UQ ADVANTAGE OFFICE
Maximise your student experience and enhance your employability

The University of Queensland
Australia
Create change

UQAdvantage
uqadvantage
employability.uq.edu.au
ENHANCE YOUR EMPLOYABILITY

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND HIT THE GROUND RUNNING.

The University of Queensland aims to develop game changing graduates who will go on to build meaningful careers, become effective leaders, turn their ideas into impact and create change. To achieve this, UQ is committed to enabling you to enhance your employability by extending your experience far beyond the lecture theatre and giving you the confidence and insight to turn your aspirations into reality.

Global experiences, professional development, leadership, and research opportunities will not only enhance your employability, but will also help you to contextualise your studies and gain a better understanding of the world. Through the UQ Advantage Office, you can build valuable networks, take on new challenges and discover a world of exceptional opportunities.

Employers seek the most well-rounded individuals to become part of their organisation. Through involvement in extra-curricular activities, you can demonstrate competencies that employers’ value, such as innovation and creativity, entrepreneurship, leadership qualities, a global perspective, communication skills and a thirst for continuous learning and development. Participation in, and reflection on, the learning inherent in these activities are a must in today’s competitive job market.

This guide provides information about a wide range of UQ programs and services that the UQ Advantage Office supports, which will help you make the most of your time at university.

I wish you every success for your studies and strongly encourage you to get involved in everything that UQ has on offer!

Best wishes,

Dr Annabelle Willox
Director, UQ Advantage Office
The University of Queensland
DISCOVER YOUR UQ ADVANTAGE

1000+ SUPPORTED GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

650 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS

50,000+ STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 140 COUNTRIES
(12,664 INTERNATIONAL AND 13,800 POSTGRADUATE)

largest CAREERS FAIR IN QLD

$1.2 million IN FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE UQ ADVANTAGE OFFICE

250+ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

68 UQ ADVANTAGE AWARD GRADUATES

200+ EXCHANGE PARTNERS IN 41 COUNTRIES

SUPPORTED LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING:
• 11 X UQ LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSY INTERNS IN CANBERRA
• 8 X COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AUSTRALIA (CISA) NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE DELEGATES IN DARWIN
• 7 X UQ REPRESENTATIVES AT THE NATIONAL SERVANT LEADERSHIP FORUM IN CANBERRA

190 CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Figures based on data for 2016 UQ Advantage Office supported activities
STUDENT EXCHANGE

The student exchange program offers you the opportunity to study overseas for a semester or year on exchange, while gaining credit towards your UQ degree.

With over 200 exchange partners in 41 countries, student exchange is an ideal way to combine study and travel, and have the adventure of a lifetime. Through participating in an exchange, you can broaden your professional and academic options, establish a worldwide network of friends, and gain a different perspective on your studies.

While many of our partner institutions in non-English speaking countries offer a wide range of courses taught in English, student exchange is also a great time to improve your foreign language skills or learn a new language.

While on exchange, tuition fees at the host university are waived as you remain enrolled at and pay fees to UQ. Travel and living costs will differ depending on where you go, your plans and your spending habits. UQ offers generous financial support for students going on exchange. It may also be possible for you to receive a Government loan (OS-HELP) or Centrelink payments while you are overseas.

If you are interested in going on exchange, make sure you remember it is essential to plan early.

APPLY BY:
• 31 May (for exchange in semester one 2018)
• 31 October (for exchange in semester two 2018)

uq.edu.au/uqabroad

Amanda Askow
Student Exchange participant
University of Virginia

“Exchange taught me how to be more forthright and make things happen for myself. When you’re in a city where you don’t know anybody, the only way to adjust is to step outside of your comfort zone. I was so terrified that I wouldn’t make any friends, but I made so many lifelong friends from all over the world and I got to travel all over the country with these friends”
Phillip Womack
Short-Term Program participant
Discover SWUFE International Commerce Summer Camp

“My cross cultural communication has been greatly improved as I have made many friends from around the globe. I also had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills in an international context.”

INTERNATIONAL SHORT TERM PROGRAMES

If a full semester or year of exchange is not for you, there are opportunities to study overseas during the semester breaks. Many of our international partners offer summer and winter courses, where you can immerse yourself in language and culture, or take courses that are unique to that institution.

Participating in these courses is a great way to experience more of the world, make valuable contacts and take an intellectually stimulating overseas trip.

Short term study is ideal if your degree program structure is not conducive to semester exchange through UQ Abroad.

