

Indigenous Australians Future Student Guide





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QUT acknowledges the Turrbal and Yugara, as the First Nations owners of the lands where QUT now stands. We pay respect to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, research and learning.





Welcome to QUT



Hi. I'm Wesley Enoch. I am a Quandamooka man from Stradbroke Island and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Australians here at QUT.

I was once where you are now, thinking about the future and what I can do to make a difference in the world for me and my family. I chose university because it's a great place to learn new ideas and skills, new ways of seeing the world and working with people who can help you achieve your dreams.

QUT is committed to being a leader in Indigenous Australian higher education and helping our mob to achieve. We are a community that wants you to succeed.

Whether you are in your final years of school and still considering your next move, or have a clear plan of what you want to do, you are not alone. We have a great team of people and a range of services and spaces designed to help you get through.

University can be one of the most exciting times of your life. You'll meet new people from all over the country, get to learn more about the areas that excite you and make lifelong connections while following your passions.

QUT is proud to celebrate a culture of excellence in Indigenous Australian education, research and engagement. Our physical campuses are embedded in Country, connecting our past and present to the future, and we promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all areas of learning.

If you are considering university, I invite you to consider the opportunities QUT can offer. We aim to not just provide you with an education, but create a welcoming, lively and culturally safe community for all students, both during your studies and after graduation.

Come join us.

Professor Wesley Enoch AM
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Australians

Why QUT?

At QUT you can find your own version of success. The QUT experience will set you up with the skills, knowledge and connections you need for the real world.

You may be wondering, what do we mean when we say 'real world'?

Real is more than just the theory. It's the hands-on skills in practice and application through work experience, projects and site visits. The industry standard equipment in labs and clinics. Connections with employers. An entrepreneurial approach. Facing the future with resilience, drive and confidence. Real is shaping the future and we know what it takes, because QUT gets the real world like no other university.

Real is connecting our campuses to Country, with recognition and understanding of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the historic and cultural significance of the land QUT inhabits. As a student or visitor to the campus, you'll be able to engage with new buildings, gathering spaces, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork and changes to the campus experience that responds to and respects the past and present culture embedded in this place.

Real is knowing a full university experience is about more than just education. It's yarning with friends in culturally safe and welcoming spaces. It's celebrating achievements with family and having access to cultural experiences. At QUT, we will empower you to succeed academically, socially and professionally, so you graduate ready to achieve your dreams.



Download the free *Walking on Country* app.



Apple store



Google Play store





The Oodgeroo Unit

The Oodgeroo Unit is committed to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential. From tutoring, cultural support and social events to high-tech study areas and fully equipped kitchens, the Oodgeroo Unit is a welcoming space for all students looking to make the most of their time at university and grow friendship and support networks.

Established in 1991, it was originally named the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Unit. In 1996, QUT recognised the profound contribution to Australian history by artist Oodgeroo Noonuccal by renaming the unit in her honour.

Operating across both campuses and designed to be a welcoming space to visit for advice, assistance or cultural connection, the Oodgeroo Unit provides a range of services to facilitate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples access to and excellence in higher education.

This includes:

- tutoring programs for Indigenous Australian students
- providing personal and cultural support
- hosting social events and opportunities for students to grow their social networks
- providing a visible cultural presence
- engaging in community events, representing QUT
- promoting real-world opportunities for the students.

We look forward to seeing you at the Oodgeroo Unit soon.

Oodgeroo Noonuccal story

Oodgeroo Noonuccal was born Kathleen Jean Mary Ruska on November 3, 1920, a descendant of the Noonuccal people of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island).

During her lifetime she was and continues to be recognised as one of Australia's leading literary figures, who used her pen to give voice to the Indigenous Australian struggle for rights and justice.

