

# International students

with a disability, injury or health condition

## Are you an international student with a disability, injury or health condition intending to study at Queensland University of Technology (QUT)?

This information will help you decide if you will be able to study at QUT with appropriate adjustments in relation to your disability, injury or health condition. QUT students—including those who are on exchange, involved in study abroad, completing an English language program, or enrolling in an undergraduate or postgraduate course—are welcome to access Disability Services to receive reasonable adjustments during their course of study.

Before you can commence your studies, QUT staff require information about your disability, injury or health condition, and the support and adjustments that may be required to assist you to study.

### This document contains information about:

- visa and course requirements to consider before you apply
- QUT Disability Services information
- bringing medication and assistance dogs to Australia
- physical access—including maps and accommodation information.

the university  
for the real world



## Before applying

### Before you apply, you should know about:

- the academic requirements for studying at QUT
- support services both on campus and in the community that are available once you're here
- your ability to fulfil visa and course requirements, and how your disability, injury or health condition may impact this
- your ability to access adequate health insurance and any restrictions on cover due related to any pre-existing conditions
  - a condition of obtaining a visa is that you and family members accompanying you to Australia must have acceptable health insurance through Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- health insurance coverage and exclusions. Check with your sponsor regarding funds required for medical treatment before health insurance becomes available.

**Note: Check the specific terms of your OSHC before arriving in Australia. Depending on your healthcare provider there may be waiting periods (usually 12 months)—for example, where a disability, injury or health condition exists before arrival in Australia; pregnancy related services; possible waiting periods of two months for pre-existing psychiatric conditions.**

## Before you leave home

### Have you got a referral letter from your treating professional?

This is useful if you need to continue relevant treatment with a similar practitioner in Australia. It should include your medical diagnosis/diagnoses, and list medically approved medication and prescriptions.

### Have you got supporting documentation for Disability Services?

See 'Supporting documents'.

### Is your current supporting documentation in English?

See 'Supporting documents'.

### Can you bring your medication?

Health regulations and availability of medications vary from country to country. See 'Permits for medication'.

### Are you prepared for mobility aids or assistive technology issues?

If you are bringing support aids or equipment, ensure you have spare parts, special tools and an electrical current converter if required.

### Is your assistance dog ready to travel?

If you are bringing an assistance dog into Australia, make sure you know the procedures to ensure your dog doesn't face quarantine delays.

Visit [awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/cats-dogs/assistance-dogs](http://awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/cats-dogs/assistance-dogs) for more information.

Make sure you know about the guidelines for the use of assistance animals at QUT when enrolled as a student. For more information see [mopp.qut.edu.au/H/H\\_02\\_06.jsp](http://mopp.qut.edu.au/H/H_02_06.jsp)

### **Make sure you understand:**

- the requirements of the course you intend to study (both theory and practicum), and whether it is compatible with your disability, injury or health condition. The course coordinator of the relevant course will be able to answer any questions you may have about your course and its requirements.
- the requirements for a successful visa application and any impact your disability, injury or health condition may have on your ability to comply with the conditions of receiving that visa. For example, the time required to complete your course. For visa purposes, you may need a letter from your treating professional providing advice on your capacity to undertake the course once you have decided on a course of study.

**Note: Sending documents regarding your disability, injury or health condition to QUT or contact between your home university and QUT does not mean you are registered for disability support at QUT.**

### **Disability services**

To access Disability Services, students must attend an appointment with a disability adviser on their QUT home campus. An appointment can be booked before leaving home, but students should

ensure they see a disability adviser within a week of arriving in Australia. Disability Services appointments are free, confidential and your privacy is respected. For more information see [mopp.qut.edu.au/F/F\\_06\\_02.jsp](http://mopp.qut.edu.au/F/F_06_02.jsp)

Service provision is consistent with that for domestic students within Australia and may not be the same as provided in your home country. For example, QUT provides sign language interpreting, but only Australian Sign Language (AUSLAN). All classes are taught in English, except where required in specific language courses. Alternative formatting including print, braille and oral material provided by Disability Services is in English.

