



NSW School Leadership Institute

Aspiring Principals Leadership Program 2021

The Aspiring Principals Leadership Program (APLP) is a leadership development program delivered by the NSW School Leadership Institute (SLI) in partnership with the University of Wollongong. The program develops the leadership capabilities of school and system leaders and helps improve student learning in our schools.

The program is intensive, evidence-informed and action oriented. It is for leaders who are already having an impact in schools and seek to expand their influence and improve their practice as a senior leader, or those aspiring to principalship.

Program participants

This program is for leaders who:

- are willing to commit to a challenging program
- have demonstrated a positive impact in their current context
- can show how the program will benefit their leadership development
- are currently in an educational leadership position and are preparing for principalship.

Participants in this program will improve their:

- capacity to lead school improvement, innovation and change
- understanding of the leadership practices that have the greatest impact on student outcomes

- capacity to lead collaborative, evidence-informed professional learning to improve teaching and student learning
- personal and interpersonal qualities to lead with influence
- capacity to confidently lead the strategic organisation of the school.

Participants who successfully complete the APLP are eligible to apply for a Masters of Education or Masters of Educational Leadership at the University of Wollongong with 50% credit points.

Program components

The program includes:

- a 360 degree survey designed especially for the program
- nine leadership seminars delivered by international experts and outstanding practitioners enabling collaborative practice between participants
- online intersessional activities designed to support ongoing learning
- a school-based Leadership Inquiry that provides participants with the opportunity to analyse current practice, develop new learnings and reflect on the impact of their leadership actions
- an engaging Connecting to Country seminar to enhance cultural awareness of Aboriginal Australians

- support from an experienced principal as a facilitator
- a comprehensive validation of a portfolio depicting leadership impact
- a program Alumni to support ongoing learning upon completion of the program.

Application process

There is a rigorous selection process to identify participants for the program.

Applicants must provide:

- a digital story that clearly conveys their moral purpose to lead
- a written application
- two referees (including their current principal or line manager and their Director, Educational Leadership).

All applicants take part in a leadership conversation with an experienced selection panel before being accepted into the APLP.

“Thanks to everyone at the School Leadership Institute for helping me to develop the moral courage to lead our school strategically and ethically. This would not have been achieved without the thoughtful guidance of my Principal Facilitator, as well as ‘nudging’ questions from the leadership group and the commitment of our team to authentically listen to feedback and shape the process.”

APLP Cohort 1 participant

2021-22 applications

Applications for the next cohort in 2022 will open in Term 3 2021. Details will be available on the SLI website.

