



Parents and guardians

A guide to help you support your child as they make course and career decisions

What financial help is available?

QUT offers a range of scholarships for students who are high achievers, from a low-income background, from rural or remote areas, identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, have excelled at sport or are studying in a particular discipline area.

QUT students can also access short-term emergency loans, financial counselling and other assistance. There is a contact person in each faculty to help students in financial need.

What if my child doesn't like their course?

It's OK for your child to change their mind or course after they have started their degree. Many of our students do. QUT's career educators and online learning modules can assist with this decision and process. We encourage students to seek advice early in the semester to avoid academic and financial penalties.

What support is available for my child?

At QUT, we offer a free network of services across all areas of the student experience to support your child to succeed. QUT's language and learning, and maths, science and IT support will ensure your child has every chance for academic success. Your child will also be supported to develop their career and employability skills, and

be provided with many opportunities for their leadership, personal and professional development.

Support is embedded directly into your child's course, ensuring they receive help that is tailored and timely. Additional help is available through drop-in sessions with specialist educators, group support sessions and online resources. Your child can also get advice from one of our 1500+ trained students who have the skills and capabilities to help other students with questions and advice.

At QUT, your child won't fall between the cracks. We reach out to students who need extra support via phone or email to arrange personalised help and referrals to services. There are also many experienced people and services at QUT to help students including health and medical services, personal counselling, accommodation assistance, career planning, course advice and financial support.

If your child has a disability, injury or health condition, encourage them to contact QUT's Disability Services before they start studying at QUT to ensure support is in place for the start of their course.

How does QUT prepare my child for the world of work?

We ensure students have opportunities in their courses to gain practical work skills and make contacts in

their profession through real-world projects and industry experience. For example, advertising and public relations students develop campaigns and pitch them to real-world clients in a boardroom setting; and paramedic students participate in a training exercise with emergency services staff where they assess and plan responses for simulated trauma and road accident situations.

We recognise that many jobs of the future will be created through startup companies. Our students have opportunities to develop and explore their entrepreneurial vision through teaching programs and student activities. More founders of startups have studied at QUT than any other Queensland university (Startup Muster Report 2018).

Your child can also attend group sessions or discussions on résumé writing, employability and other job-seeking skills. The QUT UniHub portal can be used to find part-time and full-time work.

Stay up to date

2020 has been a different year and information can change. Stay informed. Visit our website for parents and sign up to receive updates at qut.edu.au/parents

Ask us

QUT staff are ready to help.



HiQ—how can we help you?

Live chat, email, phone and advice
qut.edu.au/need-advice

International students

This publication has been prepared for Australian students and those with permanent resident status, and is not suitable for international students. For information for international students, visit qut.edu.au/international

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Information in this publication was correct at the time of publishing. The university reserves the right to amend any information and to cancel, change or relocate any course. For the latest information visit qut.edu.au/study

QUT is committed to sustainability. The paper used in Parents and guardians 2021 has the credentials:



The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) acknowledges the Turrbal and Yugara, as the First Nations owners of the lands where QUT now stands. We pay respect to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, research and learning. QUT acknowledges the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play within the QUT community.

Frequently asked questions

How can I help my child with career decisions?

You want your child to make the right choices about their future. However they may have many different interests or be unsure about which post-school pathway to take. It's OK for your child to not know what they want to do after school, and many young people change their mind, and their course or career, further down the track.

Assist your child by encouraging them to explore different careers and acting as a sounding board to help them weigh up their options. There are many resources you can access.

Talk to teachers, school guidance officers and people who work in their field of interest.

Check out in-person and online events such as open days and career expos.

Investigate courses, entry requirements and careers by talking to staff and students at events, or by using the *QTAC Guide* or QUT website.

Get expert help with tools developed by professional career practitioners. The Match My Skills quiz will provide you with a personalised list of career areas and courses to match your child's interests and skills, as well as ideas on future-proofing their career. Visit qut.edu.au/match-my-skills

Or take part in a free 15-minute phone career conversation with one of our career educators. Visit qut.edu.au/need-advice

Explore careers, industries and employment data using websites such as myfuture.edu.au or joboutlook.gov.au

Try it first with the START QUT program. Year 11 and 12 students can experience university and study up to two university subjects in the same classes as current QUT students.

How will my child apply to uni?

For most Queensland universities, as well as some TAFE and private provider courses, your child will apply online through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) website. Year 12 students receive the *QTAC Guide* through their school. Your child can list up to six course preferences and will usually have time to make changes to the order of their preferences or add new courses. Some courses have earlier application deadlines or additional entry requirements such as a portfolio, audition or suitability statement.

The ATAR is new. How do I know if my child will get into their course?

You may be worried about your child's ATAR and what ATAR they will need for their chosen course.

In the past, course thresholds have not been known in advance, and this will continue to be the case. Thresholds are determined by the number of places available in the course, the number of applicants for the course, and the standard of applicants (ATAR/selection rank). The published ATAR or selection rank from the previous year is an indication only. Courses may be easier or harder to get into from year to year, depending on their popularity. The threshold does not indicate the academic difficulty of the course.

Although course thresholds are unknown, there are some measures in place to help you navigate this uncertainty.

