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# QUT Pathways to Politics for Women

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Empowering women to lead  
Australia into the future



Australia's first **business school**  
with triple international accreditation



**the university  
for the real world**





'The program was set up in a way that encouraged us to ask questions, investigate, and learn without judgment. There are few places in politics where this can be done without the sense that people are assessing you, so it was a welcome opportunity to have a safe learning space. Beyond the learnings within the sessions, I believe the personal connections we have made – with the facilitators, speakers, mentors, and each other – will be a rich source of ongoing support and advice.'

2020 Program Participant

In Australia, women are under-represented across all levels of government, business, civil society and positions of influence. Despite their proven ability as leaders and their right to participate equally in democratic governance, women still face many obstacles to participating in political life.

QUT's **Pathways to Politics for Women** program is open to female graduates from any Queensland university and aims to inspire and empower participants to lead our country into the future.

## Set the agenda. Lead the conversation.

As the only program of its kind in Queensland, QUT's Pathways to Politics for Women is a non-partisan initiative that seeks to increase female participation in all levels of government by equipping women with the skills to succeed in being elected to public office, and to thrive as political leaders.

The program is designed to provide participants with the networks, training and support required to advance their political career.

Only

# 24%

of members of  
**parliament worldwide**  
are women

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), 'Women in national parliaments', November 2018

# 35%

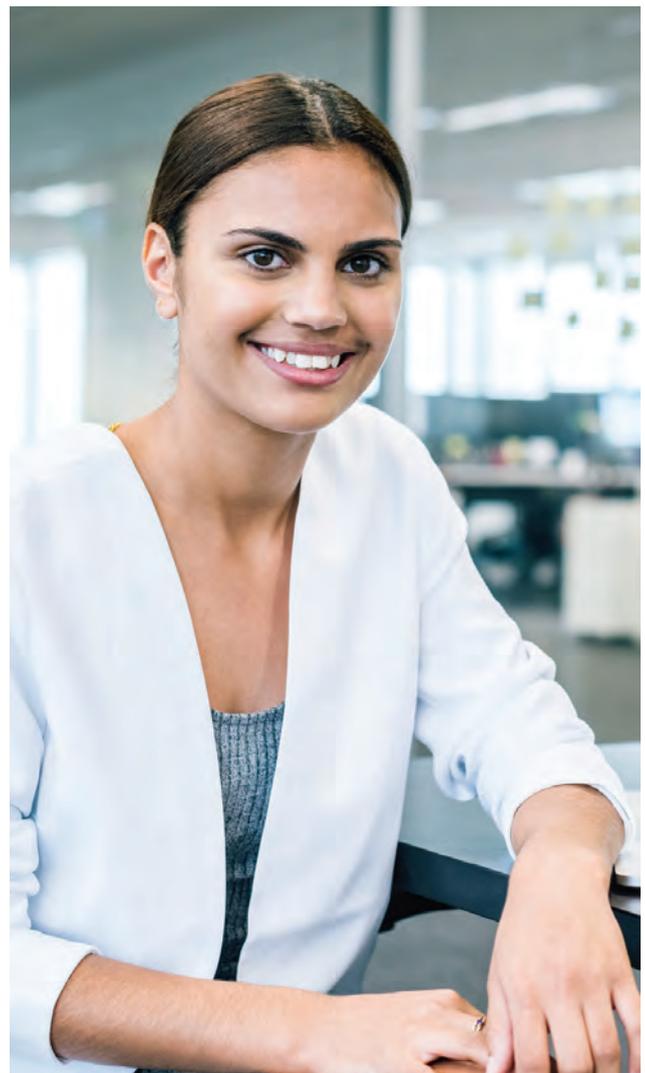
of members of  
**parliament in Australia**  
are women

Source: Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), 2019 Federal Election

# 48<sup>th</sup>

Australia's world ranking  
for **Parliamentary gender diversity**, in 2018

Source: The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), January 2019





## Program overview

The program comprises four modules which each include a face-to-face workshop and online resources. Each workshop is structured around hands-on training and networking, including panels and conversation sessions with women elected to office in local, state and federal government.

Guest presenters from across the political spectrum feature throughout the program, including politicians (both sitting and retired), pollsters, public speaking professionals, campaign strategists, advisors, public policy experts, and leading figures in Australian political and public life.

## Program outline

The program is delivered over three months through an online learning portal, three virtual classrooms, and three 2-day workshops at the Executive Education Centre in QUT's Gardens Point Campus, Brisbane. Participants will also be provided the opportunity for executive coaching and the development of a personal leadership development plan.



Collaboration  
and Support



Virtual  
Engagement



Executive  
Coaching

**Module 1**  
Understanding your  
political career

**Module 2**  
Preparing to run

**Module 3**  
Becoming the  
strongest candidate

**Module 4**  
Getting elected

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## Who should apply?

The program will benefit women who aspire to elected office.

To be eligible for the program you must be an Australian citizen/Australian permanent resident/holder of a permanent Humanitarian Visa, a female-identifying or non-binary in gender identification, and a Queensland resident.

Participants will be selected on a competitive basis against the following criteria:

- commitment to seeking elected office
- leadership experience
- professional and life experience
- political engagement
- ability to tell your story in a compelling way.

The QUT Pathways to Politics for Women program is committed to minimising barriers and broadening access to development opportunities. As such, the following equity criteria over and above the general eligibility requirements for the program will be considered in applications:

- recognition as an Indigenous Australian
- coming from a rural or isolated area.
- previous status as a refugee or current holder of a humanitarian visa
- disadvantaged socio-economic circumstances
- disability or chronic medical condition
- difficult personal circumstances

## Sponsorship

For successful applicants, participation in this program is supported courtesy of our valued program sponsors and donors.

## Register your interest

For more information about this program, please visit [qut.edu.au/study/pathways-to-politics](http://qut.edu.au/study/pathways-to-politics)

Email [qutex@qut.edu.au](mailto:qutex@qut.edu.au)

Phone (07) 3138 4661

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**'The mix of political spectrums within the group was useful to allow for discussion on some topics in a non-partisan arena. The facilitators and faculty were energised, engaging, educational, and of great value and support.'**

2020 Program Participant

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The QUT Pathways to Politics for Women is an independent program run by QUT. It is modelled on the "Pathways to Politics Program for Women" run by the Melbourne School of Government under a partnership between the Women's Leadership Institute Australia, Trawalla Foundation and the University of Melbourne, which also aims to redress the lack of representation of women in Australian politics. QUT is grateful for the assistance provided by Trawalla and the University of Melbourne in developing the Queensland program. Both programs were designed with reference to Harvard University's "From Harvard Square to the Oval Office" practicum.