



# James Ruse Agricultural High School

## Selection Process for Years 8-11 in 2025

### Enrolment Limits

An enrolment ceiling for each year is set as follows:

- Years 7 and 8 120 per Year
- Years 9 and 10 150 per Year
- Years 11 and 12 165 per Year

### School Context

James Ruse Agricultural High School is a selective co-educational public secondary school located in Carlingford that endeavours to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional wellbeing of students; instil the core values of acceptance, service, participation, integrity, respect and endeavour (ASPIRE); and promote the importance of agriculture in the school and the wider community. James Ruse Agricultural High School has 858 students with 97% coming from non-English speaking backgrounds. Students are drawn from diverse geographic locations around Sydney and 100% of James Ruse school leavers undertake tertiary education.

The school's staffing entitlement in 2023 is 73.5 (61 teaching staff (2 school counsellors) and 13.5 non-teaching staff). To ensure that the service provided to the school community is the highest quality, the school employs additional staff with specialised roles.

The school has fully embraced the High Potential and Gifted Education Policy and has a well-developed professional learning program based upon it. This combined with professional learning communities centred on Harvard Project Zero's cultures of visible thinking ensures that the teachers are confident in supporting the academic and wellbeing needs of the highly gifted students at the school.

The school offers a differentiated curriculum with a wide range of enrichment, extension, student leadership and co-curricular opportunities for highly gifted students. In the junior years students are encouraged to study a broad and balanced curriculum and develop their passions and interests. From Year 9 onwards, students have opportunities to accelerate in Agriculture, PDHPE, Music, Japanese and Software Engineering. In Stage 6, there is an intensive focus on Higher School Certificate performance. Systems to track student progress and growth across all stages have been developed through the strengthening of staff capacity and expertise. To address gifted underachievement, the school has introduced an academic mentoring program as well as an expanded literacy support program. Peer mentoring and study groups are facilitated and supported by strategic deployment of school resources.

Students are encouraged to connect, succeed and thrive through the school's Wellbeing Road Map, which is a strategically planned program from Year 7 to Year 12. Daily interactions between individual teachers and small groups of students in their Connect@Ruse class forge greater opportunities for students to achieve a positive sense of belonging and to feel that they have an advocate at school. Students are further provided with opportunities to develop within the socio-emotional domain of talent through the school's emphasis on student voice and student leadership visible within co-curricular programs, Peer Support, the Prefect body and the Student Representative Council. The school's awards scheme and multitude of assemblies that recognise achievement further enhance the school's emphasis on aspirational outcomes beyond academic excellence.

Our success across all areas of school life is recognised by our high profile in a multitude of competitions including the International Olympiad, drama and musical pursuits, presence in ARTEXPRESS, OnSTAGE, Encore, debating and public speaking awards, STEM and robotics, as well as zone, regional and state sporting representation.

The school is very proud of its productive working relationships with the school community which are encouraged through a weekly newsletter sent to students, staff, parents and alumni. High rates of attendance at the Principal Morning Teas and the annual year group-based information sessions are evidence of good relationships with parents. The P&C runs the school canteen, holds various fund-raising events through the year including the Multi-Cultural Food Day, and together the school and P&C



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host a celebratory thank you morning tea for volunteers. P&C Meetings featuring a range of presentations by educational experts, including staff and alumni, are regularly attended by over 100 parents. Through the creation of a school foundation, the school has forged greater links with the school's alumni and thus has created opportunities such as the alumni speaker series, Ruse Alumni Mentoring Program (RAMP) and the 'Beyond Ag' competitions which are proving to be of positive benefit within the current student body.

### Vacancies

Prospective applicants should be aware that:

- For Year 8 there are historically very few, if any, vacancies, therefore places are not generally offered
- For Year 9, up to 30 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria
- For Year 10, up to 10 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria
- For Year 11, up to 25 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria
- James Ruse Agricultural High School does not accept enrolments into Year 12

### The Application Process for Years 8-11 in 2025

- Application is through the James Ruse Agricultural High School Application for Years 8 to 11 2025 Survey Monkey **online form**. The link will be available on our website when applications are open.
- The Survey Monkey privacy and security statements are available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/legal/>
- Please use the online application. Please do not email, mail or bring documents in person to school.
- All students must sit for the Edutest examination.
- The closing date for 2025 applications is 26 July 2024 at 3:00 pm.
- *Applications will not be accepted after the closing date and time.*

### Residency Requirements

If a student seeking placement is not a citizen of Australia or New Zealand or is not a permanent resident of Australia, conditions apply for enrolment in selective high schools. Find a list of visas and their eligibility for placement in selective high schools in the [Visa sub-class and enrolment conditions](#).

If your child does not meet these residency requirements at the time of applying but is expected to meet them by the time offers are made, you can apply provided you are already living in Australia.