- The QUT offer guarantee means students with an ATAR 87.00 or above are guaranteed entry into a wide range of QUT courses. More competitive courses are guaranteed at an ATAR 93.00 or above. A small number of courses are excluded. Check the website or our publications for more offer guarantee information.
- If your child achieves an ATAR of 70.00 or above it is likely they will be able to gain a place at QUT in 2021; maybe not in their preferred course but at least to get a start at QUT.
- Other post-school pathways to QUT will still be available including vocational education and training (VET) qualifications, a year of degree study, or TAFE QUT dual awards.
- If your child has experienced circumstances that have impacted their studies or they meet other criteria, they may be eligible for selection rank adjustments.
- Your child will have time to make changes to their QTAC preferences after they know their ATAR.

How will COVID-19 affect university entry?

It's been a challenging year for Year 12 students but we are looking forward to welcoming the class of 2020 to QUT.

In recognition of the disruption caused by COVID-19, QUT will now accept VET qualifications (certificate IV and above) for entry in 2021 for any student who completes Year 12, as long as they have achieved an ATAR,

International Baccalaureate Diploma or Queensland Certificate of Education (or equivalent). We will continue to work with organisations such as QTAC, Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Education Queensland to ensure students are not disadvantaged. For the latest information visit qut.edu.au/study/starting-uni-in-2021

QUT also has many services available to support these students to achieve success when they commence studying with us (see back page).

What are selection rank adjustments?

Selection rank adjustments can make your child more competitive for a course offer. The maximum possible adjustment is 10 selection ranks.

Educational Access Scheme provides a selection rank adjustment for applicants who have experienced difficult circumstances such as financial hardship, educational disruption, home environment, English language difficulty or personal illness/disability, that have negatively impacted on their studies. Apply via QTAC. If your child is eligible under the financial hardship category and enrolls to study at QUT, they will also receive a guaranteed \$3500 Equity Scholarship.

Elite Athlete Entry Program offers a selection rank adjustment for eligible elite athletes. Apply via QTAC. Scholarships and support with managing study may also be available (separate application required).

Year 12 Subject Scheme provides selection rank adjustments for completion of specific school subjects or a university subject while at school.

Is there an admission pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students?

The Oodgeroo Unit's Centralised Assessment Selection Program (CASP) offers an entry program that recognises life experiences, study undertaken, skills, commitment and potential. If your child identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander on their QTAC application and includes a QUT course in their first three QTAC preferences, Oodgeroo Unit staff will contact them. Students can also access support programs and services including student common rooms, 24-hour computer labs, private study

spaces and tutors, cultural support and opportunities to collaborate and interact with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Visit qut.edu.au/about/oodgeroo

What subjects should my child study at school?

For most courses QUT has an assumed knowledge scheme, so we don't use specific school subjects as entry criteria. Your child should still complete the assumed knowledge subjects at school or through a bridging program prior to university, otherwise they may struggle with their studies. Education degrees have prerequisite subjects which must be completed to gain entry to the course. For details about all entry requirements check the online course information at qut.edu.au/study

I'm worried my child won't get the school results they need. What should we do?

Your child can list up to six course preferences on their QTAC application. Their top preferences are for the courses they really want to study, even if they are not 100 per cent confident they'll get in—remember course thresholds can change from year to year. Lower preferences should include courses they are likely to gain entry to and lead to an alternative career interest area, or can be used as a pathway to their chosen course.

How can another course help my child gain entry to their preferred course?

If your child misses out on their preferred course they can undertake other study as a pathway to gain a new selection rank.

Studying for one year full time in a degree course is the most effective way to gain a more competitive selection rank. By receiving a passing grade for all subjects in that year, they will have a selection rank of 93.00. Higher selection ranks can be achieved with higher university grades.

A completed advanced diploma will lead to a minimum selection rank of 93.00, and a completed diploma will give a minimum selection rank of 87.00.

A TAFE QUT dual award may be an option. Students commence their studies at TAFE and on completion of their diploma, advanced diploma or associate degree, they automatically gain entry to the QUT course with advanced standing (credit) granted for their completed studies. Dual awards are available in the areas of business, construction management, engineering, games and interactive environments, human services, information technology, science and social work.

How are course offers made?

QUT makes offers via QTAC. Your child will receive an email from QTAC if they receive an offer. Your child will receive

only one offer and it will be for their highest eligible preference. They can choose to accept their offer, reject their offer, or conditionally accept their offer and be considered for later offer rounds. Your child must respond to the offer by the deadline or they could miss out on taking up the offer or being considered for later offer rounds.

For most courses, QUT allows domestic students to defer their course for one year. Your child should still apply for their course and then defer their offer to hold their place for the following year.

How much does university cost?

Most domestic undergraduate places at QUT are partly funded by the government. Students study in a Commonwealth supported place and pay a contribution towards the cost of their course. In 2020, student contributions range from \$6684 to \$11155 for a standard full-time year.

Many students defer payment with a government HECS-HELP loan. HECS-HELP loans are repaid when students begin their career and their income passes a certain level (\$45881 for the 2019-20 income year). Students also pay a student services and amenities fee to cover non-academic services. The maximum fee in 2020 is \$308. Citizenship conditions apply to Commonwealth supported places and HECS-HELP.



Making important decisions

I took advantage of any opportunities to find out about courses and careers. Talking to my parents, teachers and people in various careers gave me different perspectives. Open Day helped me decide where I wanted to study and talking to current students about their courses was really valuable. I completed the Match My Skills quiz as well. Being able to click on the course links and view the detail about majors and even what units I would study, made it easy to compare with other universities.

Ethan Kumar
Business and law student



Scan the QR code or search Match My Skills and take the quiz for a personalised list of careers and courses that match your child's interests and skills.