**Note: If you intend to study a language course and may require alternative formatting in a language other than English, contact Disability Services before enrolling to determine if such formatting is available.**



- QUT does not provide personal carers (on or off campus). If you need a personal carer (on or off campus) you will need to consider bringing your personal carer from home or arrange a carer through a private provider in Australia.
- QUT does not provide transport to and from campus. See **‘Transport to and from campus’**.
- QUT does not provide accommodation but has staff who can assist you with finding suitable accommodation. See **‘Accessible accommodation’**.

## Supporting documents for disability services

It is important that you complete the **‘Early indication of support needs’** questionnaire form. In addition, requests for disability services and adjustments at QUT must be accompanied by supporting documentation. If not issued in English, original documents must be accompanied by a translation into English by an independent and accredited translator. Medical documents must be provided by an appropriate and qualified health professional.

### Documentation requirements include:

- all documents must be on letterhead, have legible dates and be typed.
- all documents must be signed by the health practitioner and include their official stamp.
- documents must include the medical diagnosis/diagnoses, treatment, duration, and whether the condition is permanent, temporary or fluctuating.

- documents must indicate how the condition affects everyday functioning and studies.
- all documents must be no more than two years old.

If available, you should provide a copy of adjustments provided for previous study in your home country.

### Specific learning disability documentation requirements include:

- an assessment and diagnosis of specific learning disabilities by a qualified practitioner\*.
- documents containing test scores, diagnosis and recommendations.
- documents must be no more than three years old.

*\* A qualified practitioner and health professional conducting assessment and rendering diagnosis of specific learning disabilities must be qualified to hold a degree in a field related to diagnosis of specific learning disabilities and have at least one year of diagnostic experience with adults and adolescents. Suitably qualified practitioners may include registered clinical psychologists, educational psychologists or neuropsychologists.*

In the case of specific learning disabilities, a disability adviser will need to review your documentation before determining whether you are eligible for study adjustments.



## Early indication of support needs questionnaire

If you have a disability, injury or health condition which may impact on your ability to study at times and a reasonable adjustment or further support may enable you to access your studies, you are welcome to complete this form.

The information that you provide in the questionnaire is to enable Disability Services, International Student Admissions and, where necessary, the relevant faculty and teaching staff to assess the support needs of students.

An assessment of your study support needs is considered before you are made an offer by QUT to ensure that QUT can meet your expectations.

The information that you provide is voluntary and confidential, and your privacy is respected. The information that you provide on the questionnaire is not related to your visa requirements.

## Accessible accommodation

QUT helps international students to find suitable accommodation. If you have specific needs for accommodation, or want to know about accessible accommodation, contact an accommodation officer by email at [accommodation@qut.edu.au](mailto:accommodation@qut.edu.au) or visit [student.qut.edu.au/international/accommodation-and-homestay](http://student.qut.edu.au/international/accommodation-and-homestay)

Accessible accommodation for people who use wheelchairs, mobility aids or who have assistance animals including guide dogs is limited in Brisbane. Such accommodation cannot be guaranteed, particularly at short notice. The cost of accommodation and other living expenses may also be higher for people with a disability, injury or health condition depending on their needs.

## Transport to and from campus

QUT does not provide transport to and from campus. Options for travel to and from campus include public transport and private car, although parking is limited. Note: If you intend to drive a vehicle while you are in Australia or you have a parking permit for people with a disability, you should bring your driver's licence and your parking permit with you to Australia.

## Physical access and transport around campus

QUT has two main campuses in Brisbane. The Kelvin Grove campus has areas with steep terrain and may be difficult to navigate for students with mobility issues or those using non-motorised wheelchairs. On-campus transport options for students at all QUT campuses who are mobility impaired include:

- independent mobilising via walking, or motorised or manual wheelchair, or other mobility aids (depending on your course of study there may be long distances between facilities)
- an electric minibus operating on a limited QUT route, commencing late 2022 (wheelchair accessible)
- short-fare taxi (some of which may be included in support services provided by the university for essential travel on campus).

