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## RELIGIOUS GROUPS

In Brisbane, you can find religious groups for diverse backgrounds. Some religious groups are on campus, and many more are in the wider community. Details of some of the on-campus groups are available from [www.qutguild.com/clubs](http://www.qutguild.com/clubs)

We have a chaplaincy service that is available to students of all religions. The chaplaincy also has information and contacts for religious groups in the community.

Contact chaplaincy at <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/health-and-wellbeing/personal-support-and-counselling/chaplaincy>

## Wider Community

### COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AUSTRALIA

The Council of International Students Australia (CISA) is the national peak student representative body independently run by international students for international students studying at the postgraduate, undergraduate, private college, TAFE, ELICOS and foundation level.

CISA is not aligned with any particular political party which allows CISA the freedom to openly and freely advance CISA's position on issues for the betterment of all international students.

To join CISA or find out more information on events and activities, visit [www.cisa.edu.au](http://www.cisa.edu.au)

### VOLUNTEERING QLD

Volunteering is a great way to contribute to your community. It provides a variety of benefits, including making new friends, sharing skills, getting job-ready and becoming a part of the local community.

To find out how you can contribute to your local community, contact: [www.qld.gov.au/community/community-organisations-volunteering/volunteering/](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/community-organisations-volunteering/volunteering/)

Or visit [www.volunteeringqld.org.au](http://www.volunteeringqld.org.au) for more information.

## QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY LINKS

### Community groups

Community groups help people get together for a common purpose or to share an interest. The group may provide support for its members, or for others in their local community.

To find a community group or organisation near you, visit [www.qld.gov.au/community/your-home-community/groups/](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/your-home-community/groups/)

### Neighbourhood and community centres

Neighbourhood and community centres can provide friendly, localised access to child, family and community services. These can be found across Brisbane and in your local area.

Visit: [www.qld.gov.au/community/your-home-community/neighbourhood-community-centres](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/your-home-community/neighbourhood-community-centres)

### Multicultural community organisations

There are culturally and linguistically diverse community organisations across Brisbane. The Queensland Multicultural Resource Directory lists organisations that offer information, advice, support and networking opportunities, including:

- community, non-government and government organisations and agencies
- after-hours cultural schools and religious organisations
- migrant service organisations
- multicultural media outlets
- consuls
- bilateral business associations
- interstate multicultural offices

Information about the resource directory is available from: [www.qld.gov.au/community/your-home-community/multicultural-resource-directory/](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/your-home-community/multicultural-resource-directory/)

### BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL

Brisbane City Council (BCC) provides a variety of services, programs and strategies to support the community. BCC has a commitment to a multicultural Brisbane through services and initiatives for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Council provides linkages and information for people who are starting a new life in Brisbane.

This includes;

- Brisbane residents guide
- Translating and interpreting service
- Sports and recreational clubs
- Multicultural programs and initiatives
- Council libraries

For information to the resources, programs and initiatives available from BCC, visit:

[www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community/community-support](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community/community-support)

# Networking and Community Life

## Networking

Networking can be a great way to broaden your life experiences and build personal and professional connections with others. To maximise the benefits of networking, you must be proactive in sharing your experience and knowledge with people you meet.

### Some of the benefits of networking include;

**Connections** - Making new connections can enhance your personal and professional relationships. New connections can help you build further connections with other networks, thus increasing your opportunities.

**Future opportunities** - Networking will result in opportunities. While sometimes you will not know how or when opportunities will arise, it is important to be open and ready for any that can come your way.

**Increased confidence** - Networking can contribute to a sense of relatedness and enhanced confidence and self-esteem. As you develop your networking skills, you will be able to learn, adapt, accept and understand different cultural, community and organisational perspectives.

**Raising your profile** - Prospective employers often look favourably upon experience gained while living overseas. Building your personal and professional skill sets adds value to your profile and resume.

**Shared knowledge and experiences** - Networking may provide opportunities for you to acquire an understanding of a new language, sensitivity towards another culture, raise awareness and adoption of multi-faceted approaches to learning, build on analytical and problem solving skills, provide a platform to develop intercultural competencies, and broaden your knowledge and interest in global issues.