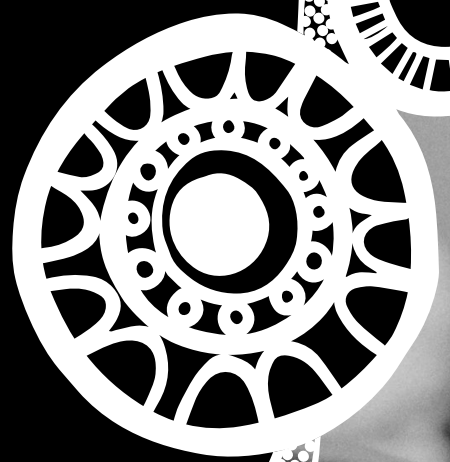
In 1962 she was instrumental in advocating for citizenship rights for Indigenous peoples as Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI), work that gave rise to the 1967 referendum.

Oodgeroo received numerous awards, such as the Mary Gilmore medal (1970), the Jessie Litchfield Award (1975), the International Acting Award and the Fellowship of Australian Writers Award. In 1970 she was appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) for services to the community but returned it in protest over the bicentenary celebrations held in 1988.

In 1972, she withdrew from active involvement in political organisations to live in semi-retirement on Minjerribah, establishing the Noonuccal-Nughie Education and Cultural Centre, where she regularly conducted programs for groups of school students and visitors.

In 1992 Oodgeroo Noonuccal received an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Education at QUT for both her contribution to literature and in recognition of her work in the field of education.

She also received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Macquarie University, was made an honorary Doctor of the University by Griffith University and was awarded a further honorary Doctor of Letters degree by Monash University.



Centralised Assessment and Selection Program

QUT offers the Centralised Assessment and Selection Program (CASP), which can assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants to gain entry into most courses at QUT.

Why apply?

Future Indigenous Australian students are encouraged to participate in CASP because:

- it gives you a better chance of getting into university even if you have not completed Year 12 or did not meet the ATAR/selection rank threshold
- you get to meet and have your questions answered on the spot by Indigenous Australian staff and members of your faculty—increasing your understanding about the course
- you get a snapshot of QUT, university life and the supports and services available for Indigenous Australian students at QUT, as well as making valuable connections.

Who is eligible?

To be considered for CASP you must:

- apply for a selected undergraduate or postgraduate course through QTAC
- place a selected QUT course in your top three QTAC preferences
- be of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
- be accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the community in which you live or have lived and can provide the Oodgeroo Unit with evidence of your Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Descent.

What is involved?

CASP consists of:

- submitting your applicant portfolio including documentation such as CV, school report card and references
- providing evidence of descent (for more information, search [CATSID on our website](#))
- writing 500 words about why you want to undertake your chosen degree/s at QUT including the reasons why you believe you have the ability to undertake tertiary level studies
- attending an informal interview via Zoom or face-to-face with an Indigenous Australian staff member and a representative from the faculty that coordinates your chosen degree.

If you are deemed to be able to academically progress in your chosen degree during the CASP process, QUT will notify QTAC to make you an offer to study in the following semester.

Bachelor of Education prerequisites

QUT cannot make recommendations for applicants applying for Bachelor of Education degrees if they do not meet the prerequisites. Visit [QUT Assumed knowledge and prerequisites](#) for more information.

Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting)

QUT cannot make recommendations for the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting) degree.

[QUT – Bachelor of Creative Arts \(Acting\)](#)



Find out more about CASP online

qut.edu.au/study/applying/centralised-assessment-and-selection-program



'I strongly feel that university is a great place for everyone. The Oodgeroo Unit welcomed me with open arms and the Centralised Assessment and Selection Program looked past my ATAR and recognised my passion for engineering.'

I've had many opportunities including receiving the CSIRO Indigenous STEM Scholarship, a cultural engineering trip to Townsville, joining the Dean's Scholars and REAL Leaders programs and a Queensland Rail internship. My experience is a testament to QUT's commitment to empowering Indigenous Australian students and creating pathways for us to thrive.'

