

Supporting Indigenous Australian academics at QUT

At QUT, we recognise the importance of fostering a scholarly and safe community for Indigenous Australian academics, and provide a range of ways for scholars to socialise and learn from each other—formally and informally.

We are dedicated to supporting the excellence and advancement of Indigenous Australian scholars—from postgraduate research students through to early and mid-career academics.

The QUT difference

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Australians) aims to nurture and maintain a sense of community and camaraderie for all Indigenous Australian staff across the university, with the following:

- coffee and yarning—informal monthly catchups over coffee
- *Message Stick*—monthly e-newsletter delivered to all Indigenous Australian staff
- staff lunches
- student and staff gatherings
- opportunity to attend cultural events—both within QUT or in the community.

In addition to other leave, all Indigenous Australian staff are also granted five days of cultural leave per year to attend cultural events and matters of native title, or to get back on Country.

QUT—through the Carumba Institute—provides Indigenous Australian scholars opportunities to become part of an innovative intellectual community that is multi-disciplinary and is held together by the core belief that Indigenous knowledges provide unlimited opportunities for solving real-world problems and securing a just and sustainable future.

Carumba Institute's program of support for Indigenous Australian academic staff

- Regular reading and writing groups
- Annual writing retreats
- Skill-building workshops (creative writing, academic c-v prep)
- Academic seminars
- Social gatherings with other Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander academics and HDR students
- Academic career support including hands-on help with academic promotion and research grant applications.

- Engagement with Indigenous undergraduate students through the Vacation Research Experience Scheme
- Access to culturally safe and supportive workspaces across both Gardens Point and Kelvin Grove campuses
- Institutional and intellectual advice and advocacy as required
- Top-up financial support (two rounds annually)

Francis Nona, Badulaig man Lecturer, Carumba Institute

'As an Indigenous Australian academic at QUT, I have found the support and community here to be truly exceptional. The initiatives led by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Australians) and the Carumba Institute have created a welcoming and nurturing environment that values and elevates Indigenous perspectives. The regular yarning sessions, staff lunches and cultural leave have allowed me to stay connected to my heritage while thriving academically.'

The academic support offered—from course coordination and skill-building workshops to writing retreats—has been invaluable in advancing my career. The opportunity to engage with other Indigenous scholars and students in a culturally safe space has fostered a deep sense of belonging and motivation. QUT's commitment to Indigenous excellence is not just a statement but a lived reality, and I am proud to be part of a community that is leading the way in championing Indigenous knowledges and scholarship.'

For further information on Indigenous Australian research excellence and support at QUT, please visit qut.edu.au/research/our-research/indigenous-australian