Building a good network can take energy and time. Sometimes it will require you to step out of your comfort zone to meet new people and experience new ways of doing things. Networking is a key activity in your learning experience for personal and professional growth.

At QUT, there are a number of opportunities to extend your network through;

- Orientation activities and events
- Volunteering and community organisations
- Joining student clubs and sport and recreational activities
- Social gatherings - making friends with people from culturally diverse backgrounds
- Industry professional development conferences, seminars, workshops and linking with professional bodies
- Faculty programs, work placements
- Classroom and group work

There are many ways to build your network, so make the most of every opportunity.

### TIPS ON NETWORKING

Relax: Think of it as a chance to make new friends, so try to smile and be yourself

Introduce yourself: Others will feel just as nervous as you do so a welcoming smile and "Hello" will not go astray

Be open minded: Ask yourself what you would like to get out of the networking meeting. Is it new contacts? Future opportunities?

Ask questions: Take advantage of the opportunity and learn as much as you can

Be a good listener: Encourage others to participate in the conversation and make sure that you are alert throughout their responses.

Follow-up: If you say that you'll call or be in touch, make it your priority to do so promptly

Ensure that your online profile is always up-to-date

## Get involved with activities at uni!

<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/student-life>

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

Level 5, Y Block  
Gardens Point campus

**QUT**

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### MAKING FRIENDS

Meeting new friends can be one of the best experiences for you while studying in QUT. Studies have found that a student's social life plays a big role in their happiness with their study experience. International students who made local friends were also more satisfied with their international education.

Making friends in another culture can be more challenging than at home. Making the most of social opportunities and meeting local friends and friends from other countries can help you settle in and feel at home more quickly.

When meeting new people, it's important to be comfortable with them first before you feel you can trust them. A stranger who engages you in conversation is probably just being friendly. Do not reveal any of your personal details like your name, phone number or address until there is a mutual trust.

It is always safer to meet a new friend in a public place or group, like a café or a public park, instead of inviting them to your home or visiting their home. Group activities are also a safe environment to meet new friends.

QUT aims to provide a learning environment and community that is harmonious. Students and staff are generally friendly and you should find it easy to make friends in and out of the classroom.

### Where to go for help

If you're feeling homesick or need help adapting to the new surroundings and culture in Australia, make an appointment to talk to an international student counsellor at International Student Services. (Phone: 3138 2019, GP campus or phone: 3138 3963, KG campus).

### SHARE ACCOMMODATION

One way to meet lifelong friends is to live in share accommodation. QUT Accommodation Services offer you the opportunity to share houses and units with local and international students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

This could be in a purpose built student accommodation complex located near KG and GP campuses or in student share houses in suburbs close to your campus in the community.

Another excellent option is Homestay Accommodation where you can live with a local homestay provider who might be a family, couple or single person.

Homestay includes meals and is not only a great way to learn about Brisbane but many students continue the relationship with their homestay family once they return home.

For more information, visit:

<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/student-life/accommodation-and-living-in-brisbane/accommodation>

## QUT Community Links

There are various ways you can meet people and be involved with student life in the QUT community.

### STUDENT CLUBS

Joining a student club is a great way to meet friends and increase your network. There is an A-Z list of student clubs and groups that may be of interest to you.

Different categories include social justice, faculty based, hobbies, sports, religion and international. You can join more than one club!

For more information, visit: [www.qutguild.com/clubs](http://www.qutguild.com/clubs)

### VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering provides an avenue for students to contribute and make a positive difference to strengthen the QUT community and beyond.

It is a valuable service that can provide support and assistance to others. It allows you to learn about yourself, others and the community and is an opportunity for you to grow personally and professionally while working toward a common goal with others.

Students interested in volunteering programs available at QUT should contact the following areas;

International Student Services  
Email: [issadvice@qut.edu.au](mailto:issadvice@qut.edu.au); level 3, X Block, Gardens Point or Room C420, Level 4, C Block, Kelvin Grove

Student Engagement  
Email: [engage@qut.edu.au](mailto:engage@qut.edu.au); level 5, Y Block, Gardens Point

### CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT

QUT Careers and Employment provides services to help you with job seeking and employment information and resources. They also offer programs and projects to connect you with networks to enhance your work prospects.

