



Children's University Western Australia Partnership

Information and FAQs for Families

What is Children's University Australasia?

Children's University Australasia is about encouraging and celebrating children's learning beyond the classroom. Children's University's main goals are to foster a love of learning, build confidence and foster aspirations – all by exploring new experiences!

Children's University Australasia is delivered through your child's school, in partnership with local universities. Edith Cowan University (ECU) and The University of Western Australia (UWA) are jointly delivering the Children's University Western Australia (CU WA) Partnership.

Where is Children's University?

Children's University happens wherever your child participates in a voluntary extracurricular learning experience outside of regular class hours. This may be at:

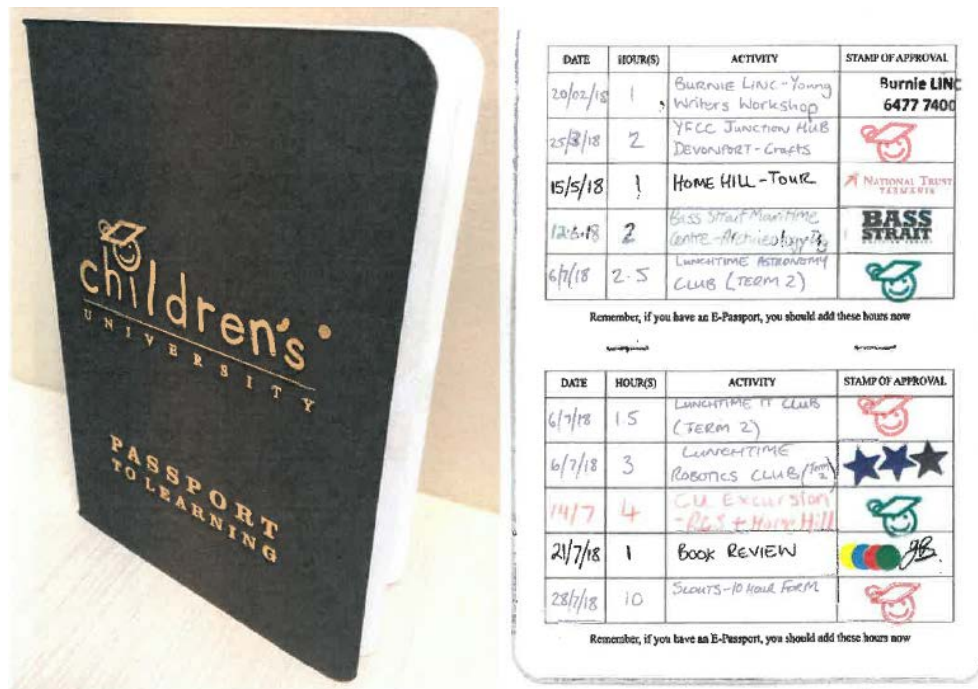
- Children's University Learning Destinations in the local community (e.g. libraries, galleries, museums and businesses) that have signed up to participate in the program;
- School lunch time or after school clubs;
- Regular out-of-school clubs or lessons (e.g. sports, music, dance, arts...);
- School holiday programmes; or
- Online activities on the CUA online portal.

Who can join?

Membership is voluntary, meaning, children have the choice to participate. Children's University is for children aged between 7 – 14 years. Children's University memberships are available through your child's school.

How does Children's University work?

Children choose which learning activities they would like to participate in and collect stamps in their *Passport to Learning* as they go. Children are encouraged to be responsible for their own *Passport to Learning* and their participation in the program.



Children are recognised for their participation with certificates that are presented to them by at a formal **graduation ceremony** each year, usually held on the university campus. The children graduate in caps and gowns - like the adults do! This ceremony is a celebration of the children's learning and efforts, where friends, family members and teachers are all welcome to come and share the children's achievements.

Register to become a CU member through your School Coordinator

Receive your *Passport to Learning*

Participate in extracurricular activities outside of class/school

Accumulate stamps and time in your *Passport to Learning*

Graduate at an annual ceremony and receive your first Award

Watch: Children's University Australasia – How It Works: <https://youtu.be/NNx7zgN3Wio>



Who stamps the Passport to Learning?

Just like an air travel passport, the only people allowed to write and stamp in the *Passport to Learning* are people who are authorised to do so. These people are:

- **Children's University Learning Destination** staff or volunteers will stamp hours for activities or events run by these organisations.
- **School Coordinator** in your child's school will stamp hours on behalf of:
 - In-school activities (e.g. lunch time or after school clubs);
 - Regular out-of-school activities (e.g. sports clubs, music lessons, etc.)
 - Online activities available on the CUA online portal
 - Any one-off learning activities or events that aren't officially signed up to Children's University
- **Children's University Western Australia staff members** from ECU or UWA will stamp hours for School Holiday Programs and Open Days run by your local university

What activities count towards my *Passport to Learning*?