Jordan Roulstone

Waramungu man
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)/
Bachelor of Information Technology



Keystones of Success: Supporting our Future Leaders

In addition to the academic support provided to all QUT students, Indigenous Australian students also have access to the *Keystones of Success* program.

In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, the *Keystones of Success: Supporting our Future Leaders* program provides tuition support for eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The program can assist with:

- academic performance
- transition into the job market
- transition into postgraduate study.

Students are eligible to apply for up to two hours of tutorial support per unit, per week (for 10 weeks), delivered individually or within a small group with qualified and experienced tutors. This means a student completing four units of study may be eligible for eight hours of additional tutorial support per week.



Find out more about
Keystones of Success

[qut.edu.au/about/oodgeroo/
keystones-of-success](http://qut.edu.au/about/oodgeroo/keystones-of-success)





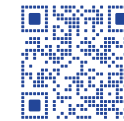
The Faculty of Indigenous Knowledges and Culture

The Faculty of Indigenous Knowledges and Culture launched in 2024 with a clear vision to teach and recognise Indigenous knowledges alongside other knowledges at QUT.

The establishment of the faculty creates more opportunities for all students to study Indigenous knowledges and culture. Students can explore these areas alongside other specialty programs through courses focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, languages, history and contemporary issues. These initiatives ensure Indigenous

Australian knowledge and perspectives are recognised, respected and valued.

The faculty serves as a bridge between QUT and the wider Indigenous Australian communities, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships such as collaborative research projects, combined community events and consultation on curriculum content and general knowledge sharing.



Find out more online

qut.edu.au/about/faculty-of-indigenous-knowledges-and-culture

Carumba Institute

Carumba Institute provides a world-class Indigenous research and educational environment that advances *Black Knowing* for real-world impact; foregrounding Indigenous sovereignty and centring Indigenous humanity. Carumba leads unique Indigenous teaching offerings that embed Indigenous perspectives, histories and knowledges across QUT programs. Driving impactful Indigenous-led research, it offers a paid undergraduate research program—Vacation Research Experience Scheme (VRES)—which strengthens early research pathways.

Carumba works to strengthen Indigenous research capabilities, engagement and outputs across QUT, transforming how Indigenous research,

learning and community connections shape the university. It provides dedicated support to Indigenous HDR students as they progress through their postgraduate studies and hosts the QUT Meanjin Oration annually—a major celebration of Indigenous excellence that brings community, culture and leadership together on campus.

Indigenous Australian students who are interested in research opportunities or engagement with the Carumba Institute are encouraged to contact the institute for support and guidance.



Find out more online

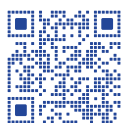
qut.edu.au/research/carumba-institute

Fees and financial assistance

Check the course information on our website for an estimate of how much the first year of the course will cost. Your actual fees may be different depending on the type of units chosen, number of units and the year you study.

Up-to-date course information can be found at qut.edu.au/study

A range of scholarships is available specifically for Indigenous Australian students, designed to support your academic journey and alleviate financial burdens. The scholarships cater to different needs and stages of education and some can be applied for before you commence study.



Find out more about scholarships online

qut.edu.au/study/student-life/support/indigenous-scholarships



'I work casually, have a scholarship and receive ABSTUDY to help with my living and study expenses. My advice? Apply for all relevant scholarships and understand how HECS-HELP can assist with tuition fees. QUT also offers support services for students struggling financially. Be proactive in seeking financial support and planning a budget to make university possible.'

Alina Dempsey
Wulawarra woman
Biomedical Science graduate



Career support

Support is on hand to help you grow your network, gain the right experience, reach your leadership capacity and explore career options.

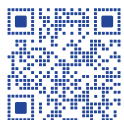
As a QUT student, you can access:

- free workshops or connect with a Career Educator for help with career planning, including writing successful job applications, building your networking skills and boosting your confidence for job interviews
- real-time job interview practice via our free online tool
- the Career Mentoring program to connect and engage with experienced professionals who can provide you with industry insights and career support.