Note: If you are bringing accessibility or mobility aids, bring spare parts and special tools with you to Australia.

**IMPORTANT:** Students intending to study at QUT campuses need to be aware that some teaching spaces need to be accessed via accessible walkways and elevators. Applicants should indicate their personal situation on their 'International students with disability, injury or health condition' questionnaire.





## **QUT access map**

Navigate around QUT when you arrive. Students enrolled at QUT have access to the Wayfinder application to help navigate on campus.

### **Maps**

[qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/campuses-and-transport/campuses/](http://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/campuses-and-transport/campuses/)

### **QUT app**

[qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/it-and-printing/qut-websites-and-app/qut-app/](http://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/it-and-printing/qut-websites-and-app/qut-app/)

## **Permits for medication**

Ensure that you check if your medicine is allowed through Australian Customs, and if you need a permit or licence to bring it in. You need to declare all drugs and medicines including prescription medications, alternative, herbal and traditional medicines, and vitamin and mineral preparation formulas to Australian Customs on arrival. For more information about allowable medicines or medical devices visit [tga.gov.au/entering-australia/](http://tga.gov.au/entering-australia/)

## **Questions**

It is recommended that all students review the Student FAQs at AskQUT before arrival at [ask.qut.edu.au/](http://ask.qut.edu.au/)

For further information about Disability Services see information on the QUT website at [qut.edu.au/study/student-life/support/disability-support/](http://qut.edu.au/study/student-life/support/disability-support/)

If you have a specific question in relation to your disability, injury or health condition and potential study requirements, please contact Disability Services directly on [student.disabilities@qut.edu.au](mailto:student.disabilities@qut.edu.au)

Additional general information about international students with disabilities in Australia is in the fact sheet on the ADCET site at [adcet.edu.au](http://adcet.edu.au)

## Legislative responsibilities

QUT will provide access to education and disability support in accordance with the relevant state and federal legislation in Australia.

### Specifically, QUT will:

1. assist students with a disability, injury or health condition to self-identify and meet eligibility for reasonable adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids. These are determined on a case-by-case basis
2. ensure privacy of information relating to a student in accordance with the law and QUT's policies.
3. inform students, as necessary, of university policies and procedures for resolving grievances.

### While observing its responsibilities, QUT has the right to:

1. maintain the university's academic standards.
2. request from a student, current and/or updated documents completed by an acceptable professional source to verify the request for reasonable adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids.
3. discuss a student's request for reasonable adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids with the professional source of his/her documents with the student's signed consent authorising such disclosure and discussion.
4. select from equally effective and appropriate adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids in consultation with students.

## QUT also has the following rights in managing disability support issues:

1. To deny a request for adjustment (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aid if, amongst other things, the documents (a) do not identify a specific disability and/or functional limitation, (b) fail to verify the need for the requested services and (c) are not provided in a timely manner.
2. To deny the provision of an adjustment (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aid that is unreasonable, including any that (a) pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others, (b) undermine the academic integrity of/constitutes a substantial change or alteration to an essential element or learning requirement of a course or program, (c) will impose undue financial or administrative hardship on the university and (d) create unjustifiable hardship.
3. To deny an application for enrolment or to withdraw an offer of enrolment if, at any time, QUT forms a belief that (a) a student is unable to meet the academic requirements for a course, (b) a student is unable to meet visa requirements, (c) it is not possible to provide the adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids, (d) the provision of adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids would create unjustifiable hardship, (e) information about the student's disability, injury or health condition has changed and affects their ability to meet those academic/visa requirements mentioned and (f) providing the support required by those changes will constitute unjustifiable hardship.