



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 the Queensland University of Technology (QUT)? This information will help you decide if you will be able to study at QUT with appropriate adjustments to support your disability, injury or health condition.

QUT students are entitled to access Disability Services and receive appropriate adjustments during their course of study, including students who are on exchange, involved in Study Abroad, completing an English language program, or enrolling in an undergraduate or postgraduate course.

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

This document contains information about:

- visa and course requirements
 - Disability Services at QUT
 - physical access—including maps and accommodation
 - medication and assistance dogs
 - checklist and Disability Services Support questionnaire.
- You must complete the checklist after reading this information, and return it to QUT.**

Before applying

Before you apply, you should know about:

- the academic requirements for studying at QUT
- support services 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, and check with your sponsor regarding funds required for medical treatment before health insurance becomes available.

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

Before you leave home

Have you got a referral letter from your treating professional?

This is useful so that you can continue relevant treatment with a similar practitioner in Australia. It should list approved medication and prescriptions. 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 www.agriculture.gov.au/cats-dogs/assistance-dogs for more information.

Do you need to discuss anything further with Disability Services before you arrive?

Email us at student.disability@qut.edu.au so we can make sure you have all the necessary information.

Visa and course requirements

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. 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, when you have decided on a course of study, you may need a letter from your treating professional providing advice on your capacity to undertake the course.

Note: Sending documents to Disability Services, or contact between your home university and Disability Services does not mean you are registered for disability support at QUT.



Disability services

To receive support through Disability Services students must attend an appointment with a Disability Adviser on their QUT home campus. You can book an appointment before leaving home, but should ensure you see a Disability Adviser within a week of arriving in Australia.

Disability Services appointments are free, confidential and your privacy is respected; see www.governance.qut.edu.au/compliance/privacy/ for more information.

Service provisions are based on those provided to domestic students within Australia, and these may not be the same as those 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.

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.
- QUT does not provide accommodation, but has staff who can assist you with finding suitable accommodation. See 'Accessible Accommodation'.

Supporting documents

It is important that you complete the Disability Services Support questionnaire. Requests for support services and adjustments at QUT must be supported by official 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 health professional. Documentation requirements include:

- all documents must be on letterhead, have legible dates and be typed
- documents must include diagnosis, treatment, duration and whether or not the condition is permanent, temporary, or fluctuating
- documents must indicate how the condition affects every day functioning
- all documents must be no more than two years old.

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.

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.

Professionals conducting assessment and rendering diagnosis of Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) must be qualified to hold a degree in a field related to diagnosis of SLD and have at least one year of diagnostic experience with adults and adolescents.

Recommended practitioners may include: registered psychologists, educational psychologists or neuropsychologists.

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

Documents can be sent to Disability Services by fax or email:

Fax +61 (7) 3138 2689
Email student.disability@qut.edu.au

Accessible accommodation

QUT provides assistance to 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 or visit www.student.qut.edu.au/international/accommodation-and-homestay

Accessible accommodation for people who use wheelchairs, mobility aids or who have assistance (guide) dogs is limited in Brisbane. Such accommodation cannot be guaranteed, particularly at short notice. 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 three 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:

- walking (depending on your course of study there may be long distances between facilities)
- loan of an electric hand-operated mobility scooter, (students require medical clearance to access this)
- 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 discuss their personal situation with a Disability Adviser to clarify any access issues.

QUT access map

Navigate around QUT when you arrive: www.qut.edu.au/campuses-and-facilities/maps-and-getting-here

Students enrolled at QUT have access to the Wayfinder application to help navigate on campus.

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, vitamin and mineral preparation formulas to Australian Customs.

For more information about medicines or medical devices:

www.tga.gov.au/entering-australia
www.border.gov.au/Trav/Ente/Brin/Can-I-bring-it-back/Can-I-Bring-It-Back-Medicine

For information about prohibited and restricted imports:
www.border.gov.au/Trav/Impo/Proh

Queries

It is recommended that all students review the Student FAQs at AskQUT before arrival. Specific queries and requests for registration appointments can be emailed directly to student.disability@qut.edu.au or telephone +61 4 3138 2699.

Additional information about international students with disabilities is in the fact sheet on the ADCET site:
www.adcet.edu.au

Legislative responsibilities

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

1. assist students with a disability, injury or health condition to self-identify and meet eligibility for reasonable and appropriate adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids. These are determined on a case-by-case basis
2. assure 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 documents completed by an acceptable professional source to verify the need for reasonable adjustments (physical or academic) and/or auxiliary aids
3. discuss a student's need 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
 - 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 inappropriate or unreasonable, including any that:
 - a. pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others
 - b. undermine the academic integrity of/constitute a substantial change or alteration to an essential element of a course or program
 - c. will impose undue financial or administrative hardship on the university
 - 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
 - f. providing the support required by those changes will constitute unjustifiable hardship.

Checklist

Please complete and return this checklist to QUT

- Course requirements: I have checked my ability to meet academic requirements
- Visa requirements: I have checked details about studying full-time and obtaining health insurance
- Referral letters for medical support: have been provided in English
- Permits for medicines: are these required?
- Registering with Disability Services
- Supporting documents: have been provided in English
- Accessible accommodation: is this available?
- Transport to and from campus: is this required?
- On-campus access and/or transport: is this available?
- Support aids and equipment: can be transported with spare parts and converters, or purchased/rented in Australia?
- Assistance (Guide) dogs: can they enter Australia?
- Signed the declaration

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please complete and sign this checklist and return it with your QUT Early Indication of Support Needs questionnaire.