

[www.qut.edu.au](http://www.qut.edu.au)

[www.qut.edu.au](http://www.qut.edu.au)

## FEE RELIEF

Some students may be eligible for financial assistance with child care fees through the Department of Human Services.

1. Child Care Benefit:

[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit)

2. Child Care Rebate:

[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate)

## SCHOOLING

Information on programs offered by Education QLD:

[www.eqj.com.au/](http://www.eqj.com.au/)

Application form and further information for enrolling your children into a QLD State School:

[www.eqj.com.au/pdfs/trac-application-process.pdf](http://www.eqj.com.au/pdfs/trac-application-process.pdf)  
[www.eqj.com.au/pdfs/trac-application-form.pdf](http://www.eqj.com.au/pdfs/trac-application-form.pdf)

You can also find Education Queensland International (EQI) contacts on the website to make enquiries. Please note that you are required to pay dependant school fees unless you are exempt. Please refer to the following document for further details:

[www.eqj.com.au/pdfs/trac-fee-structure-and-exemptions.pdf](http://www.eqj.com.au/pdfs/trac-fee-structure-and-exemptions.pdf)

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

This is for children aged between 5 and 12 during terms and in vacations. The care centre is usually attached to school, though often run independently. There is a fee for these programs.

## OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

For children of school age, most schools provide a Before Hours School Care (BSHC), 7-9am, and Out of School Hours Care or After School Hours care (ASHC) programs, 3-6pm. Childcare and Out of School Hours Care are all run on a fee-paying basis.

Childcare fees depend on the type of care. For more information on fees please contact the local school or child care centre.

Note that there are normally long waiting lists for vacancies at most childcare centres.

**NOTE:** Most full-fee paying international students are expected to meet full child care fees for their children. Students sponsored or subsidised by the Australian Government may be eligible for child care fee relief.

## FAMILY RESOURCES

Information is available from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to enhance the wellbeing, safety and participation of individuals, families and communities. This includes some free training and community activities to promote healthy families.

Go to [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au) for more information

## APPLICATION ADVICE

The process of applying for access to child care or education services for your child can be complicated. Please see an International Student Counsellor for assistance.

## RESOURCES AND INFO

Call the **Child Care Access Hotline** on **1800 670 305** or visit [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au) to find out more about child care services in your area, types of available child care and also government assistance.

Kindergarten programs in Queensland:

- [www.det.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/families/kindy](http://www.det.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/families/kindy)

Choosing schools:

- [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

The education system in Queensland:

- [education.qld.gov.au](http://education.qld.gov.au)
- [www.qld.gov.au/education/international/qualifications/school/pages/system.html](http://www.qld.gov.au/education/international/qualifications/school/pages/system.html)

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence is the abuse of a person by a family member where the relationship between the persons involved is that of a spouse, de facto partner or they are both the parents of the same child. For information, resources and assistance to support individuals, families and communities, visit:

- [www.whiteribbon.org.au](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au)
- [www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/domestic-family-violence-getting-help](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/domestic-family-violence-getting-help)

Further resources can be found in Info Sheet 10: **Legal Issues**

# Family Support

## WHAT WE DO

International Student Services (ISS) can provide assistance to students with families by:

- Helping you prepare to bring your spouse and children to Australia
- Liaising with schools and government departments such as Education Queensland International (EQI)
- Assisting you to find suitable child care
- Putting you in touch with other parents through the international Women's Group and organising family activities and outings

There are many issues to consider when deciding whether to bring your family to Brisbane or not. While this Info Sheet will give you a better idea of what to expect and the procedures involved, it is only a general guide. We encourage you to make an appointment with an International Student Counsellor to further discuss the process of bringing your family to Australia. On average the whole process can take 2-4 months.

Please note all scholarship students MUST see an International Student Counsellor before bringing their family to Brisbane. There are different requirements for scholarship students, particularly Australia Awards Scholarship students.

For more information, please go to:  
<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/international-students/bringing-your-family-to-australia>

## ISSUES TO CONSIDER

### Financial

Most students find that living with their family in Brisbane can be very expensive. Expect to use your savings unless you are fortunate enough to have your employer still paying your salary throughout your studies. Expenses to consider include: airfares, school fees (see schooling), child care fee, higher rent, educational cost (i.e., lunches, books, excursions, and uniforms), transport, medical insurance, clothing and other necessities.

Please note, evidence of sufficient funding might be required to cover the stay of you and your family in Australia.

For more information, please go to:  
[www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Brin](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Brin)

### Work rights for spouses

If you are an undergraduate student, your spouse (husband/wife) is only allowed to work a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight (after the commencement of your course). Family members (dependants) of postgraduate students can work unlimited hours once your course has commenced.

For working conditions for student visa holders, please refer to: [www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Work-conditions-for-Student-visa-holders](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Work-conditions-for-Student-visa-holders)

Currently, unskilled jobs can be hard to find in Australia. It would be unrealistic to expect your spouse to earn enough money to cover the living expenses of your family. For more information about finding work, please refer to **Info Sheet: Employment**.

[www.qut.edu.au](http://www.qut.edu.au)

[www.qut.edu.au](http://www.qut.edu.au)

### Social

Your family will have to adjust to life in Australia, just like you did. There may be difficult times in the first few months as they adjust to different roles. For example if your spouse is leaving a job to come to be with you, he/she will need to be mentally prepared for the temporary loss of their job and to care for the children full time.