Facilities on campus

Nestled between the City Botanic Gardens, Parliament House and the Brisbane River, our Gardens Point campus is Brisbane's inner-city university campus, offering world-class facilities and a choice of study areas including business, built environment and engineering, IT, languages, law and justice, and science and technology. Gardens Point is also home to a range of arts and entertainment venues, including The Cube, Gardens Theatre and the QUT Art Museum.

Located in the vibrant Kelvin Grove Village is the Kelvin Grove campus, offering cultural and lifestyle precincts, research facilities and study areas including education, health and creative industries. The Village includes shops, restaurants, parklands, fitness facilities and a weekly market.



Find out more about
QUT facilities online

qut.edu.au/about/campuses-and-facilities

Our learning facilities include:

- Education Precinct including the Sphere
- XR Screen Futures Hub
- Economics and Finance Bloomberg Lab
- J Block architecture labs
- QUT Law Moot Court
- QUT Optometry Clinic
- QUT College
- OP3 Blueprint
- Virtual environment for Radiotherapy Training
- Space Technology Precinct, Yandiwanba lunar testbed
- Esports Arena
- Samford Ecological Research Facility.

In addition to the Oodgeroo Unit spaces, you also have access to study and community facilities including:

- libraries
- computing labs
- counselling and medical centres
- cultural precincts and exhibition spaces
- cafes and food courts
- bookshop and retail outlets
- licensed bars
- swimming pools
- fitness and sporting facilities.



Take a virtual tour of our
campuses and facilities
online

qut.edu.au/about/campuses-and-facilities/virtual-tours



Health and wellbeing support

Health and wellbeing are central to all aspects of QUT life, enabling students to thrive and succeed to their best potential. QUT offers a range of free and low-cost services to support your health and wellbeing while studying.

Services include:

- disability and accessibility support
- counselling and mental wellbeing
- medical services including mental health, immunisations, contraception health, sexual health, skin checks and more
- low-cost healthcare services including exercise physiology, nutrition and dietetics, optometry, paediatric, podiatry, psychology and counselling, and telehealth
- personal wellbeing support such as spiritual wellbeing and LGBTIQA+ support.



Find out more about
health and wellbeing
qut.edu.au/about/health-and-wellbeing

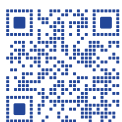
Get involved in campus life

University is about more than just study. QUT has more than 100 clubs and societies catering to every interest, from robotics to bubble tea and photography to Minecraft.

The Oodgeroo Unit hosts a number of casual social gatherings for Indigenous Australian students throughout the year.

Test drive uni with START QUT

If you're in Year 11, you can apply for the START QUT program to study up to two university subjects across years 11 and 12. Choose from a range of on-campus and online subjects in Year 11 (Semester 2) or Year 12 (Semester 1). Or join our on-campus STEM Intensive program in the summer before Year 12. You'll receive a scholarship so there are no tuition fees. START QUT also provides QCE credits, a QTAC selection rank adjustment and advanced standing (credit) towards your future degree.



Check subjects you can study

qut.edu.au/study/options/start-qut



QUT Sport

Offering opportunities to represent, engage and connect, QUT Sport celebrates diversity, inclusivity and teamwork by bringing people together and leaving no one on the side lines. Whether you prefer a team or individual sport, you'll find something that suits you at both social and competitive levels.

There is a range of opportunities for students to wear the QUT colours, competing in events including the annual Indigenous Nationals, the Sports Bowl and UniSport Nationals.

QUT is also committed to raising the bar when it comes to integrating technology in sport. From our state-of-the-art virtual cycle studio to our virtual motor racing simulator and a fully equipped esports arena with broadcasting and live commentary functionality.



Find out more about
QUT Sport

qut.edu.au/study/student-life/sport

Photo credit: Sports Imagery

Life at university – FAQs



How do I apply to study at QUT?

Current Year 12 students interested in studying at QUT must submit a course application via the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). Applications open each year in August.

