



## CAREY GATE PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIPS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Carey's GATE Program

#### 1. Can my son / daughter be in more than one of Carey's Specialist GATE programs?

Yes, they can. As Music Specialist operates in a different place (Performing Arts line) on the timetable, these students can also be part of the STEM OR Academic Excellence programs. As the Year 7 and 8 Academic Excellence group meets after school on Mondays, other GATE students may request to join this group for some of their competitions (if space is available).

#### 2. How does the Carey GATE program differ from that of Education Department schools?

There are a number of differences between the GATE programs in Education Department schools and Carey's approach:

- **The selection process.** Carey's selection process involves a wider set of evidence to determine its ranking of applicants. This contributes to the invitation to the HAST Test; and points from the Application are also added to the HAST score (plus the audition results in Music). Not all applicants are invited to sit the HAST test; only the strongest applicants.
- The test results and other evidence is **weighted to determine which students are suitable for each of the three programs.** The Maths and Reasoning sections of the HAST Test are weighted more highly for the STEM program students; and the Writing and Comprehension sections are weighted more highly for the Academic Excellence applicants. In Music Specialist, 50% comes from the HAST + Application and 50% from the audition.
- There are three GATE specialist programs (STEM, Music and Academic Excellence) that are run in addition to the normal extension classes. In Science for example, the GATE students participate with the other Extension Science students for the normal 240 minutes, and are part of the specialist GATE STEM program (for 120 minutes) as well. This means they are **not in the same exclusive group for all of their classes, but mix with a variety of other extension students.** This is intended to encourage GATE students to develop their 'soft skills' of collaboration, interpersonal, teamwork, creative thinking, communication, etc., which are developed by working with a wider variety of students in different contexts.

### The Application Form

#### 3. Do all the boxes on the application form need to be numbered, or can we just put a number next to one option, if that is all that is being applied for?

Applicants can place just a 1, or a 1 and a 2, or a 1, 2, and 3 in the boxes if they want to apply for either one, two or all three of the programs. The most common application form received usually has a 1 and a 2 for two of the programs.

#### 4. Will my child be offered their second or third preference?

This depends on the number of applicants, their results and the number of available positions in each program. They will be offered the highest preference they qualify for based on their results.

## The Application Process

### 5. Do we need to pay to apply for the Carey GATE Scholarship Test?

No. The College pays a fee to ACER for the HAST test and its administration of the results.

### 6. Do I need to sit the Education Department GATE (ASET) test in order to apply for the Carey GATE (HAST) test?

No. However, it is good practice to sit a similar test (in terms of test literacy), and the ASET results can be sent in later (in mid-May) to demonstrate evidence of academic achievement.

### 7. If I have already sat the Education Department (ASET Test), do I also need to set the HAST Test?

Yes, everyone needs to sit the HAST Test, so that a fair ranking can take place.

### 8. Are all applicants invited to sit the HAST Test?

No. Applicants are ranked on the basis of their applications. Points are awarded for the student's school reports and the NAPLAN results, as these are academic indicators. Points allocated are not limited to grades, but also include behaviour, effort and attitude, and involvement in PEAC; plus any recent awards or certificates achieved (evidence must be supplied). The strongest applicants are invited to sit the HAST Test.

### 9. Can I complete the application form online, but hand in my documents separately at the school?

Yes. All online material is printed off and added to a file for each student application.

### 10. Will applying for the Carey GATE Scholarship assure a place for my child at Carey, regardless of the result?

No. They need to be successful in being offered a GATE Scholarship as a result of their HAST Test Results + Application. This is when they are offered a place in Year 7. An interview with the Principal is also required and an acceptance of the Scholarship offer within 7 days.

### 11. If my child has already been interviewed and confirmed for a place in Year 7, does that exclude them for the Scholarship?

No, all applicants are considered.

### 12. If my child has already been interviewed and confirmed for a place in Year 7, does that favour them for a Scholarship?

No. It comes down to the HAST Test Results + the Application, regardless of their school.

### 13. Are Carey Year 6 students favoured over external students? Or vice versa?

No. It comes down to the HAST Test Results + the Application, regardless of their school.

### 14. If my child has already had an enrolment interview for a place at Carey, and they are offered a scholarship, do they need another interview with the Principal?

A Principal's interview is only required for those that haven't had a transition interview and a place confirmed. Parents with a confirmed place only need to submit the accept / decline form.

## The HAST Test

### 15. If my child is unwell or unable to sit the exam on the day can they re-sit on another day?

*Please contact the Curriculum Office by 9:00am on Friday, 6 May. There is a contingency place if this is the case. If the student has flu-like symptoms, keep them at home.*

### 16. Can I get a copy of my child's test to see how they performed?

*All test papers are shipped across the country and ACER ranks the candidates and provides us with the results. We do not have access to the test papers and answers.*

### 17. The Education Department provides a performance report showing the four section scores and a TSS (Total Standard Score). Can I get this from Carey as well?

