/art. Students collaborate according to the assigned project they are rehearsing for performance. Dancers work with musicians, composers with directors, singers with instrumentalists, actors with choreographers. The emphasis on these classes is on original work, cross-art collaboration and ensemble work practices. Students can also choose to develop individual repertoire for solo performance as part of their studies but must maintain a significant presence in collaborative projects.

Extra curricular activities centre on the creative arts, with outside performances, productions, competitions, ensemble work, excursions and the publication of student works regular occurrences.





PERFORMING ARTS

The APGS performing arts program is rigorous, challenging and provides an environment for extended learning in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts

Students have many opportunities to be involved in performance and APGS will continue to support and encourage each student throughout their individual journey.

The program is timetabled over two full days, where students of Year 7-10 can explore four key streams, Dance, Visual Arts, Drama and Music.

DANCE

Technique

Students will learn to identify and develop classical and modern techniques. Areas of study include working on placement, alignment, and quality of movement. Students will focus on developing core strength, flexibility, coordination and kinaesthetic awareness.

Lyrical

Students will train in the style of contemporary technique through centre work, progressions, and short movement phrases. This class will utilise and continue to develop students' contemporary technique as a basis for extending into interpretation with a focus on performance.

Musical Theatre Production

This course is structured to provide training in all aspects of Musical Theatre. Students learn skills in singing, dancing and acting through a range of production activities such

as auditions, choreography, vocals and script work to complete an all-round performing course. At the end of this course students will understand what it is like to be in a professional musical theatre production. The emphasis is on both the journey and the final performance.

Jazz

Working in the genre of Jazz technique, this class will consist of progressions, kicks, turns and jumps, with the aim to develop a strong foundation for short excerpts of choreography. Students are encouraged to develop their own stylistic interpretation when performing choreography.

Song and Dance

Students will focus on a particular performance piece in the genre of song and dance. Learning choreography and vocals in parallel will allow student to develop these skills as an all-round performer. This subject provides useful experience both practically and stylistically when performing as part of an ensemble, encouraging students to extend their repertoire and skills as a performing artist. Students will work as a group to create a show stopping performance.

Contemporary Company

This subject focuses on performance in contemporary technique. Students will be challenged technically, physically, and mentally. This continually evolving dance style is athletic, demanding and stimulating. Students will work together with choreographers to create dance works specifically for performance.



MUSIC

Percussion Ensemble

The goal of this ensemble is to build students' rhythmic skills and overall musicianship as they participate in the ensemble, developing a solid technical foundation to percussion and drum technique as they prepare repertoire for performances. Members of this ensemble come from wide ranging levels of expertise with some members having no previous percussion lessons. Always challenging and highly energetic, this class strengthens musical foundations in a fun and vibrant ensemble environment.

Small Instrumental Ensemble

Small Ensembles is a performance based program where students experience different combinations of small instrumental groupings (3-6 players) across the semester and prepare pieces from various genres to perform. Students are pivotal contributors in the repertoire selection process and work closely with their tutor to workshop their performances, giving students a sense of ownership and collaboration in the rehearsal process. The class will also focus on making sure students are able to adequately explain their musical ideas through making chord charts, lead sheets, and any other form of notation so they can convey to their ensemble members their ideas.

Instrumental Company

Instrumental Company is a contemporary larger ensemble with a focus on instrumentalists and their abilities, as well as a chance for students to understand their role within the larger contemporary ensemble. The traditional rock band line-up features vocalists, electric guitars, bass guitar, keyboards, drum kit and auxiliary percussion. Students work on their sensitivity to other musicians in their ensemble, understanding the role of the soloist and ensemble member, and communication with other musicians.

Vocal Ensemble

The Vocal Ensemble is a mixed choir with students of various levels of singing ability. Students rehearse a variety of pieces ranging from 2-4 part harmonies and selected from a wide range of genres including Contemporary, Art Music, Musical Theatre, Traditional/Spiritual, Folk, Gospel and Australian works. Students develop their aural ability and strengthen part-holding whilst developing their vocal technique and learning about voice safety. Students in this ensemble work towards elite competitions such as the Sydney Eisteddfod, and students are auditioned from within the ensemble for the opportunity to feature as a soloist or in a duo/trio to add diversity to the overall performance.

Advanced Vocal Technique

The vocal technique class is aimed at students who are currently having vocal lessons or who participate in a range of vocal activities within their performing arts life at school. Led by highly trained and well regarded performers, this class is designed to target specific vocal techniques appropriate to a range of styles of singing so students can enhance and extend their skills as a soloist and ensemble member. Classes are tailored to the needs of the students taking the elective as teachers assesses the needs of individuals and the group, programming skills based activities and lessons to extend students further.

Chart Reading / Improvisation

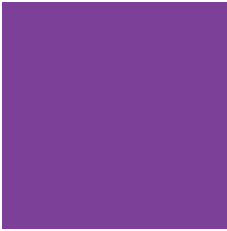
Modelled on tertiary jazz classes, Chart Reading/Improvisation pushes students to the next level of musicianship as they learn the finer details of jazz chord progressions, transitions, modes and practical improvisation techniques. With a focus on practical music making, theoretical skills are taught and practised in a small ensemble setting where students take turns as the soloist and accompanists, learning how to lead and how to follow.

eComposition

Students in eComposition class strengthen their skills in creative music making, learning to notate appropriately for different instrumentation, how to use expressive techniques and manipulate texture and tone colour to create interest and variety, categorising sound, style and genre exploration, and implementing aspects of harmonic and rhythmic theory into pieces of their own creation. During the year there are several outlets for students to showcase their creativity such as competitions, workshops, performances and collaborating with peers to play their compositions in showcase.

