



## Balmoral State High School – Innovate Academy

At Balmoral State High School, we are committed to fostering a culture of academic growth, excellence, and innovation that empowers students to become curious, capable, and courageous learners who can thrive in the rapidly changing world of the 21st century. We recognise that some students require greater academic challenge, extension, and enrichment to maximise their potential and develop the advanced thinking skills needed to contribute meaningfully to society and achieve to reach their individual potential.

To support this development, Balmoral State High School offers the Innovate Academy. This is a specialised academic excellence pathway designed to extend and accelerate students' academic and personal growth through innovative, enriching, and future-focused learning opportunities.

The Innovate Academy is designed for high-achieving, motivated learners who demonstrate strong academic potential and a desire to challenge themselves beyond the core curriculum. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to engage in deeper inquiry, authentic learning experiences, and meaningful connections to the world beyond the classroom.

Rooted in academic excellence and future-focused thinking, the Innovate Academy provides targeted academic extension and acceleration opportunities within the Australian Curriculum, with a focus on the core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities. Students will participate in learning experiences that focus on innovation, real-world problem solving, analytical and critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and project-based learning in authentic contexts.

Students in the Innovate Academy will engage in:

- Innovative and inquiry-based learning experiences
- Authentic real-world problem solving and application of knowledge
- Project-based learning opportunities
- Advanced analytical and critical thinking tasks
- Collaborative learning experiences that develop teamwork and leadership
- Extension and enrichment within English, Humanities, Mathematics, Science.
- Learning opportunities that promote creativity, innovation, and persistence

The Innovate Academy promotes Balmoral State High School's core values by developing learners who are:

- **Curious** — students who actively inquire, explore ideas, and seek innovative solutions.
- **Capable** — students who demonstrate resilience, analytical thinking, and academic excellence.
- **Courageous** — students who are willing to challenge themselves, take intellectual risks, and think beyond traditional boundaries.



Students accepted into the program may also access a range of additional extension opportunities, including:

- Academic competitions and challenges
- STEM enrichment experiences
- Excursion and industry-based learning opportunities
- Structured extension projects
- Collaborative interdisciplinary learning experiences
- Opportunities to connect curriculum learning to authentic real-world contexts

The pathway is designed to support students through their high-schooling journey, allowing students to develop advanced academic skills and build strong foundations for future learning, leadership and post-school pathway opportunities.

### Enrolment and Application Process

Balmoral State High School operates under an Enrolment Management Plan, and all enrolments are managed in accordance with Department of Education guidelines. The school's Excellence Programs, including the Innovate Academy, are open to **both in-catchment and out-of-catchment** students and provide an additional pathway for families seeking enrolment at the school, including families who reside outside of Balmoral's catchment area.

All applicants for the Innovate Academy must complete the Expression of Interest application process. Entry into the program includes specific selection requirements designed to identify students best suited to the academic rigour and expectations of the pathway.

Selection requirements include:

- Completion of the Innovate Academy Expression of Interest form
- Participation in an ACER HAST testing day (**\$200 cost for entry**)
- School reference checks, including Deputy Principal and primary school teacher reports

Students who are successful in the ACER HAST testing phase will progress to the reference checking stage, where schools will be contacted to confirm students' suitability for the program.

Following the testing and reference process, families will be notified of the outcome of their application as: Successful, Unsuccessful or For further consideration

As demand for the program is expected to exceed the number of available places, applications are assessed on merit rather than the order in which they are received. The Innovate Academy is a highly competitive program due to the limited number of places available, with only one class offered in each intake year.

Ongoing participation in the Innovate Academy is dependent on students consistently meeting the expectations of the program, maintaining high levels of engagement, and actively participating in the learning opportunities provided. Student participation and progress will be reviewed in line with school processes to ensure the program continues to meet students' learning needs and supports academic excellence.



## Innovate Academy Expression of Interest Form

*Please note: you must be enrolled into Balmoral SHS to be considered for the Innovate Academy. If you are not enrolled, please do so via the enrolments page on our school's website.*

*There is a non-refundable and non-transferable fee to participate in the required Higher Ability Selective Testing day at Balmoral of \$200.*

*The school acknowledges that the enrolment application processing fee of \$200 may pose a challenge for some families facing genuine hardship and financial difficulty. In response, Balmoral SHS may offer financial assistance to potentially cover or alleviate the cost of the entry requirements depending on the circumstances. We invite families for whom this fee presents an insurmountable barrier to application, to submit a request with this application as well.*

*Please send completed EOI form and relevant attachments to [innovate@balmoralshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:innovate@balmoralshs.eq.edu.au)*

**Student Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Primary School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Year Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Section 1: Student Reflection**

**1. Why are you interested in joining the Innovate Academy?**

**2. What strengths would you bring to the Innovate Academy?**

**3. What are your future goals or aspirations?**



## Section 2 – Academic Information

**Please attach copies of the following where available:**

- Two most recent Report Cards
- Most recent NAPLAN results
- Academic awards or certificates (optional)

**Please outline any additional information the school should consider as part of this application.**

## Selection Process

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in an ACER HAST testing session as part of the selection process.

Successful applicants from the testing phase will progress to school reference checks, including communication with primary school staff regarding suitability for the program.

As places in the Innovate Academy are limited, applications are assessed on merit. Submission of an application does not guarantee entry into the program.



**Inspiring Excellence.**

(EQJ) CRICOS Provider Number 00608A

**Declaration**

I confirm that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Parent/Carer Signature:**

**Date:**

**Student Signature:**

**Date:**

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED EOI AND ATTACHMENTS TO  
INNOVATE@BALMORALSHS.EQ.EDU.AU

**Agency, Belonging, Innovation.**

Thynne Road Morningside, Brisbane QLD 4170  
Web: [www.balmoralshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.balmoralshs.eq.edu.au)

Phone 07 3823 8588  
Email: [info@balmoralshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:info@balmoralshs.eq.edu.au)