*In the Education Department system, the TSS (Total Standard Score) is the determinant of places offered in the main GATE program. At Carey, there are three different GATE programs, and there are different weightings allocated for each program, plus the points for applications are added. As a result, a TSS is not relevant. However, Carey will email an **ACER Performance Report**, showing comparative data for each candidate (similar to NAPLAN), and a **HSS (HAST Standardised Score Report)**. These are sent out at the same time as the Round 1 offers.*

### 18. Although my child is really bright, they don't do as well on tests. Will this be taken into account?

*Yes it will. However, these GATE programs are **academic selective programs**. To get an invitation to sit the HAST Test, all the application evidence is used to determine the ranking. More than half the points allocated come from the Year 5 report and the NAPLAN results.*

### 19. If my child is not selected to sit the HAST test, or does not get offered one of the scholarship places, is there any possibility of still participating in one of the three GATE programs?

*The Scholarship winners only form a part of the three GATE programs. **Additional (non-Scholarship) places are also offered to high achieving Carey students to join each of the three GATE classes.** These occur as a result of Year 6 reports; Music audition; strong performance in the HAST or AGAT test on Orientation day; or their talent or high achievement in a particular area. Invitations for these places are sent out during Term 4. A few additional places are also reserved to be offered to high achieving students in Year 7 and 8. These students may:*

- Have joined Year 6 or 7 after the initial application process;*
- Have not chosen to participate in the selection process;*
- Have not scored as highly in the HAST test in Year 6;*
- Be excelling later in Year 6 or during Year 7 or 8.*

### 20. Will students sitting the HAST Test receive a Certificate?

***ALL students selected to sit the HAST Test receive a Certificate.** These are sent to each school to be presented to participating students. A **Certificate of High Distinction** is awarded to students achieving Stanine 9 (96th percentile and above); a **Certificate of Distinction** is awarded to students achieving Stanine 8 (90-95th percentile); a **Certificate of Merit** is awarded to students achieving Stanine 7 (77-89th percentile); and a **Certificate of Participation** is sent to the other students who were selected to sit the test. Scholarship winners also receive a **Scholarship Certificate**.*

## **GATE Scholarships**

### **21. How many Round 1 and Round 2 Scholarships are awarded each year?**

*The number depends on the quality of applicants and the number of places reserved for scholarship students, which varies from year to year. Round 1 offers are made to the highest achieving students; with Round 2 offers made to those with slightly lower scores. On occasion, there may be a second set of Round 2 offers, if there are any remaining available places.*

### **22. What HAST Test score is needed to be offered a Scholarship?**

*GATE Scholarship offers are made on a composite score, not just the HAST result. This is different for each of the three programs. As an approximate guide, a HAST standardised score of over 240 was needed to be considered for a Carey GATE Scholarship in 2021.*

### **23. Do students have to reapply for the Scholarships each year?**

*No; the scholarships carry over for each year the students are enrolled at Carey.*

### **24. Can my child lose their Scholarship?**

*Yes they can. Scholarships are reviewed annually and a continuation depends on a student's positive conduct, academic progress and their contribution / attendance in the program. In terms of positive conduct, students must retain their 'good standing'. GATE student's academic progress is determined by students achieving a 1.8 GPA (grade point average) in their Semester reports. This can be achieved by a B average in Extension classes + GATE class.*

*If students fall below this level, parents will be sent a letter of concern. This letter gives a minimum of a term's notice in order to give these students time to improve their academic results.*

## **GATE Music Specialist**

### **25. If my child is applying for the GATE Music Scholarship, will they still need to sit the HAST Test?**

*Yes. The mark they receive is a composite of the HAST Test and the Music Audition (50% for each part). This is used to offer the Music Specialist places.*

### **26. Can my child apply for the GATE Music Scholarship with Voice (Singing) as their instrument?**

*Yes, they can.*

### **27. If my child selects GATE Music Specialist as one of their three choices, will they automatically get a Music Audition?**

*Not necessarily. The GATE Committee looks at the student's experience, AMEB level and instrument played, and offers an audition on the basis of these. A **minimum of AMEB Grade 2 (or similar) is recommended.***

*Generally the first preference listed on the application is considered more highly than second and third preferences. It would be unusual for a student to be offered a Music audition if it was ranked as their third preference.*

Any further questions can be directed to:

Staff Member	Title / Email	Responsibilities
Mr R. Stirling  <a href="mailto:rstirling@carey.wa.edu.au">rstirling@carey.wa.edu.au</a>	Assistant Principal – Curriculum GATE Coordinator	GATE Program Aims and Features Application and Selection Process HAST Test Scholarships Terms and Conditions GATE Selection Committee
Mrs T. Hardegen <a href="mailto:curriculum@carey.wa.edu.au">curriculum@carey.wa.edu.au</a>	Curriculum Administrator	Application Forms Documentation GATE Handbook Inability to attend test
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