Performance Masterclass Workshop

This is a performance class akin to what students may experience whilst studying music in a tertiary environment. With a focus on extending students' performance skills, workshops are lead by a wide range of visiting professionals with different expertise on a weekly basis. Students are able to prepare repertoire of their own choice and register to perform in a workshop where they can benefit from individual tailored feedback from professionals who are highly trained and working in the music industry as instrumentalists and vocalists in a wide range of styles.



DRAMA

Learning via the neutral mask, improvisation and movement, how to achieve physical presence and physically approaching text and performance primarily based on Jacques Lecoq's method, are just a handful of skills and techniques students will learn throughout the elective courses within the Drama stream.

Clown and Improvisation

Classes focused on seeking the source of your comic nature, connect to your playful spirit and discover your clown.

Neutral Masl and Mimo-dynamics

Learn via the neutral mask, improvisation and movement analysis how to achieve physical and theatrical presence. Study the movements of nature, music, objects and how they correspond to movement of the human condition and emotion.

Costume Design

Students draw inspiration from one of the Four Humours to create a single character/costume. Students are involved in research, exploration and production of their costume/character rendering. Students are introduced to dramaturgical and conceptual understanding of character as well as the process of having to clearly present and explain their designs and the choices they made.



Set Design

Using the play *Cosi* by Louis Nowra as our text, through the process of breaking down a script, understanding logistical requirements, and thinking imaginatively about the themes and ideas of the piece.

Students learn to produce several responses to the play in various mixed medias, and produce a design that display strong dramaturgical understanding of the play and also a imaginative interpretation of staging and design potential. Students will be exposed to various skills including rudimentary model making, thinking in scale, rendering, communication of the movement of the design, understanding the elements of design theory, and how to clearly and passionately present their design and ideas.

Plays to Performance

Two Drama Companies, one Senior, one Junior, rehearse a play for a production. The Senior Company perform their play at the June Showcase whilst the Junior Company perform theirs at the September Showcase. The plays are directed by a professional director/teaching artist. The plays are chosen on the basis of giving the students a theatrical experience in contemporary theatre practice. Resident designer, NIDA graduate Hugh O'Conner, is designing the 2016 productions. In 2016 we will be producing plays from two award winning Australian female playwrights, Hilary Bell and Donna Abela.

VISUAL ARTS

The Visual Arts fosters interest and enjoyment in the making and studying of art. It builds understanding of the role of art, in all forms of media, in contemporary and historical cultures in our increasingly visual world. Visual Arts empowers students to engage in visual forms of communication.

Students develop their practice of art making with autonomy in selecting and applying visual arts techniques and procedures. They explore and investigate the world as a source of ideas, concepts and subject matter. Student artworks are informed by the Frames and by their understanding of the function of and relationship between the artist- artwork-world- audiences.

Through the Visual Arts students gain practical skills in 2D and 3D expressive forms and are given the opportunity to explore particular areas of interest in greater detail with guidance and facilitation. Students are given the opportunity to exhibit their Artworks in regular showcase displays in addition to yearly at a professional gallery.





ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

The Australian Performing Arts Grammar School (APGS) accepts students with a passion and talent for the performing arts, along with a strong commitment to academic performance and to the school's ethos and vision. Students are accepted from Years 7-11 based on the outcome of their audition, interview and entrance examination.

The application and enrolment process can be summarised as follows:

1. Potential students/parents can contact the school expressing interest in enrolment and to receive further information.
2. If a student/parent wishes to apply, an online Application for Enrolment will need to be submitted on the APGS website, under 'Future Students'.
3. Based on the eligibility of the application an audition, interview and entrance exam will be scheduled with the student/parent. Interstate/Country NSW applicants who cannot attend a physical audition will need to submit an online audition recording and supporting documentation. Please contact Admissions regarding the details of this process.

All applicants must bring along the following supporting documentation to their audition:

- Copy of birth certificate and passport
- Copy of most recent academic reports including most recent NAPLAN
- Copies of recent academic or performing arts achievements
- One recent passport photograph
- Two written references relating to you, the parents, from persons qualified to support this application (such as doctors, solicitors, etc.)

4. Interview, audition and entrance exam will all be conducted on the same day (except for scholarship auditions)

5. Applicants short-listed, based on their audition will be contacted with a Letter of Offer.

6. A student wishing to proceed with enrolment with APGS will need to complete the enclosed Acceptance Form and pay the Enrolment Acceptance Fee.

7. Upon completion of Step 6, the student will be officially registered as an enrolled student for commencement on the date listed in the Offer Letter.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Applicants are recommended to perform 2 pieces of contrasting style that best represent their strengths. Applicants studying multiple disciplines are encouraged to show off their full range within the 2 pieces (eg. 1 dance, 1 music item). Backing tracks and/or accompanists are welcome, however, prior notice should be given for technical requirements as required.

Visual art and design majors should bring a portfolio of works. Composition students should also bring scores and recordings of performances.

School Tours

APGS conducts school tours throughout each school term. The current dates can be found on our website within the section 'Future Students'. You may register your attendance using our online booking system. Alternatively, you may contact Admissions to obtain further information.

CONTACT

For application or enrolment queries please contact:

APGS Admissions
Tel. 02 9518 5123 (Option 1)
Email. admissions@apgs.nsw.edu.au
Web. www.apgs.nsw.edu.au

