Parents and guardians

A guide to help you support your child as they make course and career decisions
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.
Visit universities for events such as QUT Open Day on 28 July, or attend a career expo in your area.
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 ideas on future-proofing their career. Visit qut.edu.au/match-my-skills
Or take part in a free online course to help with career decision making at futurelearn.com/courses/kickstart-your-career
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. High-achieving high school 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.

How are students chosen for university places?
For most courses, applicants are selected on the basis of their OP or selection rank as there are usually more people applying than the number of places available. The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the OP for Queensland students who graduate from high school in 2020 or beyond. The published OP/selection rank/ATAR from the previous year is an indication only. Each year, thresholds are determined by the number of places available in the course, the number of applicants for the course, and the standard of applicants (OP/selection rank/ATAR). 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.
Applicants to QUT who receive an OP 1–5, equivalent ATAR, selection rank of 93 or better, or have a completed International Baccalaureate Diploma with a score of 33 or better, are guaranteed a place in QUT courses participating in the OP Guarantee.
Some courses have additional entry requirements, such as submission of a portfolio, interview or audition, or suitability statement.
QUT’s Oodgeroo Unit offers an entry program that recognises life experiences, study undertaken, skills, commitment and potential. If your child identifies as Aboriginal 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.

What are selection rank adjustments?
Your child may be eligible for selection rank adjustments, making them more competitive for a course offer. The maximum possible adjustment is 10 selection ranks (equivalent to 5 OPs).
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 if your child has completed specific school subjects, or a university subject while at school.

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 for our courses. Your child should complete the assumed knowledge subjects while at school, or through a bridging program prior to commencing university; otherwise they may struggle with their studies. QUT’s Bachelor of Education courses have prerequisite subjects which must be completed to gain entry to the course. For details about assumed knowledge and prerequisite subjects check the online course information.

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—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.

Entering uni in 2021 or beyond?
There are changes to subjects and the qualifications we’ll consider for entry. Visit qut.edu.au/study/starting-uni-in-2021
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 (equivalent to an OP 5). Higher selection ranks can be achieved with higher university grades.

A completed advanced diploma will lead to a minimum selection rank of 93 and a completed diploma will give a minimum selection rank of 87 (equivalent to an OP 7).

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, nursing, 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.

Can I talk to someone about my child’s course offer, enrolment or progress?

QUT staff are happy to provide general information such as key dates, how to enrol, etc. If you have specific questions such as the classes your child has enrolled in, or their results, we’ll need your child’s permission. They can provide permission by completing the third party authorisation form.

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.

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 2019, student contributions range from $6566 to $10 958 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 ($45 881 for the 2019–20 income year). Students also pay a student services and amenities fee to cover non-academic services. The maximum fee in 2019 is $303. Citizenship conditions apply to Commonwealth supported places and HECS-HELP.

Help with important decisions

When deciding what to do I went to my parents first and they suggested possible courses. Then I booked an appointment with my school guidance counsellor and we looked through booklets and added sticky notes so I’d know what to research. Using Match My Skills was a way for me to work out if my personality suited the courses I was considering. Online research was definitely helpful and attending open days and career expos with my parents allowed me to ask questions.

Samantha Ballinger
Business and creative industries

Check out the Match My Skills quiz.
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 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 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 also 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; 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 start-up companies. Our students have opportunities to develop and explore their entrepreneurial vision through teaching programs and student activities. More founders of start-ups 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
Visit our website for parents and sign up to receive updates at qut.edu.au/parents

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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Key dates for parents and guardians of Year 12s

Friday 13 December 2019
Senior Education Profile mailed
This includes the Senior Statement, Queensland Certificate of Education, Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement and Tertiary Entrance Statement.

Saturday 14 December 2019
Year 12 students can access their results online
studentconnect.qca.qld.edu.au
If you need advice, contact us at HiQ—qut.edu.au/student-centres

Tuesday 17 December 2019
QUT Real Decisions event
Gardens Point campus
Advice for your child while they can still make changes to their QTAC course preferences.

Monday 23 December 2019
QUT offers via the QTAC website
Offers will be made to some applicants on the basis of their OP/selection rank.

Tuesday 7 January 2020
Change of course preferences
Final date to make changes to QTAC preferences for mid-January offer round.

Wednesday 15 January 2020
QUT offers via the QTAC website
QUT will make offers on the basis of OP/selection rank. Further offers may be made in the top-up offer round in late January subject to course availability.

17–21 February 2020
Orientation
Orientation is an essential part of getting started at QUT.

24 February 2020
Classes commence
Congratulate yourself and your child on taking the next step in their education.

QTAC dates are subject to final approval and may change. Visit qtc.edu.au
Key dates for parents and guardians of Year 12s

If your child is in Year 12 you have a busy year ahead. To keep on top of key dates, detach this slip and keep it somewhere handy.

Sunday 28 July 2019
QUT Open Day
Register now qut.edu.au/open-day

Thursday 1 August 2019
QTAC applications open

Tuesday 3–Wednesday 4 September 2019
Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test
Year 12 students will sit the QCS test, which provides information used to calculate OPs.
studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au

Friday 20 September 2019 (5pm)
Deadline for some creative industries courses
Final date to apply to QTAC and register for an audition or submit your portfolio for acting, dance, dance performance, fashion, music, visual arts, and related double degrees.

Monday 30 September 2019
Due date for on-time QTAC applications

Friday 15 November 2019
QUT offers via the QTAC website
Offers will be made in courses where OP/selection rank is not a factor, or where an applicant already has a sufficient selection rank from qualifications other than Year 12.

Friday 13 December 2019
QTAC deadline
Final date to apply to QTAC and submit documents for the mid-January offer round.