



## Nuclear-Powered Submarine Program Commonwealth supported places

The Australian Government will fund 4,000 additional university places over the next four years to deliver graduates from STEM disciplines, including professional engineering, computer science, mathematics, chemistry, and physics.

Eight-hundred places will be allocated to South Australian universities, with the first 200 places commencing in 2024.

### Why is this important?

The Government is prioritising efforts to meet Australia's skills needs, including for the sovereign workforce needed to deliver on our AUKUS commitments. Australian universities will play a critical role in developing this highly technical and skilled workforce.

A pipeline of qualified STEM graduates and skilled nuclear professionals will support Australia's next-generation of conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines and to develop Australia's capabilities in nuclear research and science.

### Who will benefit?

Developing a pipeline of highly skilled STEM graduates will strengthen Australia's sovereign industry capabilities. This is good for Australian industry and good for our economy.

Support for these 4,000 places is in addition to the existing 20,000 Commonwealth Supported Places, already funded by the Australian Government to address skills shortages in areas of national priority, and to provide more opportunities for students from under-represented backgrounds.

The additional new places will also give Australian universities, and particularly those in South Australia, the opportunity to develop their credentials for excellence in STEM disciplines, including nuclear research and science.

### How much will it cost?

The Government will provide \$128.5 million to fund the 4,000 additional university places over the next four years. This measure will also support ongoing work to strengthen Australia's sovereign capability.