



Essential Information

QUT Samford Ecological Research Facility (SERF) Field Trips

- Day visits are available Monday to Friday only. No weekends or Public Holiday bookings.
- The site can accommodate up to 60 students per day visit. Schools with more than 60 students can book multiple day visits.
- Confirmation of student numbers must be provided at least one week before the field trip date. Significant changes to numbers may lead to the combining of schools visit days.
- Depending on student numbers, multiple schools may be booked on the same day. Separate equipment and site locations for completion of the activities will be provided for each school. Some amenities will be shared, for example toilets.
- Fees are \$450 per school group per day and include a non-refundable \$100 deposit.
- Payment is required in full before your visit.
- The school is responsible for the condition and safekeeping of the equipment provided by QUT and may be liable for any equipment which is lost, stolen or damaged during the visit.
- Additional fees may apply for lost, stolen or damaged equipment. All additional fees are at the discretion of the QUT STEM High School Engagement team and will be to cover the cost of replacement equipment.
- Schools must supply an accurate record of the names of every person attending on the day of the visit. A contact form for all students and teachers (or adult supervisors) will be sent to your booking contact prior to the visit. An updated hardcopy record of this must be brought with you on the day and handed to the QUT Student Ambassador on arrival.
- Schools must provide sufficient teacher support and behaviour management. Preferred supervision ratio of adults to students is 1:20
- Teachers and accompanying adults are responsible for the support, supervision and behaviour management of the students while visiting and must remain with them at all times.
- In cases of inclement weather, we may need to cancel/reschedule your visit. Inclement weather includes extreme heat, strong winds, thunderstorms, heavy rain for long periods during the day and/or excessive rain over multiple days. Schools will be advised as soon as possible.

The Site

- Schools are responsible for their own transport arrangements to and from the site. A map will be provided for accurate drop off and pick up.
- Ticks and snakes are active at SERF.
- All visitors must wear the appropriate protective clothing including hats, long pants or trousers, boots or sturdy covered shoes with socks and sunscreen.
- It is strongly recommended all visitors also wear long sleeves.
- School must bring their own first aid kit, sunscreen and insect repellent.

- The site will also be equipped with first aid supplies and snake bite kits.
- All visitors must bring their own water bottles.
- QUT will provide shade facilities, toilets, and extra drinking water.
- Schools must take all rubbish with them when leaving the site. A rubbish bag will be provided.
- A QUT staff member will provide a site induction and remain onsite at all times during the school visit.
- SERF is a working research site with real research taking place. During induction, visitors will be advised about out of bounds research areas and research equipment. Penalties may apply for any damage caused by school visitors to any research areas or equipment.

The Equipment

Most of the equipment needed for the mandatory practicals will be supplied by QUT. This equipment may include:

- Field guides for classification
- Printed copy of the student work booklet (a small supply will be available. It is suggested that schools print a copy for each student prior to the visit so that you can go through it with your group)
- pH, moisture, temperature, and light probe
- Anemometer
- Thermometer
- Hand trowel
- 100m rope transect
- 1m² quadrat
- 1m ruler

Further information about the equipment will be provided prior to the visit. Alternatively, schools can bring their own ecology equipment.

We recommend schools bring the following (per group):

- Clipboards
- Pens, pencil, and marker
- Notepad
- Hard copies of any worksheets
- A tablet/iPad/phone

QUT takes no responsibility for visitors' belongings that are lost, damaged or stolen.

Example Itinerary

Time	Activity
9:00	Students arrive at SERF bus drop off point Meet and greet ambassadors SERF induction with safety briefing and outline of the day <ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Tour of site & facilities (toilets, water station, tent base & key research)
9:15-9:25	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Demo how to safely & correctly use equipment to collect a range of abiotic and biotic data along a belt transect using quadrats
9:25-11	QUT ambassadors assist students (3-6 per group) to collect data in relation to their own related hypothesis or question along a series of belt transects.
11:30-12	Lunch break
12-2	Data collection continued - students collect data to answer their own hypothesis or question
2pm	Pack up and School depart

The Booking Process

1. Complete the online [booking form](#)
 - All applications for bookings must be submitted via the online booking form.
2. Confirmation and Payment
 - A confirmation email will be sent to you with details of your visit.
 - If you are satisfied with the date/s offered let us know by reply email and pay the field trip fee as directed. If the dates are not suitable, please email to negotiate an alternative date (if available).
 - Inclement weather may force a visit to be postponed. In the event of this, an alternative date will be negotiated with the school. Notice of postponement will be provided at the earliest possible time.
3. On confirmation of your booking (prior to the visit), QUT Faculty of Science will provide pre-visit information and resources.

For more information

Contact the Faculty of Science, engage.science@qut.edu.au

ABOUT SERF

The Property

[QUT's Samford Ecological Research Facility \(SERF\)](#) is located in the Samford Valley, a 25-minute drive northwest of QUT's Garden's Point Campus in Brisbane, Queensland. This 51-hectare property was bequeathed to QUT by renowned Queensland entomologist Dr Elizabeth Nesta Marks and provides QUT with research, teaching and learning base for a range of ecological, engineering, built environment and educational programs primarily relating to urban development and its impact on ecosystems.

Seventy percent of the property is covered with vegetation providing a refuge to native plants and animals that are under increasing pressure from urbanisation. SERF is being managed by QUT's Research Infrastructure as a living laboratory for research and educational experiences for its researchers, students and visitors. The vegetation is protected and classified under the Vegetation Management Act 1999.

Facilities on site

Schools visitors will mostly be out in the field. Portaloo's will be provided, as well as pop up gazebos for shade and tarpaulins for ground coverage.

Please carry your own water at all times in the field as no potable water is available away from the Barracks. A water jug cooler will be provided for water refills.

Mobile phone reception is available on the property. Please be aware that there are some black spots. QUT staff will have radios while onsite.

QUT Student Ambassador

A QUT Student ambassador will also be onsite to facilitate your field trip and assist with equipment use. Active participation of all attending teachers is required to help students gather sufficient and relevant data to formulate their questions onsite or back at school. For students to gain the most out of our Biology field trips we recommend that they have covered the relevant content from the Biology syllabus prior to their trip to SERF.

QUT Student Ambassadors will demonstrate how to use the equipment we provide and can assist the students with their sampling technique, but they are not teachers and may not necessarily have relevant background knowledge to answer all your students questions. Whilst every effort is made to provide ambassadors with a relevant background, this is subject to their university timetable and other work commitments and cannot be guaranteed.

For this reason it is important that the students are well prepared beforehand, and that attending school staff are knowledgeable in the field work and curriculum content, and prepared to take an active role in facilitating the field trip.