

# The ABSA Training Academy



AUSTRALIAN  
BOARDING  
SCHOOLS  
ASSOCIATION

CREATING THE FUTURE FOR BOARDING SCHOOLS

Boarding  
Professional  
Development

**The ABSA Training Academy brings together professional development opportunities for all staff working in boarding and is designed to provide a clear pathway to ensure the highest standards in the boarding sector. It is modelled on the BSA Training Academy in the United Kingdom.**

**Academy training may be accessed in person, at a workshop or seminar, on-line through a webinar or conference or through an accredited training course. Entry-level training is available through the online Induction course and the Duty of Care Certificate Course, either in workshop format or self-paced workbooks. Further training is available online via our webinar programme or through our online learning platform.**

**Our work is delivered throughout the Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and worldwide and all training can be delivered in your school setting.**



**Boarding  
Professional  
Development**

## Your Professional Journey in Boarding

How will the ABSA Training Academy help me to develop personally and professionally?

You will:

- be able to evaluate and have a clear appreciation of the personal and professional needs and skills involved in a boarding role
- develop greater knowledge and understanding of the issues facing boarders and the boarding sector
- develop the ability to reflect critically on work and evaluate the need for change or action
- be able to communicate and defend views and opinions orally and in writing
- develop a clear vision of the school's management strategies for providing good pastoral care
- satisfy the requirements of the Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences
- develop study and time management skills and an ability to analyse reading and a wide range of reference sources
- give boarding staff a development pathway to build professional competence and confidence
- professionalise your career in boarding school pastoral care.

## Advice and Guidance

Supporting our academy training program, ABSA uses a network of professionals to deliver expert guidance on the issues that boarders, staff and parents face daily.

This support can be accessed via phone or email and aims to support boarding staff to confidently provide support to the whole boarding school community.

Guidance and publications on specialist subjects are accessible via the ABSA members' area of the website.

**Visit [www.boarding.org.au](http://www.boarding.org.au) for more information or to book into one of our workshops, webinars or certificate courses**



Boarding  
Professional  
Development

## Introductory

Induction

Duty of Care

## Ongoing

Webinars

Day Seminars

Symposiums

Conferences

## Certificate

Building Chinese  
Cultural  
Competence

Cyber Safety and  
Social Media

Boarding School  
Youth Mental  
Health

Diversity and  
Inclusivity in  
Boarding

More launching in  
2021

## Master's

Master's in  
Residential  
Education

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## Introductory Courses

At the introductory level, the ABSA Training Academy offers essential training in the skills required to work in a boarding environment. The ABSA Online Induction Program and the Duty of Care Certificate Course are seen as major components in this section, helping boarding staff and the wider boarding community to gain a critical understanding of the skills necessary to work effectively and safely with boarders.



## Ongoing Learning

ABSA runs a multitude of learning opportunities for staff working in the front line of boarding. A range of webinars are offered throughout each term and a suite of online courses is available through the ABSA website. These will allow participants to obtain Continuing Professional Learning points, ensuring the requirement of the Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences to take part in continuous boarding specific learning can be tracked. A personalised Professional Learning Certificate will be issued at the end of each year.



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## Certificate Courses

As part of the professional learning opportunities offered by ABSA there is a range of certificate courses specifically aimed at professionals working in boarding schools. These certificates will concentrate on one key aspect of learning and will provide those undertaking the courses with in-depth knowledge of the topic. These will also allow participants to obtain Continuing Professional Learning points, ensuring the requirement of the Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences to take part in continuous boarding specific learning can be tracked. A personalised Professional Learning Certificate will be issued at the end of each year.



## Master's

ABSA has partnered with the BSA (UK) and the University of Buckingham to provide a Master's in Residential Education. The course is aimed at experienced practitioners from Australia, the UK and overseas who wish to undertake a Master's degree. The course is built around an introductory study day at the University of Buckingham (which can be done online), followed by expert support from the University and ABSA.

### Course Outline

This course takes 12–14 months and starts with an induction day. Full details of the course and syllabus may be found on the University of Buckingham school of education website.

### Why should you do this course?

- it is an important form of professional development for all who work in boarding schools
- it is a unique course, specifically geared to those interested in pastoral care
- it is far cheaper than most other Master's courses
- it does not require you to miss any days of work
- you are encouraged to pursue your own particular interests through the research dissertation
- you will have access to tutors who have experience with working in boarding schools.
- you will add to the boarding research pool available

### Course Assessment

The heart of the MA is a 12,000–15,000 word dissertation. You will learn research methods and be expected to read widely.



