

Creating Pathways  
Towards Independence

OASIS  
COLLEGE

# PROSPECTUS

The Oasis College is a NSW Education Standards Authority (NESAs) registered high school providing alternative pathways for students in years 11 and 12.



Oasis  
Sydney

365 Crown Street,  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010





## HISTORY

### History of the Salvation Army

The Salvation Army was founded in London's East End in 1865 by William and Catherine Booth. Today, as back then, the Salvation Army exists to "share the love of Jesus by caring for people, creating faith pathways, building healthy communities and working for justice."

Today the Salvation Army operates in 128 countries and assists over 14 million people each year through a diverse range of different programs and services, including education and training. The Salvation Army adopts a person-centred approach that is designed to place the individual and their needs at the centre of all decision making and learning.

The Salvation Army has been delivering training and education in Australia since 1921 when the first Salvation Army training college was established in Sydney. Over the years, the Salvation Army has developed a number of high quality, secondary, vocational and higher education institutions including:

**Eva Burrows College** – offering vocational and higher education theological training.

**The Salvation Army Youth Outreach Service Independent School** – offering therapeutic education programs for students in years 10–12.

**Tom Quinn Community Centre** – offering community programs, employment, vocational training and schooling for years 7–10.

### History of Oasis College

Oasis College, located in the inner-city suburb of Surry Hills, is an independent secondary school for year 11 and 12.

The college is part of Oasis Youth Support Network, and the network is The Salvation Army's response to youth homelessness in Sydney's inner city and has been supporting at risk young people since 1992.

The network provides critical points of intervention and supports young people between the age of 16 and 25. From crisis and transitional accommodation, right through to case management, living skills, vocational programs, counselling and outreach services – the network has a rich history in providing social services to our community.

In 2016 we started to ask the question – what more can we do for the young people in our community? What are the gaps in our service and how can we improve our delivery to meet the needs of young people across the inner city?

After much deliberation and discussion, the answer became obvious, and our journey towards opening an independent school started. We sought to offer an alternative pathway for young people who could benefit from a more individual learning experience – an experience which differed from mainstream schooling. 2018 marked the first year of operation and was a landmark moment in the history of the Oasis Youth Support Network, with the opening of Oasis College, which welcomed 20 students to our year 11 HSC program.

*Updated: January 2020*





## SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT AND PRINCIPLES

### Purpose Statement

To build and foster lifelong learning, resilience and create pathways for a better future for all young people.

### Principles

Education at Oasis College is informed by six values derived from the wider Salvation Army's core principles.

- 1. Enthusiasm for learning** – We strive to deliver the best social, emotional and educational outcomes for our students.
- 2. The right to self-determination and cultural expression** – We recognise and advocate for the rights of all people and communities.
- 3. Social inclusion** – We recognise complex social issues require holistic community responses.
- 4. Self-determination and decision making** – We put the interests and objectives of our students and their parents at the centre of all that we do.
- 5. Independence** – We aim to create pathways towards independence and a better life for our students.
- 6. Partnerships and collaboration** – We will work with other programs, Salvation Army expressions, community groups, schools and all levels of government to achieve the best possible outcomes.

In stating the above principles, we affirm our commitment to the Melbourne declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians which reminds us that:

“As a nation Australia values the central role of education in building a democratic, equitable and just society – a society that is prosperous, cohesive and culturally diverse and that values Australian Indigenous culture as a key part of the nation’s history, present and future.”

## BENEFITS OF STUDY AT OASIS COLLEGE

### Additional Support

Oasis College provides individualised learning and small class sizes to ensure the best possible outcomes for students. There are well-being courses and therapeutic options available to enhance each student's ability to achieve their short term and long term goals. This is coupled with the support offered by the wider Oasis Youth Services.

