



Curtin University



Focus on Mining Application Guide

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About

Focus on Mining is an educational outreach program that offers experiential learning tours for Year 11 and Year 12 domestic WA school students. The program is designed for students interested in studying STEM at university, helping them better understand the emerging careers in one of WA's leading industries and the exciting opportunities available in the sector.

Over five days, attendees visit industry sites in Perth and Kalgoorlie, participating in presentations, mining-related workshops and site tours. Attending the Focus on Mining program can also lead to personal growth for the students, by providing opportunities to learn new skills, work as part of a team, and connect with like-minded students from across WA.

This program is proudly sponsored by Northern Star Resources (NSR).



Schedule of events

An **example** itinerary is provided below. Please note that this is not the final schedule and is subject to change.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Future of Mining presentation	Travel to Kalgoorlie	Northern Star Resources • Expert presentations • Tour of facilities • Hannan’s Tourist Mine • Underground mine tour	Second Mine Site Visit • Expert presentations • Tour of facilities	Super pit
Careers in Mining activity			Travel to Perth	
University pathways presentation				
Lunch				
Remote Operations Centre visit				

Who can apply?

This program is for Year 11 and 12 students living in Western Australia who are thinking about studying science or engineering at university. It is designed to help you explore the option of working in the mining and resources sector, whether you are already set on this path or still deciding.

How to apply?

To be considered for the Focus on Mining program, you will need to read this guide, complete the **Application Form** and submit it along with the **Supporting Documentation** by the application closing date.

Application form

You will need to provide your contact details, some background information (i.e. school you attend, subjects you study) and your parent/guardian's contact details. The five questions you need to address in your application can be found on the next page of this guide. Additionally, you must upload your most recent school report and a letter of recommendation (see page 5).

Please only start the application process when you have your documentation and responses ready.



Application questions

The selection panel will assess your suitability for the program through your responses to the following questions. If you would like to prepare your answers ahead of time, please be mindful that there is a **500-character limit** per question and your response may be cut off if copy and pasted from another document.

It is also important to note that the selection panel is looking for a range of participants. Please be honest in your responses as the program is designed for students with varied interests and panellists do not expect applicants to be certain about their future career pathway. **We encourage you to use your own words and not rely on AI responses.**

1. This program involves being away from home for a week during the school holidays and visiting active mine sites with other high school students from across Western Australia. How do you feel about this, and why do you want to take part?
2. Please detail what you hope to learn or experience during the Focus on Mining program.
3. What are your current plans for your future career or study pathway after year 12, and how (if at all) do you think mining or the resource sector could fit into this?
4. Have you done any activities (school subjects, projects, work experience, excursions, or events) that have connected you with STEM or the resources industry? Briefly outline them below.
5. Describe one experience that best shows what you would bring to this group. Be specific about what happened and what part you played.



Supporting documentation

To meet the eligibility criteria, you are required to provide a **Letter of Recommendation (LOR)** from a STEM teacher or career counsellor in **pdf format**. This letter should highlight your skills, interests and positive behavioural attributes, explain why you would be a great fit for the Focus on Mining program and how this experience would benefit you as a student.

Don't forget to include the contact details of your referee in the LOR:

- Full name
- Email address: direct school email, not school administration
- Phone number

Please see below for a template LOR to guide your referee in writing the letter. This is only a reference but make sure to include all the relevant information.

[Your School's Letterhead - required]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to recommend [Student's Full Name] for participating in the Focus on Mining program, July 2027.

First paragraph: State the reasons why you think the student is a good fit for the program, highlighting their skills, interests and positive behavioural attributes.

[Student's First Name] consistently demonstrates.... making them an excellent candidate for the program.

Second paragraph: Tell us how the program could support the student's career plans and future studies.

I believe [Student's First Name] would greatly benefit from the program...

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

[Full Name]

[Job Title]

[Phone Number]

[Direct school email address]

Selection process

All applications will be reviewed by our selection panel, who will determine the short-listed candidates. Places on the program will be offered based on the information provided in your **Application Form** and **Letter of Recommendation**. We value the effort and honesty you put into your responses, as this is what sets you apart from other candidates. We are not looking for perfect answers, we want to get to know you and your genuine interest in pursuing a university pathway into a STEM career.

Application outcome

You will receive an email with your application outcome within three weeks of the application closing date. Please note that your application outcome notification may have gone to junk mail, so make sure to check.

Successful application

If you are a successful applicant, you will receive an email offer for a place in the program. You will also be sent an **Acceptance Form** that you will need complete and return to secure your position.

Unsuccessful application

Spots are limited, so if your application was not successful, we encourage you to apply for the next intake of Focus on Mining, in January 2028.

Additional information

Should you require further information please reach out to us on:
Focusonminingcamps@curtin.edu.au

Ready to apply?

- ☐ I will be in Year 11 or 12 in 2027
- ☐ I am available from 5 – 9th July 2027
- ☐ I have a completed Letter of Recommendation and school report in pdf format
- ☐ I am ready to answer the application questions

The application portal will open **Monday 1st February**, closing on **Sunday 4th April 2027**. Click the link or scan the QR code to start your application: [Focus on Mining application](#).

