



SNAPshot

RMIT's Schools Network Access Program (SNAP) aims to increase access to higher education, build a more diverse student population, and provide an equitable and inclusive experience for all students.

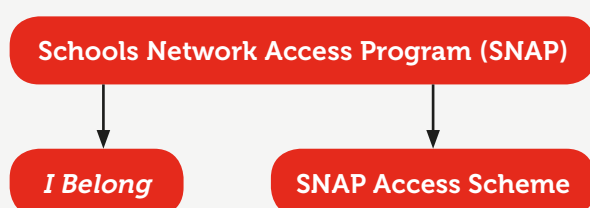
Schools Network Access Program (SNAP)

SNAP is RMIT's partnership with selected secondary schools, and focusses on building students' aspiration for, awareness of and participation in, higher education.

RMIT is committed to inclusion, and to being "an accessible and open institution dedicated to serving the needs of the whole community" (*Ready for Life and Work: RMIT's Strategic Plan to 2020*). The University has published targets to ensure the tertiary participation of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and SNAP is the principal mechanism for meeting these targets.

The partnership commenced in 2001 targeting a small number of schools in Melbourne's northern corridor. It has since grown to include over 200 secondary schools throughout metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

SNAP encompasses *I Belong* – a suite of on-campus programs for students – and a well-established priority access scheme.



I Belong

I Belong is a program of on-campus experiences for selected SNAP secondary school students, with a focus on regional and Indigenous student participation. Funded by the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) and supported financially and in-kind by RMIT, *I Belong* creates visible pathways for students from discipline exploration, to application and enrolment to RMIT (through the SNAP Access Scheme) or other tertiary institutions according to students' preferences.

Middle years (Years 9-10)

Programs range from multidisciplinary Tertiary Experience Days to five-day intensive, discipline-specific experiences. *I Belong* middle years programs enable students to:

- explore a university campus and imagine themselves as tertiary students
- demystify disciplines, careers and tertiary programs
- experience the city as an exciting and accessible hub of industries and opportunities.

"It has been a very great experience, intriguing and creative. I enjoyed the hands-on work and I like how the teachers made it interesting for us."

Year 9 participant, *I Belong*



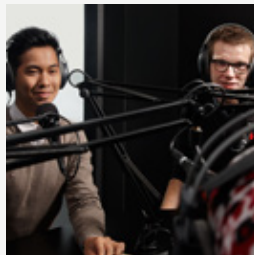
Senior years (Years 11-12)

Senior years programs build on students' discipline and career knowledge, and aim to equip them to succeed in tertiary education. Programs demonstrate a strong focus on:

- extended discipline, subject and career exploration
- practical skills for transition to tertiary study (often delivered by current tertiary students)
- study skills to enhance performance in VCE exams and prerequisite subjects.

“My experience at RMIT was good. It made me realise what going to university would be like and helped me to understand the process of going to uni more.”

Year 11 participant, *I Belong*



I Belong participating student numbers

80 **3376**
2011 2015

Evidence of impact

Evaluation of *I Belong* is crucial to its ongoing success, and participating students and teachers are asked to complete a post-program survey.

In 2015:

- 79 per cent of participating students in middle years programs indicated that their *I Belong* experience increased their interest in the study options available at university
- 92 per cent of participating students in senior years programs indicated that their *I Belong* experience increased their confidence about going to university
- attending teachers overwhelmingly agreed that their *I Belong* experience was well organised (94 per cent) and complemented the school's own careers programs (95 per cent).

Number of SNAP schools that participated in *I Belong*

3 **77**
2011 2015

To view a short film documenting a group of students and their *I Belong* experience, visit RMIT's YouTube page.

A recent evaluation of *I Belong*, conducted by Professor Sue Trinidad and colleagues at the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education, affirmed the quality and benefits of the program. The report stated that *I Belong* had “found a winning formula... [T]he program is of very high quality, engaging for students, offers valuable information to both students and teachers and is succeeding in demonstrating that university is a possibility for students.”

SNAP Access Scheme

The SNAP Access Scheme is RMIT's principal mechanism for increasing enrolments from students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and provides students with a clear pathway from *I Belong* participation through to tertiary enrolment and participation.

"Being a SNAP student made a huge difference to me and my studies at RMIT. I thought I had no hope of even getting into my desired course and, even now, I don't doubt that I wouldn't have without the help of SNAP."

**Rebecca, graduate,
Diploma of Photo Imaging**

The scheme considers students' ATAR achievements alongside a school-based assessment of their potential for academic success. Eligible students receive a significant re-rank on their ATAR, and equivalent extra consideration for courses that select on range of criteria (such as interview, folio and/or selection task). SNAP consideration allows students with ATARs up to 20 points below the clearly-in to be re-ranked into a position to be made an RMIT offer.

"The SNAP program from RMIT gave me extra confidence to list my dream course as first preference in my VTAC application. I am now in my second year of that very course."

**Stefan, current student,
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering**

SNAP students are successful

SNAP students consistently demonstrate the same patterns of achievement as their non-SNAP peers, with equivalent rates of retention and subject/course completion.

Number of SNAP secondary schools

9	222
2001	2016

Number of SNAP student enrolments at RMIT

27	1746
2001	2016

In 2016, SNAP students accounted for 49% of RMIT's low-SES student enrolments.

(VTAC-offered applicants (Round 0-2) as at Census date (31 March 2016).

Contact

For more information about the SNAP partnership, including the SNAP Access scheme and *I Belong* on-campus programs, contact the Equity and Diversity Unit:
9925 3181 / SNAP@rmit.edu.au