UNIVERSITAS 21 (U21)
STUDENT EXPERIENCES

The University of Queensland is a member of Universitas 21 (U21), an international network of leading research intensive universities. U21 encourages students to have a global perspective and be prepared for life and work across cultures by facilitating student mobility opportunities.

You can apply to participate in U21 student experiences such as the annual Undergraduate Research Conference, Social Entrepreneur Corps program and Summer School.

employability.uq.edu.au/u21

Emma Wiliams
U21 Summer School 2016
Shanghai

“The program allowed me to meet and make friends with exciting people from around the world, from whom I have learnt a lot. I think this has improved my communication skills and more personally, I think I have learnt about myself and have new experiences and knowledge that will make me a more rounded person. You will learn more than you think you will, in a fun and interesting environment. You won’t just gain academic knowledge, but knowledge of other people and cultures and even learn about yourself. Just do it. You won’t regret it.”
UQ Advantage Employability Grants provide financial assistance to support your participation in professional development and extra-curricular activities, such as internships, volunteering, conference presentations and more.

You can apply for up to $1,000 with funding allocated on a case-by-case basis. There are four application deadlines per year for selected activity dates.

Applications are open to undergraduate students, including honours, and postgraduate coursework students.

employability.uq.edu.au/uq-advantage-grant

FUNDING FOR GLOBAL STUDY

The University of Queensland manages a range of funds to support student participation in global experiences. These funds are allocated taking into consideration academic merit, financial hardship and strategic initiatives. Students applying to participate in exchange or short-term experiences for credit are automatically considered for funding.

employability.uq.edu.au/financial-support

David Thorpe
Enactus National Conference
UQ Advantage Employability Grant recipient

“Attending the conference was a spectacular and inspiring experience that had a profound impact on me personally and professionally. I had the opportunity to represent UQ on a national stage, and watch like-minded students present their results and experiences that highlighted the positive impact that university students can have on the world.”
OS-HELP LOAN SCHEME

OS-HELP is a loan which provides financial assistance to eligible Commonwealth supported students to undertake part of their course of study overseas. The overseas study must count towards your current UQ program requirements.

Once paid, the OS-HELP loan is consolidated with your accumulated HELP debt.

The amounts available for 2017 are: $6,567 for study not in Asia; $7,880 for study in Asia; and $1,050 supplementary amount for preparatory Asian language study (available only for students applying for an OS-HELP loan for study in Asia).

APPLY BY:

• 15 January (for overseas study March to August)
• 15 March (for overseas study May to October)
• 15 June (for overseas study August to January)
• 15 September (for overseas study November to April)

uq.edu.au/myadvisor/os-help-21170

NEW COLOMBO PLAN

The Australian Government’s New Colombo Plan (NCP) encourages Australian undergraduate students to study at a university in the Indo-Pacific region through two different funding schemes. The NCP Scholarship, valued at up to $67,000, is a prestigious scholarship for high achieving students from any discipline. The NCP Mobility Program awards $2,000 to $7,000 depending on the project. Awardees must undertake a study program for which they will receive credit at their home university.

uq.edu.au/uqabroad/Aust-Gov-grants

scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/new-colombo-plan-scholarship-program

WESTPAC ASIAN EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP

Established as a gift to future generations of Australians to commemorate Westpac’s 200th anniversary, the Westpac Asian Exchange Scholarship supports eligible students going on exchange to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong or Singapore. The scholarship, valued at $12,000, is offered annually to students going on exchange in Semester 2.

scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/westpac-asian-exchange-scholarship

Dan Tang
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) International Summer School
New Colombo Plan Mobility Grant

“Undertaking a summer school program in South Korea has broadened my global perspective in so many ways. As an engineering student, I was able to gain incredible insight into the existing and emerging technologies that are currently being developed in my field. Receiving the New Colombo Plan Mobility Grant ensured I was able to immerse myself in the culture and embrace living and studying in a foreign country.”

Jojo Lu
Arizona State University
UQ Abroad

“The United States of America is not necessarily as affordable as some people believe, especially when you are a spontaneous traveller! I would recommend that you bring more than you plan to spend because there will be road trips, concerts and sporting events that you won’t want to miss out on. The OS-HELP Loan is an amazing resource that you should take advantage of.”
CAREERS SERVICE

It is important to start planning your career path while you are still at university so that you can gain experiences and opportunities that build your employability. As a UQ student, you will have access to online career development learning resources, as well as workshops that assist you to reflect on your values and strengths, consider possible career directions, formulate an action plan to reach your professional goals, and learn strategies to build your professional network. The UQ Careers Service aims to help you translate your time at university, allowing you to make your UQ Advantage tangible to industry and employers.

employability.uq.edu.au/find-a-job

ENGAGE WITH EMPLOYERS

Building a strong network of professional contacts is a key way to tap into opportunities and understand the importance of contribution. In addition, understanding how to look for employment and what employers are seeking is a large part of securing the job you want. UQ offers opportunities to meet with employers through symposiums, recruitment presentations and providing one of the largest careers fairs in Australia.

employability.uq.edu.au/industry-connections

Brendan Farrugia
UQ Graduate
Bachelor of Psychology

Brendan has secured a Graduate Associate position with PwC’s Strategy& - one of the companies that conducted an employer presentation at UQ in 2016.