Can I get adjustments to my ATAR or selection rank?

If you're applying through QTAC to study at QUT, you may be eligible for an adjustment to your selection rank or ATAR through a number of adjustments schemes, making you more competitive for a course offer. The maximum of adjustment is 10.00 ATAR across all schemes. Find out more [QUT – Adjustment schemes](#).

What are the minimum entry requirements?

For entry to degree courses, you must have completed Year 12 and have one of the following:

- an ATAR
- an International Baccalaureate Diploma
- a vocational education and training (VET) qualification completed at school (certificate IV or above)
- completed START QUT (two units)
- seventh grade AMEB (or higher) or equivalent qualifications.

Course thresholds can change from year to year. A course may be harder or easier to get into, depending on its popularity and how many places we have available. Higher thresholds don't mean a course is more difficult.

Does my ATAR expire?

Year 12 results don't expire after you finish school. They are converted to a selection rank and you can continue to use them to get into university in the future.

Are all QUT degrees assumed knowledge?

No, some courses such as our Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Science Advanced (Honours) have prerequisite subjects that you must have studied to be considered for a place in the course. The Bachelor of Creative Arts (Acting) requires a successful audition. Find out more [Assumed knowledge and prerequisites](#).

Can I get into university without an ATAR?

The Centralised Assessment and Selection Program (detailed on page 10) and work experience may be offered as alternative pathways in some courses. Alternatively, you can start your university journey with our premium pathway programs through QUT College. Complete one of our higher education diplomas at QUT College and you'll gain direct entry to a related QUT bachelor degree. Find out more [QUT College](#).

QUT College offers diplomas in:

- Architectural studies
- Business
- Creative industries
- Engineering
- Esports
- Health studies
- Undergraduate Certificate (Nursing)
- Information technology.



Does QUT have a University Preparation program?

Yes, we do. Develop your essential academic skills for university in a supportive environment. This course is ideal if you haven't completed Year 12 or other recent formal study and can help you meet assumed knowledge or prerequisites subjects. [University Preparation Program](#).

When are course offers made?

QTAC will notify you by email if you have received an offer. You'll also be able to see your application status in the applicant portal on the QTAC website by visiting [Application Services – QTAC](#).

How do I respond to an offer?

Check your emails regularly as QTAC will advise you of an offer by email. You'll be able to view or print your offer letter from the QTAC website. You'll need to accept your offer by the due date and time specified in your offer letter. If you don't respond, you won't be considered in any further offer rounds. If you decide to accept the offer, you can do so via the QTAC website. Once you accept your offer, you'll need to enrol in your course. Information on how to enrol will be sent to you once you have accepted your course.

What is orientation?

Orientation is a welcome program for students new to QUT, offering an opportunity to connect with peers, QUT staff, student clubs and development opportunities on campus and online. Orientation week, known as Welcome Week, occurs the week before teaching begins and is a great time to:

- attend Welcome Week events, workshops and seminars
- explore the huge range of student clubs and societies at QUT
- find out about opportunities to play sport at QUT, including esports.

Commencing Indigenous Australian students are also invited to their own welcome program before Welcome Week, called Pre-Orientation Program (POP).

How do I register for POP?

All commencing Indigenous Australian students will be invited via email. POP is designed to familiarise you with university life and give you the best possible start to your studies. It's a great opportunity to meet other Indigenous Australian students, the Oodgeroo Unit team and other staff from across QUT. Once you have accepted your offer, you will be sent an invitation to POP.



Learn more about POP

qut.edu.au/about/oodgeroo/pre-orientation-program





'I would absolutely recommend POP to other Indigenous Australian students. It was such a welcoming experience—I met so many people who were in the same boat as me, moving to Brisbane on my own. I've made lasting friendships from that week. One of the biggest highlights was learning about the Oodgeroo Unit and the dedicated space and services they offer. It really helped me feel supported and connected from the start.'

