



Private

2026 Program Guidelines

Welcome to the College of Excellence

The College of Excellence is a vibrant community of driven, high-achieving students who are passionate about making the most of their university experience. Members unlock exclusive opportunities designed to support personal growth, professional development, and their leadership journey. Make the most of your time at QUT by joining a supportive network with access to a dedicated team who'll help you navigate your goals and connect you with like-minded peers.

What to expect

- Specialised workshops and courses
- Innovative learning experiences
- Networking events with industry and academic leaders
- Grants and sponsorships to attend conferences and events

These opportunities are designed to help you grow as a leader, thinker, and changemaker - whether you are exploring research pathways, building your career, or making an impact in your community.

How to join

To apply, simply complete the College of Excellence [membership application form](#). If accepted, you will receive a welcome email and immediate access to our resources - including invitations to join our Canvas platform and social channels.

2026 Application Timeline

We assess applications twice a year, aligned with the release of semester results. This ensures new members can jump straight into the semester's activities and opportunities.

Assessment round	Applications open (release of results)	Applications close (Week of Orientation)	Outcome notified (at the latest)
Semester one	Early December (previous year)	Late February	End of Week 1
Semester two	Early July	Late July	End of Week 1

* Academic calendar available [here](#).

Who can apply?

If you have received a QUT Excellence Scholarship, you are automatically eligible - no need to apply separately. These scholarships include:

QUT Excellence Scholarship	Faculty
QUT Excellence Scholarship (Academic)	All Study Areas

QUT Excellence Scholarship	Faculty
QUT Excellence Scholarship (Creative Industries)	Creative Industries
QUT Excellence Scholarship (Elite Visual and Performing Arts)	Creative Industries
QUT Sport Scholarship (Elite Athlete, AIS and QAS)	Sport
QUT ESport Scholarship	Sport
Corporate Partners in Excellence	Business/Law
Faculty of Business and Law Excellence Scholarship	Business/Law
Faculty of Science Indigenous Australian Scholarship	Science
Westpac Young Technologists	Science
Faculty of Science Scholarship for Women and Non-Binary People	Science
Women in Engineering Scholarship	Engineering

If you haven't received one of these scholarships but have a GPA of 6.0 or above, we strongly encourage you to apply for [College membership](#).

Once you have been accepted into the College, there's no GPA requirement to stay – we are here to support your journey, not add pressure.

Experiential Development Fund

As a College of Excellence member, you can apply for an Experiential Development (ED) Grant - a funding opportunity designed to help you take your learning beyond the classroom.

Whether you are attending a conference, joining a global development program, competing in a case competition, or contributing to a social change initiative, this grant helps remove financial barriers so you can focus on making the most of the experience.

Members can apply for up to \$1000 AUD to cover the below costs:

- Travel and accommodation
- Event registration fees
- Participation in approved learning experiences

For more information about grant application dates, timelines and eligibility criteria, please visit the QUT Professional Development Funding page [here](#).

College of Excellence Student Leader Program

Lead. Grow. Make an impact.

The College of Excellence Student Leader Program is your chance to step into a leadership role that is all about growth, connection, and contribution. These prestigious positions are offered to a select group of highly engaged students who want to build their skills, give back to the College community, and prepare for future career pathways.

As a Student Leader, you will apply what you are learning in your degree to real-world experiences while being supported through training, mentorship, and meaningful opportunities to lead.

What is the role about?

You will gain leadership experience through structured training and mentorship. While this is not a paid position, you will be supported in pursuing external development opportunities. If you are interested in a paid role, you can also apply for the [Program Ambassador position](#), which is separate from the Student Leader role.

Why become a Student Leader?

Student Leaders receive dedicated and structured support to enhance their leadership and professional capabilities.

- Professional Development Grant: A \$1,000 grant to support your learning journey.
- Real-world experience: Co-design projects (based at QUT and external), plan events, and build community.
- Opportunities to engage with Executive Leadership, alumni, and industry professionals to build meaningful professional connections.
- Personalised reference letter: Recognising your leadership impact and skills at the end of your term.

Role description

- Project Co-design & Facilitation: Help design and run events like the annual first-year camp.
- Community Building: Support initiatives that bring students together and foster connections.
- Promotion & Outreach: Encourage student engagement with the College and QUT-wide opportunities.
- Networking Facilitation: Create spaces for students to connect with alumni, industry, and leadership during events.
- Consultation & Feedback: Share insights and ideas to improve student experience.

How recruitment works

Each year, up to 10 Student Leaders are selected based on their commitment and contributions to the College.

Recruitment happens twice a year:

- May intake: 5 leaders appointed for July 2026 - June 2027
- November intake: 5 leaders appointed for January - December 2027

Each intake includes:

- 1 first-year student
- 1 second-year student
- 1 third-year student
- Up to 2 additional students (any year level)

Leadership terms run for two consecutive semesters.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Be a current College member for at least two semesters (one semester for first-year applicants)
- Be enrolled full-time at QUT during your leadership term
- Not participating in exchange or studying abroad during your term
- Not having held a Student Leader role in the previous year

We're looking for students who demonstrate:

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- Strong commitment to the College of Excellence community
 - Ability to plan and lead community-building events
 - Teamwork skills
 - Effective communication (interpersonal, public speaking, facilitation)
 - Organisational and time management skills

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview (in person or online) with a panel that includes the Student Excellence Program Coordinator, a current Student Leader, and a Program Ambassador.

Take your impact further

Become a Program Ambassador

If you have previously engaged as a Student Leader and want to continue making a difference, consider applying for the College of Excellence Program Ambassador role.

This is a casual paid position offered for up to 12 months, giving you the chance to represent the College, support new members, and contribute to program delivery in a more hands-on way.

Applications open during Semester 2 2026, and full details will be shared during the recruitment period.

For more information, please email collegeofexcellence@qut.edu.au.