



Student FAQs

What is ViSN?

ViSN (Virtual School Network) is a group of WA Catholic Schools who work together to provide world class online courses for their students.

Why do a ViSN course?

- ✓ You may have a timetable clash and not be able to do all the courses you want to
- ✓ You may not have a course on offer at your school
- ✓ You may be too unwell to attend school full time
- ✓ You may be travelling, or an elite athlete who can't attend school in the traditional model

What are the benefits of studying online?

- ✓ Go at your own pace – no holding others up if you don't get the content, no being held back while you wait for others to understand the concept.
- ✓ Learning that suits your needs
- ✓ You get to study a course your school may not offer
- ✓ Better prepared for the transition to university learning as many university courses now deliver online a majority of the content online.

Who can do a ViSN course?

The courses are open to any student in a WA Catholic school. Speak to the person responsible for course selection in your school if interested.

Do the ViSN courses have prerequisites?

Most of the courses have prerequisites, to give you an idea of the level you need to be operating at to be successful in the course.

Can I enrol myself in a ViSN course?

No, your enrolment needs to be managed by the ViSN contact in your school.

What technology is required for a ViSN course?

You will need access to a laptop or desktop computer, both at home and at school, as well as an internet connection. If you don't have these items at home, you could use your public library instead.

The software used for ViSN courses is all web-based (O365 products mostly) and easily downloaded if you don't already have it.

Do I take the course at home or at school?

It's just like a normal school course, except your teacher and fellow class mates are online! You will have 5 periods a week for the course, as part of your timetable. As with any other senior school course, there will be work you need to do at home also.

Is there a teacher?

Yes, ViSN eTeachers are based in their own school but are available to you at the end of a phone, email or Skype call. They will let you know when they're available each day to answer your questions and they'll be in regular contact with you each week, to see if you need help or have any questions.

Who are the ViSN eTeachers?

They are qualified, experienced and well trained online teachers who are already teaching in a WA Catholic school. They have undergone extensive training so they can create and deliver a world class online course.

Will I ever meet my ViSN eTeacher in person?

We hope to be able to create opportunities for you to meet your eTeacher/s and fellow online students face to face at least once a year, if not more. Stay tuned for details! In the meantime, you'll get to know your online teacher really well and we are confident you'll build a great relationship with them, just as you would your other school-based teachers.

What does a normal week look like when doing a ViSN course?

You will have 4 periods a week where you work independently and/or with other virtual students doing your course. Your teacher will let you know what has to be completed by the end of each week and in each lesson. One period a week will be for you to connect online with your eTeacher and all other eStudents doing the same course, via Skype.

What if I need help?

Your eTeacher is only a phone call, email or Skype call away! You'll also have a school based guide or mentor in your school whose job it is to support you.

How will my teacher know how I'm doing?

Your teacher will get feedback from you in a variety of ways including, calls, emails, quizzes and mini assessments, as well as the normal assessments you do in a course. You can expect your ViSN eTeacher to be in contact regularly to check on how you're going.

The more questions you ask, the more successful you'll be as an online student.

What makes ViSN courses different to other online courses?

The development of ViSN courses and the training of ViSN eTeachers has been supported by CEWA's internationally acclaimed online learning experts. This means the eTeachers have had the best training, know how to deliver engaging courses and know what it takes to make online learning a meaningful and successful experience for you. Many of them have also studied online so know what it's like!

How do I enrol?

Talk to your school first. They'll chat with you about your suitability to study online and about how well the course fits with the rest of your program.

Then fill in an enrolment form and hand it to the contact person at your school.

Then you'll get confirmation of your enrolment and be required to participate in an online orientation program, so we're confident you are ready to start your course.

How do the ViSN online courses compare to normal courses?

ViSN courses are developed according to SCSA requirements and are reviewed regularly against the International Standards for Online Learning.

You can expect the courses to be just as rigorous as courses delivered in a school.

Do I have to move to the ViSN school to do their courses?

There is no ViSN school! ViSN is a group of schools so as long as you belong to one of those schools, you can stay in your own school and take the online courses.

Where will I be when I am doing my ViSN course at school?

The arrangements for supervision of eStudents will be different in each school – some may arrange for you to be supervised in the library, in another class, in a student services area or another appropriate area.

Will someone support from my own school support me?

Of course! Someone will ensure you arrive at each lesson, take the roll, chat with you about your progress or any concerns you have, help you where they can and make sure you're keeping up with the work. They'll work closely with your eTeacher too.

What's the online orientation about?

Once you've enrolled and been accepted, you will participate in an online orientation program which will outline where you access your courses, where to find your course materials, all about your assessments, how to get help, how to contact your teacher, how to use the software programs etc.

What makes a good online learner?

Someone who is self-driven, is motivated, can work independently and who is willing to take responsibility for their own learning.

How do I get access to my course?

Your eTeacher will email you (at your CEWA email address) with the details for accessing the course on OneNote. They will also enrol you as a member of the course Team (open Teams to see if you've got access yet).

What if I don't have access yet?

See your eMentor and let them know. They will follow it up for you.