### Person-Centred Philosophy

Our educational approach is individualised, person-centred and is designed to provide a safe framework through which authentic, compassionate relationships are fostered and developed in order to deliver optimal educational outcomes. Oasis College will provide a safe and welcoming place for fostering learning and for the delivery of responsive and relevant educational outcomes. The application of this philosophy will prepare young people for a life of independence and responsible citizenship. Our discipline and attendance policies are informed by the principles of restorative justice and are designed to promote reintegration and safety.

### Extra Curricula Activities

Extra Curricula activities are important to help develop a holistic approach to life and education. Oasis College offers the following:

- Art – through the Oasis Youth Services StreetMedia Program.
- Counselling and Casework (as appropriate) through on-site case workers and psychologist.
- Drive for Life – providing free opportunities to attain a driver's licence including driving lessons and help with the online driving test.
- Freeway – recreation and leisure activities.
- Music – through StreetMedia which has a fully equipped recording studio and musical instruments.
- StreetMedia (photography, graphic arts and music).
- Sport and Physical Education (PE) – in the on-site gym which has the latest equipment and access to personal trainers to improve health initiatives.
- Therapeutic courses such as Mindfulness, Yoga, Relaxation, Meditation.
- Well-being courses such as Health and Fitness, Stress Factors in Life, Resilience Builders.



## TERM DATES

Oasis College follows the same four-term structure as most NSW state schools.

<b>Term 1</b>	28 January – 8 April
<b>Term 2</b>	26 April – 1 July
<b>Term 3</b>	18 July – 23 September
<b>Term 4</b>	10 October – 20 December

## FEES

Oasis College does not charge any fees.

## UNIFORM

Students will not be required to wear a specific uniform, only casual attire with closed in shoes is required.

## STAFFING STRUCTURE

Oasis College is led by the school principal who has overall responsibility for the operational management and functioning of the school. Each class has two teachers responsible for the curriculum, teaching, assessment, students' wellbeing, individual learning, as well as learning adjustments. The quality, continuous improvement, data management, reporting and monitoring for the college is supervised by the Education Quality Coordinator.

## CURRICULUM

The curriculum at Oasis College has been designed to allow students to develop a pathway towards independence. Through the curriculum the students at Oasis College will have the opportunity to:

- Build independence and a life of purpose.
- Achieve their Higher School Certificate.
- Begin the journey towards realising their career aspirations.
- Develop vocational pathways and options in customer facing industries such as hospitality and business sectors.
- Improve their interpersonal skills and social literacy.
- Boost health and wellbeing, including resilience.
- Cultivate artistic skills.
- Build employability and other relevant skills to support their journey towards adulthood (e.g. by obtaining their learner and provisional licences).



## SUBJECTS

The Oasis College subjects include:

<b>Community and Family Studies</b>	Managing Change, Socialisation of Individuals, Parenting and Caring
<b>Computing Applications</b>	Hardware and Software Skills, Graphics, Desktop Publishing and Spread Sheets
<b>English Studies</b>	Achieving through English in Work, Education and Community, English and the Media
<b>Mathematics Standard 1</b>	<b>Communication</b> – Digital download and file storage <b>Driving</b> – Running costs and depreciation
<b>VET Certificate II in Hospitality</b>	Safe Work Practices, Hygienic Food Practices, Prepare and Present Sandwiches, Espresso Coffee, and Non-Alcoholic Beverages
<b>VET Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways</b>	Competency areas; Use Digital Technologies for routine workplace tasks, Write Routine Workplace Texts, Use Basic Drawing Techniques, Make Simple Creative Work, Contribute to Health and Safety of Self and Others
<b>Work Studies</b>	My Working Life, Workplace Communication, Team Work and Enterprise Skills

## APPLICATIONS

### Who Can Apply?

Eligibility to attend Oasis College is based on need, with the final determination to be made at the enrolment interview.

### How to Apply?

To apply, simply fill out an “Expression of Interest/ Application Form” and send it to the College’s Education Accreditation Coordinator (details below). Oasis College has ongoing enrolment.

### Contact Details

Education Accreditation Coordinator  
**0400 602 380**  
[oasiscollegesurryhills@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:oasiscollegesurryhills@salvationarmy.org.au)





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