

Studying and living in Brisbane: how to make it work



So you are thinking about moving to Brisbane to study? Every year students from regional and remote areas do exactly that. So, to make your life easier, we asked current QUT students to tell us how they did it and here's what they told us.

A roof over your head + money in your pocket

Home, sweet home

There are lots of housing options: boarding, on-campus student accommodation or share-housing.

The option you choose depends on your budget, how close you want to live to uni, the public transport options and who you want to live with.

Some of these things can be hard to determine from a distance. So, you may find it's easier to organise some temporary accommodation before you leave home and then finalise your preferred living arrangement once you settle in. Visit www.qut.edu.au/orientation for more tips on making Brisbane your home.

QUT's Accommodation Service is a great place to find a range of accommodation options and tips and resources to help you. Visit www.qut.edu.au/accommodation or, if you plan to share-house, visit QUT's share-housing portal at www.qut.edu.au/sharehousing

Campus Living Villages operates a 456-bed student accommodation complex next to the Kelvin Grove campus. Students can apply online at www.kgsv.com.au

Finding your way around

Brisbane has an interconnected rail, bus and ferry public transport network. As a full-time student you will be eligible for discounts on travel. To find out more visit www.translink.com.au or phone 131 230.

QUT also operates a free shuttle bus service between Kelvin Grove and Gardens Point campuses and a night bus. For more information on both these services visit www.qut.edu.au/transport

Brisbane also has more than 500kms of dedicated bikeways, bike-friendly trains and ferries and a City Cycle program. QUT offers secure bike racks. For travel tips and maps visit www.brisbane.qld.gov.au



Maya Weidner

Bachelor of Creative Industries

My brother and I are the first in our family to attend university. It makes my parents proud that we achieved this from a small town. My scholarship eased the financial hardship I faced in relocating to Brisbane – I was able to buy a washing machine and a bed! The life experience I have gained is greater than I could ever have imagined.

Scholarships and financial support

Think scholarships are only for high achievers? Think again. In 2012 QUT has around \$2.5 million in scholarships, bursaries and computers specifically for people who need financial help.

What's more, if you are commencing at QUT in 2012 and are accepted through the Q-Step Scheme (www.qut.edu.au/qstep) or are an Indigenous Australian, QUT guarantees you a minimum \$1000 Equity Bursary. For more detail, including how to apply and when, visit www.qut.edu.au/scholarships or join our mailing list by sending your email address to equityscholarships@qut.edu.au

Don't forget to find out if you are eligible for government support through Centrelink, which now includes Commonwealth Scholarships. The Federal Government has made changes to Youth Allowance and

Commonwealth Scholarships and you may now be eligible for funding to help with start-up costs or relocating for study. Talk to Centrelink on 132 490.

Part-time work

Most students have a part-time job and, on average, work about 14 hours a week. It can be challenging to balance study with work so it is important not to take on too much, especially during exam periods. If you haven't already got one, looking for a job can seem like work in itself. Some great places to start are:

- The Courier-Mail (Wednesday or Saturday)
- www.careerone.com.au or www.seek.com.au
- QUT's Student Guild at www.guildonline.net
- QUT Careers and Employment www.careers.qut.edu.au

Finding your feet

Uni starts with an 'O'

Orientation isn't an optional extra – it's your key to success – so make the most of it. Orientation provides you with all the essential information about enrolling in subjects, getting your student ID card, finding out how to use your student email and getting information on support services.

But it's not all talk. Orientation is a chance to get to know people in your course, explore the campus and participate in social activities. Given that you're relocating to study, you may be relieved to know that Orientation includes a program of activities specifically designed for 'out-of-towners' – which covers transport, accommodation and how to find your feet. For more information go to www.qut.edu.au/orientation

New thinking

School and uni are quite different; but that's not necessarily a bad thing. You just need time and support to help you adjust to the new learning and teaching styles and workloads. Help is never far away – from your lecturers, tutors, online help, library staff and specialist learning advisers and peer mentors.

Free learning support seminars are held throughout the year by the Library's Academic Skills Advisers. These seminars and workshops help you to refine your academic skills, time and study management techniques, effective note-taking, critical thinking, planning for assignments, researching, referencing and exam preparation.

Computing workshops are also available through the IT Helpdesk.

Visit www.qut.edu.au/kickstart

The main thing to remember is that there are lots of people to help you. And, if you haven't already, visit www.qut.edu.au/orientation and follow the steps to an easier uni life.



Terrence Hall

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

The equity scholarship helped me make my move to Brisbane much easier financially; I don't think I would have survived without it. It has allowed me to pay for my text books plus pay for items for the unit I moved into.

Tips for parents and guardians

We realise that as the parent or guardian of a young adult making the transition to uni, you may also be finding the experience daunting. It's a time of big change. QUT holds parent information seminars each year to answer questions regarding university admission and pathways. We also publish an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date. For more information visit www.qut.edu.au/parents, email parents@qut.edu.au or phone 07 3138 8501.

Speak to us in person

QUT Information Services
07 3138 2000
ask.qut.edu.au

Still not sure which way is up?

Visit www.projectu.com.au to see what a week in the life of a uni student is like and find out how other students made important decisions about life after school.

QUT has also created a website to give you some direction about choosing a course. It can help you find a course that matches your skills and it will give you an insight into what you can expect at university.

You can also email your questions to real QUT students, watch video FAQs and join us on Facebook.

Visit www.qut.edu.au/study

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