### Selection Committee

Applications will be considered by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Principal. Deputy Principals act as the Principal's nominee. A community member is invited to assist in the selection process.

Applicants are required to sit the Edutest exam. For their application to proceed they must score comparable marks to the current students from our school who sat the exam.

The applications that proceed to the next stage are read by a sub-committee of the Selection Committee, comprising teacher assessors, selected and trained by the Principal. Each application is read by at least 2 teacher assessors and rated on the selection criteria (A-D). Each application is assessed at least twice, and the assessors' scores are tallied and recorded. Once a rank order list is created, the Committee (Principal, Deputy Principal and Parent Representative) decides on the number of interviews that will be held after reviewing the recommendations of the sub-committee.



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### Selection Criteria

#### Written Application

Report marks and comments are used from the past 2 years – English, Maths and Science are given priority. Teacher comments are very important.

External data becomes very important. Competition results are also very important: High Distinctions are considered average at JRAHS. NAPLAN results are considered: JRAHS students receive top bands in all categories.

Evidence of a balanced and resilient student who can thrive in a pressurised situation is gained through recognition of their co-curricular participation eg sport, leadership roles, service, volunteer work etc.

Proximity and ease of access to the school are also considered.

#### Edutest Examination for all years

For entry in 2025 the process additionally includes the taking of an exam. We use Edutest, an external company from Victoria. Edutest designs an exam that suits our specific needs, and they supervise and conduct the exam. Edutest provides us with student results and also a copy we can send the parents. We select a range of our own students to sit the exam in order to act as a control.

#### Interview

The Principal and/or other senior staff will interview students in order to determine their desire to change schools and suitability to thrive in the James Ruse Agricultural High School environment. Interviews may be in person or online. The student must attend the interview ALONE and any prompting by parents during the interview will be viewed negatively.

**PLEASE be aware that evidence of the claims made in the written application (competition results, leadership roles etc) will be required for submission when an applicant is invited for interview.**

#### Notice of Outcome

You will be notified by email about the outcome of your application. Some later offers may be made by telephone. Students may be:

- offered a place
- put on the reserve list
- advised that they did not qualify for placement.

If your child is placed on a reserve list, it applies only to starting in the school Year you applied for. If unsuccessful you can apply in future to start in subsequent school Years.

#### Response to offers

If you receive an offer, please respond to the school as soon as possible. If you do not respond within 7 days or within the time specified on your offer letter, the school will assume that you do not want to accept the offer. Where your offer is made by telephone you must respond within 24 hours.

If you will be away on holidays when offers are being made, you should leave contact details with the selective school(s) or delegate someone to respond on your behalf.

The offer will be withdrawn if the student fails to enrol at the school at the beginning of the school year without providing a satisfactory explanation.

You must negotiate any deferment with the principal. You cannot defer enrolment beyond the first day of Term 2, 2025.



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If you accept the offer and later change your mind, please tell the school immediately so that the next eligible student can be offered the place.

If you decline the offer, you will be sent an email to confirm this.

**Offers or enrolments will be cancelled if placement is made on the basis of false or misleading information.**

### Reserve lists

Applicants will be advised if they are placed on a reserve list in the school year they applied for. We will contact applicants if a place becomes available.

### Reviews

If you wish to appeal the selection committee's decision, you should contact the school within 7 days of the date on the outcome letter with detailed reasons why you believe the selection committee's decision should be reviewed.

You can request a review if you have evidence that the stated criteria for selection were not considered or the stated process was not followed. You can also request a review on the grounds that your lack of permanent residency should be waived if you have strong grounds to show that you have a reasonable expectation of staying in Australia for the student's high school education.

You should include:

- details of the published criteria or processes you believe were not followed by any of your chosen selective high schools
- how failure to follow those criteria or processes may have prevented the student from gaining a place
- any supporting material, where applicable. Reviews based on residency grounds must show evidence such as work contracts or business ownership or a letter from the Department of Home Affairs: Immigration and Citizenship indicating that a permanent resident visa will be granted very soon.

Decisions cannot be reviewed if they are based on:

- other assessments such as NAPLAN or competitions
- in-class rankings of one candidate over another
- not being given additional consideration if the student is from one of the 4 under-represented groups (students with disability, students from rural or remote locations, students attending school in areas of low socio-educational advantage, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students)
- disruption to learning while the student is on holiday or overseas
- illness or medical conditions
- moving house
- insufficient documentation supplied to the school with the application.

For performance-based reviews, only evidence relating to performance in 2023 and 2024 may be considered.

The selective high school will review the decision and will notify parents/carers about the outcome.

Following the outcome of the review, if you believe you have grounds to contest the decision, you can write to the Director, Educational Leadership responsible for the chosen selective high school. Find the relevant Director by calling the department on 1300 679 332.