Without the usual support from relatives and friends, family members may feel very isolated and lonely, more so if they are not confident with their English. Children may also find it hard adjusting to a new school and making new friends. While studying full-time you may not always be able to help or spend time with them.

Some couples encounter problems in their relationship because of the new stresses placed on them. In some cases these stresses may seem overwhelming and lead to conflicts. If you feel situations at home are beyond your control, it is important to find help immediately from ISS.

It is an offence under Australian law for a spouse to abuse (physically and/or emotionally) their family members.

**See information on Domestic Violence on page 4 of this Info Sheet.**

There are strict penalties associated with this. One useful contact is Relationships Australia - Ph: **1300 364 277** or at [www.raq.org.au](http://www.raq.org.au) and [www.relationships.org.au](http://www.relationships.org.au)

Parenting styles in Australia may be very different from the accepted way in your country. Children of a young age cannot be left at home without adult supervision. (See Child Care). Government authorities can step in if children are found to be unattended or in need of care and protection.

### BRINGING YOUR FAMILY

While we encourage all students to come alone at first, we understand that this may not always be possible. Past students have told us that having their family here was very comforting, but they also had to prepare themselves beforehand.

Before they arrive, you can settle into your course of study, find suitable accommodation, and secure places for your children in Child Care or Schools.

### FAMILY ENTRY

Applications for family entry to Australia can be made under two categories:

#### 1. Visitor visa

A visitor's visa is appropriate for family members who wish to stay for 3 months or less (6 months possible for special situations). Applications for visitor visas are made directly to the Australian High Commission / Embassy in your country. Requirements vary depending on the country but generally you will be required to show:

- bank statements with enough funds to support your family's visit while in Australia.
- proposed itinerary / return airfare tickets

You will not require anything from QUT.

Family who enter Australia on a visitor's visa are:

- NOT covered by OSHC
- NOT entitled to attend government schools
- NOT allowed to work and
- CANNOT change to a dependent visa (see next) after they have arrived in Australia.

#### 2. Dependant visa

Spouses and children of international students are considered "dependants" of the person holding the student visa.

Student Dependent Visas are issued to family members who will stay for more than 6 months. Children over 18 years are not considered dependants and cannot be included in this category.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) has conditions which must be met in your home country before a student dependant's visa can be issued.

These include:

- A DIBP "919" form for sponsoring family members to Australia (to be completed by the student and sent to the dependant to be included in the application)
- family entry application and associated fees
- proof of relationship to you (e.g. marriage certificate or birth certificate)
- payment of family medical insurance (QUT's preferred health care provider is Medibank Private)
- the dependant's visa must not exceed the length of your own visa. Your dependants must return home either before or at the same time as you

- personal health clearances for all members
- clearance of character checks
- Education Queensland International Unit producing a Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) for all children of school age (see Schooling on the next page)

It is important that your family does NOT leave home until all the entry requirements have been met, and a visa has been issued.

For more information, please go to:  
[www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Brin](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Brin)

#### Additional Information for spouses

A spouse on a dependent visa can study in Australia for up to 3 months. If your spouse wishes to study for more than 3 months, they will need to apply for their own student visa (This can be done in Australia or in their home country).

### CHILD CARE

**NOTE: Childcare can be costly in Australia.**

#### Off Campus Childcare

##### Family Day Care (home-based)

Care is provided in the carer's own home for children from 6 weeks to 12 years. Carers and their home environment are assessed and approved in accordance with State Government legislation. Approved Carers may care for 7 children with no more than 4 children who have not yet started school.

For more information, please go to:  
[www.fdca.com.au](http://www.fdca.com.au) and [www.kidsathome.net.au](http://www.kidsathome.net.au)

It provides flexibility that could include overnight and weekend and casual care.

##### Licensed centre based childcare

Long day care - usually open Monday to Friday between 7am and 6pm for at least 48 weeks of the year.

### Kindergarten

Kindergartens generally provide care and education for children from three and a half years to school age. Hours are usually 9am – 2pm.

#### On Campus Childcare

##### C&K QUT Gardens Point

Phone: 07 3552 5329

Website: [www.candk.asn.au/qutgardenspoint](http://www.candk.asn.au/qutgardenspoint)

Email: [gardenspoint@candk.asn.au](mailto:gardenspoint@candk.asn.au)

##### C&K QUT Kelvin Grove (School Street)

Phone: 07 3352 4956

Website: [www.candk.asn.au/qutkelvingrove](http://www.candk.asn.au/qutkelvingrove)

Email: [qutkelvingrove@candk.asn.au](mailto:qutkelvingrove@candk.asn.au)

##### C&K QUT Kelvin Grove (Herston Road)

Phone: 07 3252 5059

Website: [www.candk.asn.au/kelvingrove](http://www.candk.asn.au/kelvingrove)

Email: [kelvingrove@candk.asn.au](mailto:kelvingrove@candk.asn.au)

### CHILD CARE ACCESS HOTLINE

**1800 670 305**

For up to date information on:

- child care services in your area
- the type of care available
- government help with the cost of child care

There is a high demand for child care services on campus or closeby. It is highly recommended that you apply for child care services well in advanced. You can do this by completing an online application for a local child care service and by asking to be added to their waitlist.

The process of applying for access to child care or education services for your child can be complicated, contact ISS for assistance.