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## Where does this all lead?

We encourage all people who are working in boarding schools, and will do so for more than one year, to apply for the only professional recognition available for boarding school staff. This will assist staff to be recognised as a professional within this important industry.

## Accredited Boarding Practitioner

The ABSA Accredited Boarding Practitioner scheme is an individual recognition of those boarding staff who are making a personal, professional commitment to best boarding practice.

To be considered, all applicants are expected to demonstrate a commitment to meeting the following core commitments:

- Child Safety and promoting the welfare of children.
- Achieving excellent boarding practice and outstanding outcomes for boarders.
- Reflecting on practice and undertaking regular training.
- Working collaboratively with other boarding colleagues.

### Who can apply?

Any member of staff who works in boarding can apply once the minimum criteria for the different Accredited Practitioner levels are met.

### What are the levels?

- LEVEL 1 – A boarding member of staff who has completed at least one year working in boarding, undertaken a minimum of the ‘Duty of Care Certificate Course in Student Residential Care’ training or ‘Boarding Fundamentals’ training (or equivalent) within the last five years and met the core commitments.
- LEVEL 2 – Someone who has worked in boarding for at least three years, met the core commitments and those in level 1, and completed appropriate specific boarding training in each year.
- LEVEL 3 – A person managing boarding, or an aspect of boarding, within their own school, has served for a minimum of five years in boarding, consistently met the key commitments and has completed a higher level of specific boarding training during their time of service. They are also actively involved in their respective State Division of ABSA.
- LEVEL 4 – Someone who has been a boarding practitioner for ten years or more, has consistently met the key commitments, completed further study in boarding and has made a significant contribution to boarding beyond their own setting, for example as a presenter at an ABSA Conference (or equivalent) or a regular contributor to Lights Out or similar.

**ACCREDITED BOARDING PRACTITIONER**  
APPLY NOW <https://www.boarding.org.au/our-community/accredited-boarding-professional>

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Logos of partner organizations: actura, Finalsite, REACE, TEAM SYSTEM, Alameda, twā, Guardian, Chartwells, Edstart, LECTURE, BOND UNIVERSITY, LEADING, BUNNINGS, insight, compli-space, KOMODO HEALTH.

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## Centre for Boarding Education Research (CEBER)

ABSA and its UK counterpart, the Boarding Schools' Association (UK), co-own the Centre for Boarding Education Research (CEBER), which brings together a wide range of research into boarding into one location. This research is then shared with other boarding professionals as part of our commitment to promoting and furthering best practice. The link to CEBER can be found on the ABSA webpage in the 'Our Community' tab.

The screenshot shows the ABSA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'SCHOOLS COMMUNITY', 'POSITIONS VACANT', 'PARTNERS', 'HOME', 'ABOUT US', 'OUR COMMUNITY', and 'OUR LEARNING AND EVENTS'. The 'OUR COMMUNITY' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a sidebar menu titled 'Our Community' with various links including 'Accredited Boarding Practitioner', 'Consultancy and Support Services', 'Partner Organisations', 'Annual Awards', 'Blogs and Key Reports', 'Centre for Boarding Education Research', 'Allowances for Boarding School Students', 'eNEWS', 'Sign up for eNEWS', and 'ABSA Covid-Safe Charter Schools'. The main content area features a large red banner for 'Centre for Boarding Education Research' with the BSA logo. Below the banner, there is a 'MENU' button and a 'CONTACT THE BSA' button. The main text on the page reads: 'CENTRE FOR BOARDING EDUCATION RESEARCH. BSA is proud to launch the Centre for Boarding Education Research (CEBER) in conjunction with our sister association in Australia, ABSA. CEBER brings together the best research into many different aspects of boarding. The latest update was on 21st August 2020. This CEBER index page includes assignments submitted for the BSA Certificate of Boarding Practice and the BSA Diploma and also contains links to a wide variety of articles and research about all aspects of boarding, both positive and negative from throughout the world. BSA takes no responsibility for the content of external sites, and the views expressed in the research and articles below are not necessarily the views of BSA, its member schools or officers. In accordance with the programme requirements, exemplar work from BSA Certificate and Diploma courses is anonymised.'

With thanks to The U.K. Boarding Schools Association for their help and support with so many projects.



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**The Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) exists to promote the interests of boarding schools in Australasia by enhancing the well-being of boarders, facilitating the professional development of staff and advancing best practice among schools.**

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