Maeve Toombes
Bidjara woman
Bachelor of Communications (Journalism) student

What is a course?

Course

Your course is the degree or award you are enrolled in, like a Bachelor of Business. It's also identified by a code, such as BS05. Courses are made up of units. Some are compulsory and some are elective (allowing you to choose what interests you from a list of possible options).

Units

Units are individual subjects you enrol in each semester. They're identifiable by a name and a code, such as BSB110 Accounting.

Classes

Each semester, you'll need to register for and attend classes for each of the units you have enrolled in. You need to enrol in units before you can register for classes.

What is a double degree?

In a double degree you'll combine two bachelor degrees into a single course of study and graduate with two qualifications. A double degree allows you to complete two degrees in a shorter time than it would take to complete them separately. This works by dedicating the time you would normally spend studying electives (optional units) in a single degree to completing the core (compulsory) units of each degree in your double.

What will my year look like?

The QUT academic year is divided into three major teaching periods: Semester 1, Semester 2 and Summer Program. Each semester runs for 17 weeks and is made up of 13 teaching weeks, one mid-semester break, one study week and a two-week examination period. Summer Program is slightly shorter.

The academic calendar for each year can be viewed online and lists exact dates of teaching periods, exams and holidays for QUT students.

QUT study areas:

- Architecture and built environment
- Arts
- Business
- Communication
- Creative arts
- Design
- Engineering
- Health
- Information technology and games
- Justice
- Languages
- Law
- Mathematics and data science
- Science
- Teaching and education
- English and pathway programs.

Checklist

Complete your Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Descent (CATSID) documentation

QUT provides targeted support for Indigenous Australian students. To access this, you may need to provide documentation confirming your Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity. A list of accepted documentation can be found on the CATSID webpage. We suggest reviewing the options first then beginning the process early, at least six months before the semester begins. Start with your family, parents or guardian. Your school's Community Education Counsellor or a local Indigenous organisation may be able to assist you with the process. For more information visit qut.edu.au/about/indigenous/confirmation-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-descent

Apply for a Tax File Number (TFN)

To access HECS-HELP, a government loan that helps cover university fees, you will need a TFN. HECS-HELP is available to domestic students with a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP), meaning the government pays part of the fees and the student pays the rest later. For more information visit the Australian Taxation Office at ato.gov.au/individuals-and-families/tax-file-number/apply-for-a-tfn

Get a Unique Student Identifier (USI)

A USI is a lifelong reference number that records all nationally recognised training and qualifications. You will need a USI to access HECS-HELP and enrol in university. It's quick to apply online and ensures your learning history is safely stored. For more information visit the USI website at usi.gov.au

Explore adjustment schemes

When applying through QTAC, you may be eligible for adjustments to your ATAR or selection rank. These schemes can improve your chances of receiving a course offer. Students can apply for multiple schemes with a maximum adjustment of 10.00 ATAR or selection rank points across all schemes. For more information visit qut.edu.au/study/applying/adjustment-schemes

QUT Admission Pathway Program (CASP)

The QUT Centralised Assessment and Selection Program (CASP) is another pathway for admission. Applications for Semester 1 usually open in late September. For more information visit qut.edu.au/study/applying/centralised-assessment-and-selection-program

Check course prerequisites

Some QUT courses—like Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary) or Bachelor of Science (Advanced Science)—have specific subject prerequisites. If you haven't studied the required subjects or aren't sure if your subjects meet the criteria, you can check the QUT Assumed Knowledge and Prerequisites page for guidance at qut.edu.au/study/applying/assumed-knowledge-and-prerequisites

ABSTUDY (Services Australia)

ABSTUDY provides financial help for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and apprentices. It can assist with living costs, accommodation/rent assistance, travel costs for study-related relocation, study essentials like textbooks/materials, incidentals and start-up allowances. For more information visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudy



information.oodgeroo@qut.edu.au | Free call 1800 654 513 | (07) 3138 4719

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