

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WORKSHOP



OUR HIGH-ABILITY CLASSROOMS: EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO EXCELLENCE



WORKSHOPS RUN EVERY TERM

2026

The Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) is pleased to announce the continuation of its partnership with Deakin University in 2026 to offer a professional learning program designed to enhance teaching excellence for high-ability students in Victorian government schools. This statewide program empowers teachers with effective strategies to identify and support high-ability learners through curriculum design and effective classroom teaching practices.

Workshop Overview

Environment – Who Are Our High-Ability Learners?

- Identifying high-ability (HA) learners and understanding their needs.
- The challenges they face and why these occur.
- Characteristics and traits of high performers, including 2e.
- Creating a culture of excellence.

Curriculum – What Do We Teach and When?

- Content for HA learners
- Integrating challenge within curriculum sequencing, timing, and assessment.
- Ensuring curriculum design supports HA students within a whole-class approach.

Pedagogy – How Do We Teach Effectively?

- Strategies to improve teaching for all students, not just HA learners.
- Evidence-based techniques aligned with VTLM 2.0 to enhance engagement and outcomes.
- Why these approaches are effective and how they can be implemented in diverse classrooms.



[Register Here](#)

Workshop Outcomes

The course aims to provide teachers with:

- the ability to confidently identify high-ability students
- strategies for differentiating teaching for high-ability students
- knowledge and skills to support twice-exceptional students
- an understanding of the challenges faced by high-ability students to enhance engagement
- knowledge of resources and an action plan for effective classroom practices

Facilitators

Deakin University and CHES are facilitating the professional learning courses and enabling participants to engage with current research on effectively meeting the needs of high-ability students.



Dr Maria Nicholas
Deakin University



Sapphira Talbot-Strettle
CHES



Dr John Cripps-Clark
Deakin University



Dr George Aranda
Deakin University



Dr Elizabeth Little
Deakin University

Our programs are delivered through a hy-flex approach with the opportunity to participate in person at the state-of-the-art Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) or to participate fully online. For those attending in person, CHES is located at 669 Chapel Street, South Yarra.



[Register Here](#)

2026 Course Dates & Times

Our professional learning courses will be repeated each term. Enrolments are now open for Term 1.

		Date
Term 1 - Series 1	Primary	19 th Feb
	Secondary	17 th Feb
Term 2 - Series 2	P-12	4 th May
	Secondary	5 th May
	Primary	6 th May
Term 3 - Series 3	Secondary	4 th Aug
	Primary	5 th Aug
Term 4 - Series 4	Primary	13 th Oct
	Secondary	14 th Oct

Course Structure

- The workshop for each course runs from 9.00am to 3:30pm.
- Participants have the option to attend in person at CHES or online via Zoom. Both online and on-site participants will need to have their laptop and headphones for certain course activities.
- On confirmation of registration into the course, participants will receive access to a portal developed by Deakin University containing comprehensive resources.
- By the end of the day, participants will have formulated an action plan to use in their own classrooms.
- Certificates of completion will be issued by CHES and Deakin University in recognition of course completion.

Registration

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Individual applications are welcomed for these courses. Where feasible for schools, we encourage two or more staff per school to attend together.

To be eligible for the program you must be in a current teaching or leadership role (full-time or part-time) in a Victorian government school.

Apply for registration into the courses here: [Registration for CHES Deakin Professional Learning](#)

Registrations will close two weeks prior to the course commencing.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT (NO FEES)

These courses are fully subsidised by the Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) for government school participants. There is no cost to schools.

CRT funding is also available to cover the attendance of participants.

For further information on our courses, contact Sapphira Talbot-Strettle, CHES Assistant Principal on 9063 1170 or sapphira.talbot-strette@ches.vic.edu.au.