JOHN MONASH
SCIENCE SCHOOL

REGIONAL SCIENCE EXCHANGE

2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK

https://jmss.vic.edu.au/students/science-exchange/

Regional Science Exchange (REx) program overview

A free, immersive science experience that brings regional Year 10 students to John Monash Science School to explore advanced STEM learning in Melbourne.

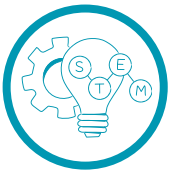
Held annually, the John Monash Science School (JMSS) Regional Science Exchange (REx) invites Year 10 students from regional Victorian schools with a passion for STEM to join us for a six-day immersive science experience.

Across the six days, students take part in a diverse range of hands-on STEM workshops, explore real-world science and engineering applications, and gain insight into university career pathways through our partnership with Monash University and the Monash Tech School. The program includes visits to key research facilities such as the Australian Synchrotron, giving students a rare opportunity to see cutting-edge science in action.

REx participants work within a supportive cohort of like-minded peers who share a passion for STEM. They will engage in collaborative activities, emerging-science experiences, and field-based learning to broaden their understanding of scientific careers and disciplines.

At the conclusion of the program, selected students may be invited to represent JMSS at the Australian Science Fair later in the year.

Key learning outcomes and experience



Hands-on workshops

During their stay, students will participate in a variety of hands-on science workshops at John Monash Science School and Monash University. Students will explore different branches of science and engineering, from biology, chemistry and physics to biomedical and environmental science.

Monash Tech School

They will undertake a special STEM development workshop at the Monash Tech School as well as explore emerging technologies such as robotics and programming.

Insight into STEM pathways

Students will gain insight into STEM pathways, university study options, and careers through interactions with researchers and like-minded peers. A visit to the Australian Synchrotron offers a rare opportunity to see cutting-edge scientific research in action.

Collaboration and problem-solving

Collaboration and problem-solving are embedded throughout the program, with REx students working together on group challenges and inquiry-based activities that strengthen teamwork and scientific thinking.

Supervision

During their time with JMSS, REx students will be supervised by JMSS staff during all program activities. Overnight, JMSS staff remain onsite at Quest Notting Hill to provide full overnight supervision.

Opportunity beyond REx

During the program, REx participants will be invited to apply for a mentoring program that offers the chance to return to JMSS for three days as regional delegates at the 2026 Australian Science Fair. Successful applicants will work in a small team with a mentor to design and develop a science project, which they will present at the three-day fair.

These regional delegates will:
- Work collaboratively with a mentor to design and develop a science project
- Present their work at the three-day Australian Science Fair
- Engage with students, teachers, and scientists from across Victoria

Program testimonials

Nathaniel C (REx participant)

"The whole experience I considered life-changing and opened me up to so many new pathways in science. Also, the people I met not only from the REx program, but also a John Monash Science School were all amazing. I could not recommend this program more as it is a lot of fun and educated me in a way that no regular classroom could do."

Unya B (REx participant)

"This was, without a doubt, one of the best programs I have participated in. I enjoyed every moment, it gave me a greater understanding of all fields in science, and lastly made a heap of friends thank you so much."

Chelsea Nicholson (school teacher)

"I just wanted to extend my gratitude to you and you team for giving Riley the opportunity to participate in the REx program. Today we had a great opportunity to catch up on his experience over the last week. He is absolutely buzzing. He could not get the words out fast enough to tell me about it. He gave great detail about the things he did, and the projects at the science fair, and was so excited to share. He said he didn't stop talking all the way home in the car, and he has asked me to include him in any other opportunities like that in the future. I think the most telling comment he made was about getting to spend time with like-minded people. He told me when he said to his classmates here what we was doing they questioned why he wanted to do it, but when he got down there everyone else there was as excited about it as he was. I'm so glad he got to experience REx and as the science leader at our school, I thank you for helping us enable our wonderful kids to experience the world of science."

Student eligibility

Students must be:

- Year 10 students from any regional Victorian schools
- Have a strong interest in and passion for STEM
- Priority will be given to the above students from Victorian government schools

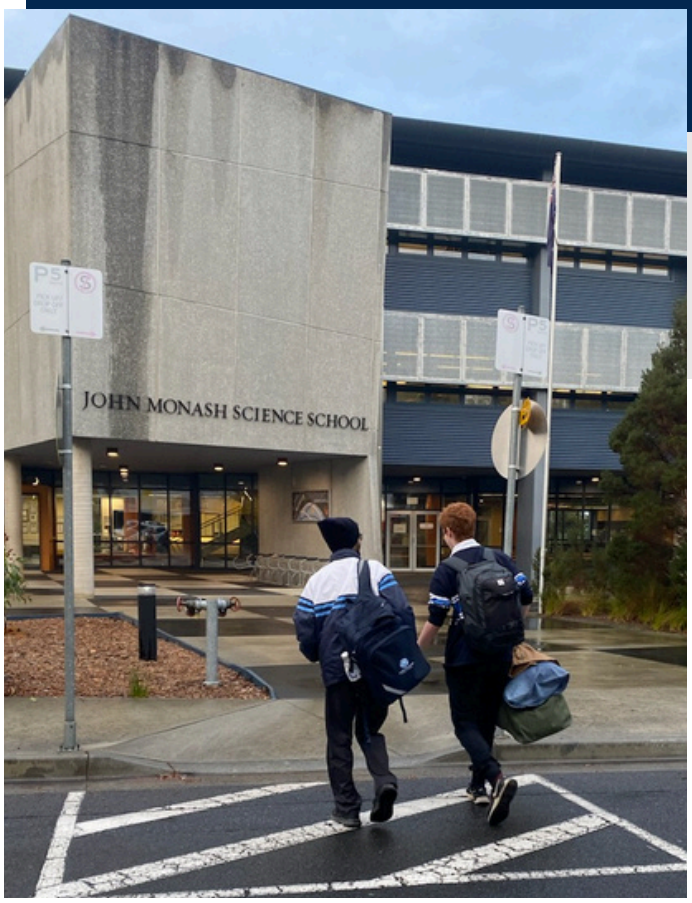
Application process

Applications must be submitted by a nominated teacher, each application must include:

- Student response to reflection questions
- a teacher reference letter

Application timeline

- 2 March - applications open
- 22 April - applications close
- Early- mid May
  first and second round offers
- 21 June - 26 June REx program week



Program cost & logistics

Program cost

- Participation in the REx program is fully funded for all successful applicants
- Thanks to Victorian government funding, free accommodation and most meals will be provided to all REx participants
- Students may need to pay for a couple of meals, souvenirs, and/or social activities. We recommend they bring up to $100 to adequately cover these costs.

Accmmondation, drop off and pick up

- REx participants will be allocated in shared accommondation at Quest Apartment Notinghill, close to JMSS
- On the first day of the program, parents and carers must drop students and luggage off at the entry of Quest Apartment Notinghill
- On the last day of the program, parents and carers must pick up the students at the drop off point in front of John Monash Science School