“The UQ Careers Service provides excellent assistance for students who are at the stage of transitioning from student life to work life. I highly recommend attending their events and using their workshops to make this transition a successful one!”
BUILD YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a powerful force for change, both for those who volunteer and for the wider community. UQ recognises the importance of providing students with access to volunteer positions in selected not-for-profit and community organisations represented at the UQ Volunteer Expo. You can choose to give a little or give a lot, either way you will have the opportunity to develop yourself.

[employability.uq.edu.au/volunteering](employability.uq.edu.au/volunteering)

INTERNSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS

Internships allow you to develop your skills beyond the classroom and gain a competitive edge in the job market. UQ can assist you to access unique opportunities with organisations in Australia and worldwide. In 2016, UQ students were supported to undertake internships with Disney World, Noumea International Intensive Internship Program, Engineers Without Borders Humanitarian Design Summit, and Latin American embassies in Canberra.

[employability.uq.edu.au/internships](employability.uq.edu.au/internships)

Yvonne Huang
UQ graduate
Bachelor of Commerce / Economics (2016)

“The programs that are organised by the UQ Careers Service gave me great insight into the recruitment process and the opportunities that were available to me after I graduated. It was incredible to have the opportunity to speak face to face with managers from large corporations during the UQ Careers Service employer presentations. It allowed me to have a better understanding of each company and find out information that you can’t see online. A helpful hint is that the employers are very impressed when they find out you are volunteering; it makes you a more memorable candidate if you decide to apply for the company.”
STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

REPRESENT UQ AS A STUDENT LEADER

Each year the University selects a small number of student leaders to represent UQ at Australian and international events, including the National Student Leadership Forum, Council of International Students Australia (CISA) National Education Conference and the UQ Latin American Embassy Internship Program.

These programs provide a fantastic opportunity for you to develop a network of international contacts, challenge yourself intellectually, gain insights into your personal capabilities and realise your leadership potential.

employability.uq.edu.au/represent-uq
UQ ADVANTAGE AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

If you have participated in the UQ Advantage Award, a global experience, undergraduate research, received a grant from the UQ Advantage Office, or held an internship, work experience or volunteer role, you can apply to participate in the volunteer UQ Ambassador program. Ambassadors present at seminars, assist at events, and build networks with other student leaders.

employability.uq.edu.au/advantage-ambassador

UQ STUDENT LEADER VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The Student Leader Program offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for you to immerse yourself in the UQ community, help fellow students, and enhance your professional development and personal networks. Student Leaders are the face of our many programs that aim to create a sense of belonging for all students at UQ.

uq.edu.au/student-services/student-leaders

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT-LED PROGRAMS

UQ has a fantastic campus culture which can be attributed in part to its committed and diverse student body. Individuals representing UQ student groups and associations are encouraged to apply for funding and promotional support through the UQ Sponsorship Grant scheme to support student-led events, activities and programs which will benefit their members and contribute to campus culture. Applications can be made from January to September each year.

employability.uq.edu.au/uq-sponsorship-grant

Katherine McElrea
UQ Latin American Embassy Intern 2016
Canberra

“My main highlight was the language practice - getting to speak Spanish everyday was wonderful and it was a great opportunity to learn more professional phrases in Spanish. I also attended a diplomatic networking event with a colleague which was beneficial and fun. I feel I also gained more professional confidence. It was fascinating to see how things were done in a Uruguayan context.”

Jeremy Edirisinghe
UQ Advantage Ambassador 2016

“As a UQ Advantage Office Ambassador I was able to present my experiences about the extra-curricular activities I have participated in whilst at university. It was extremely rewarding as students personally told me that it motivated them to participate in extra-curricular activities.”
Undergraduate research programs provide an opportunity for you to gain research experience working alongside some of the University’s most talented researchers. By participating, you can contribute firsthand to research discoveries and develop links with industry and academic contacts.

These programs also provide you with an opportunity to ‘test drive’ research before enrolling in an honours or Research Higher Degree program.