To get career advice, go to HiQ at either campus and ask for a career advisor.

Website: <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/jobs-and-careers>

### SPORTS AT QUT

There are a range of sport and recreational pathways on offer for students at QUT. Play social sport, join a sport or recreation club, compete for QUT at University Games or learn more about the Elite Athlete program. More information is available from <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/student-life/sport> or email [sports@qut.edu.au](mailto:sports@qut.edu.au) or visit Level 4, C Block, Kelvin Grove campus

### EAST WEST

East West promotes cultural diversity and intercultural communication among our students. The program helps students meet new people and get involved in campus activities and offers social activities, trips and cross-cultural activities. For more information, visit: <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/student-life/clubs-and-social-activities/east-west>

### LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

QUT offers many stimulating experiences beyond the classroom designed to inspire and provide you with developmental opportunities. This includes Leadership, Development and Innovation (LDI) program, The Conference and Incubator, College of Excellence, and TedxQUT. For more information, visit: <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/jobs-and-careers/leadership-and-development>

### STUDENT EXCHANGE

QUT has exchange agreements with 200 partner institutions in 100 countries around the world. Going on student exchange isn't just travelling as a tourist; it's living in a new country with a new culture. Taking part in an exchange program takes initiative, commitment, and flexibility.

Student exchange offers you the opportunity to:

- study and live in another part of the world
- experience something outside of your comfort zone
- challenge yourself personally and academically

For more information, visit:

<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/student-life/student-exchange>

### QUT ALUMNI

As a QUT student and graduate you are a part of our global community of alumni. It is an ongoing relationship with benefits including exclusive services, news, career supports and networks. To stay connected with QUT alumni visit [www.qut.edu.au/alumni](http://www.qut.edu.au/alumni)

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**QRSnet** - The QUT Research Students network (QRSnet) is a support group for Australian and international higher degree research students at QUT. It aims to build general graduate capabilities and promote self-confidence in research and life skills while providing a supportive and safe learning environment at QUT.

QRSnet offers;

- workshops and training activities
- social events
- forums

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

Web: <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/research-students/doing-your-research/research-networks/qut-research-students-network-grsnet>

**Internation Women's Group (IWG)** - The IWG is a supportive group for women only. Group activities include social activities, English language conversation classes, life skills and personal development.

To register, visit: [survey.qut.edu.au/survey/171307/1cb7/](http://survey.qut.edu.au/survey/171307/1cb7/)

**QUT's Men's Group** - The group is dedicated to providing support, cultural exchange and social activities for QUT's male students and partners of female students. Group activities include:

- social activities such as fishing, hiking, sports etc.
- life skills and personal development workshops
- raising awareness and supporting Men's health

To register, visit:

[www.facebook.com/groups/443381595760788](https://www.facebook.com/groups/443381595760788)

### GROUP WORK

Most students will need to participate in a group work activity during the course of study at QUT. Working in groups is a common part of the learning environment. While it can be challenging for different personality types to work together on a common goal, it has its advantages. The advantages of group work are more than just study-oriented.

Studies have shown that group work can help students develop a wide range of skills that are important in the professional environment. Positive group experiences have been shown to contribute to student's learning experiences and success at uni.

There are various resources and information to help you with group work activities. All QUT libraries have areas equipped with furniture and technology designed to facilitate collaborative group working for students. These include:

- group study rooms, some with networked PC and multimedia equipment
- lounge and reading areas
- discussion areas with tables for group work

Booking information:

[www.library.qut.edu.au/about/rooms](http://www.library.qut.edu.au/about/rooms)

Resources;

- [studywell.library.qut.edu.au/knowabout/workingintea/](http://studywell.library.qut.edu.au/knowabout/workingintea/)
- [blogs.qut.edu.au/library/tag/teamwork/](http://blogs.qut.edu.au/library/tag/teamwork/)

Contact ISS if you need to discuss any concerns with group work activities.

