Collaborative Partnerships for Pathways to Careers for the Future of Health and Medical Sciences.

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Universities are increasingly interested in developing arrangements which enable school students to access university courses. This reflects a world-wide trend towards framing all of education as life long learning. Health program accessibility provides a mechanism for recruiting very able students into Health programs; provide community service and commitment by sharing the University’s resources with participating schools; and ease the eventual transition of students to full university study. Importantly, Griffith University Health has designed a program that meets the fulfilment of our equity objectives and targets. Griffith University has partnered with Queensland Health – Gold Coast Health Service District, Education Queensland and a number of Queensland schools to offer Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to study ‘GriffBio’ or ‘GriffHealth’ whilst undertaking their Queensland Studies Authority Senior Syllabus. This two-year part-time University course aligns with, and builds on, the Year 11 and 12 units of the QSA Senior Syllabus subjects Biology and/or Health. These courses incorporate activities (e.g. practical classes, clinical laboratories) which value-add to the existing school subject and enable students to experience an integrated university course whilst completing their senior studies.

To encourage students to undertake subjects in Senior Year that will lead to university enrolment in all health and medical science degree programs we have collaboratively designed and delivered a two day educational program “Go Health Go Griffith”. Yr 10 students, prior to Yr 11 subject selection, participate in university level lectures, workshops and laboratories taught by health professional and academics, in areas such as pharmacy, physiotherapy, exercise science, dental, and clinical as well as psychology, human services, public health and nursing.

Seven local schools are now engaged in GriffBio and GriffHealth. The intake for Go Health Go Griffith Yr 10 has increased due to demand, Schools have reported an increase in students enrolling in health and biology. Yr 12 students who came to “Go Health Go Griffith “are actively choosing health degree programs as a career option, according to schools and University preferences.