Children gain stamps in their *Passport* through a number of voluntary extracurricular activities:

Children's University Learning Destination (CU LDs)

Selected public learning destinations have been invited to join as official partners by the CU WA team. CU LDs may include the local library, a museum or an art gallery, a recreation centre, a youth centre or community house, a business that runs children's activities, etc. Special events run by these organisations generally also count as eligible learning activities.

Learning Destinations give children high quality learning experiences and activities with a 'wow' factor. Staff at CU LDs have received training in the program's aims and how it works. The CU WA team assists them by reviewing the learning benefits of their activities and by facilitating additional opportunities for CU members.

- A full list of CU LDs is available on the CUA online portal.
- New LDs, upcoming events and special activities are announced in the CU Newsletter and via the CUA online portal.

In-School Activities (aka "Restricted Learning Destinations")

These are voluntary activities or clubs run by your child's school, outside of regular class hours (e.g. lunch time or after school). Your child can find out about these from the Children's University School



Coordinator. Up to **10 hours of learning** each year can be recorded in your child's *Passport to Learning* for each type of in-school activity.

Regular Out-Of-School Activities (aka "Regular Restricted Club")

These are activities, club sessions or lesson that your child participates in regularly, e.g. over a term or season. These may include sporting clubs, art or music classes or swimming lessons. Basically, any activity that requires membership, and usually a membership fee.

Up to **10 hours of learning** each year can be recorded in your child's *Passport to Learning* for one of these regular activities. To claim hours, children complete and return a "10 Hour Review" form to their School Coordinator. Forms are available from the Coordinator or the CUA online portal – there are forms for common activity types, as well as a generic form for any others types of activity.

University School Holiday Program or Open Day

Your local partner university (ECU or UWA) will also invite Children's University members to join school holiday programs on campus or University Open Days. Bookings for school holiday programs and Open Days will be through your School Coordinator. Please be aware that you or another adult guardian must accompany your child to these events.

CU Online

CU WA and the wider Children's University Australasia network provide a range of fun, high quality online activities on the CUA Portal. These are activities that children can usually complete at home, in their own time. Children submit their completed activities in the CUA portal. The School Coordinator reviews any completed activities (checking for a good effort, rather than marking or grading) and stamps the *Passport to Learning*.

Other Learning Activities

Of course, there may be times children take part in extracurricular learning that doesn't fit into one of the categories above. This might be an activity or event that isn't run by an official Children's University Learning Destination. School holiday vacations / trips often fall within this category.

After participating in this kind of activity, children can complete a "Learning Visit Diary" and return it to the School Coordinator, who will then stamp the *Passport to Learning*. Forms are available from the Coordinator or the CUA online portal.

How can my child achieve 30 hours of learning to 'graduate'?

Together you and your child can plan their Children's University learning experiences and activities using our "Plan for Achieving Graduation" (example below – blank form available from your School



Coordinator). Planning together is a great way to find learning experiences and activities your child and family can participate in, and it encourages responsibility for learning.

Activity	Number of sessions / activities	Type	Number of hours
Soccer training & games (1 hour)	Season	Regular out-of-school club	10 (max)
Lunchtime craft club (30 mins)	6	In-school activity	3
Lunchtime CU meetings to plan activities (30 mins)	4	In-school activity	2
After school robotics club (1 hour)	4	In-school activity	4
October school holiday program at university	1	School holiday program	4
Online activities – CUA portal	3	CU online activities	3
Family visit to local zoo / museum / art gallery	1	CU Learning Destination	2
Read & Review a book at local library	2	CU Learning Destination	4
TOTAL HOURS			32

To encourage trying new things and participation in a variety of activities, we recommend that children “Try New Things!” and avoid merely honing their skills in one or two types of activity.

What happens after my child achieves 30 hours?

Keep going! Children can ‘graduate’ more than once and receive different types of certificates as they progress through the program. There are many members who have achieved hundreds of hours and graduated multiple times over a number of years participating in Children’s University Australasia – there are always fun and exciting new things to learn about at Children’s University!

How can I find out more?

- Make a time to chat with your Children’s University School Coordinator
- Attend a Children’s University information session held at your school
- Read the regular Children’s University Western Australia Partnership newsletter brought home from school
- Visit the Children’s University Australasia website www.cuaustralasia.com
- Visit the (members only) CUA Portal to access online learning activities (your child will have a login from their School Coordinator): www.cuaportal.com