Participation is open to undergraduate students, including honours students, who have completed at least one year of study, as well as Masters by Coursework students.

Summer Research projects are available in most disciplines for between 6-10 weeks over the summer vacation period (mid-November to mid-February). All selected research scholars will receive a UQ Summer Research Grant valued at up to $3,000.

Winter Research projects are available in a range of disciplines for between 4-6 weeks over the inter-vacation period (mid-June to mid-July). All selected research scholars will receive a UQ Winter Research Grant valued at up to $1,000.

As a Summer or Winter Research scholar, you will receive invitations to events and seminars designed to build upon your existing knowledge and help you make the most of your experience. Sessions cover topics such as delivering effective research presentations, marketing your skills to employers, and discovering publishing avenues.

employability.uq.edu.au/research

Zi Huang
Undergraduate Research Scholar

“My winter research has guided me to an exciting thesis topic with my research supervisor. I am currently working towards graduating with honours and I will pursue a career in research in the near future.”
The ability to articulate project significance and deliver powerful presentations is an essential skill for early career researchers and professionals.

The UQ Undergraduate Research Conference gives you the opportunity to present your own research to the wider UQ community, develop your communication skills, and meet other student researchers.

The multi-disciplinary event showcases some of UQ’s finest undergraduate research projects through oral, poster and elevator pitch presentations. There are also some fantastic prizes for the best presenters.

All UQ undergraduate students, including honours, from any discipline, are encouraged to participate in and attend this event.

employability.uq.edu.au/urc

James Hill
Undergraduate Research Scholar

“Coming in to the Winter Research program I really didn’t know what to expect as it was my first research experience. Once you get your foot in the door one project can easily turn into three. Having broad experiences has allowed me more informed decision making about my future. I am now completing my Honours project with my one of Winter Research supervisors and I am hoping to progress into a PhD in late 2016.”

Hooman Baghaie
2016 UQ Undergraduate Research Conference Oral Presenter

“The Undergraduate Research Conference is a wonderful opportunity to present your research findings. It allows you to gain experience in public speaking, it puts you in contact with like-minded students and makes you and your resume stand out from others. It is the perfect stepping stone towards presenting at national and international Conferences. I would highly recommend it.”
COMPLEMENT YOUR STUDIES WITH A UQ ADVANTAGE AWARD

The UQ Advantage Award is a program that encourages you to get involved in activities outside the classroom during your degree that will enhance your employability. It is a great way to gain recognition for your involvement in extra-curricular experiences such as work experience, volunteering, undergraduate research, global experiences and leadership programs.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

The activities and events you complete as part of the program will help you to develop key competencies that employer’s value. By reflecting on these experiences- you will understand your capabilities, how you can communicate them to an employer and how you can apply them in a work environment.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

You can participate in the program at any stage of your degree. To receive the award, you will need to complete a minimum number of activities, and reflect on your experiences in order to connect your development to your employability.

You will also have access to professional development training activities, events, or workshops offered as part of the Symposium Series.

If you complete the program requirements, you will receive a formal statement of attainment upon graduation that attests to your enhanced student experience and your employability.

employability.uq.edu.au/advantage-award

Bogart Phillips
Bachelor of Business Management/Bachelor of Laws
Award Graduate 2016

“Balancing my studies with a variety of extra-curricular activities has enriched my university experience personally, professionally, socially and culturally. It is these experiences that have proved most memorable during my university career, as they have allowed me to learn and explore my passions, interests and ambitions the most.”
UQ ADVANTAGE AWARD ACTIVITIES

GLOBAL AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT
Activities include:
- Student exchange
- International short term programs
- International internships
- Chat Mates program
- U21 Student Experience programs

RESEARCH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Activities include:
- UQ Summer and Winter Research programs
- UQ Undergraduate Research Conference
- Conference presentations
- Competitions and award schemes
- Entrepreneurial initiatives

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP
Activities include:
- UQ student group or sporting club executive
- UQ Student Leader or Ambassador Volunteer Programs
- Volunteering with a not-for-profit or charity organisation
- Tutoring or peer mentoring
- Internships or extra-curricular work experience

ACCESS A UNIQUE SYMPOSIUM SERIES
These sessions are designed to help you make the most of your UQ experience and accelerate your professional development. Symposia are delivered by UQ researchers, visiting scholars, alumni, industry contacts, and current students.
## 2017 EVENT CALENDAR

### JANUARY
- **15** OS Help Loan applications close
- **30** UQ Sponsorship Grant applications close

### FEBRUARY
- **15** UQ Advantage Grant applications close

### MARCH
- **10** Short-Term Winter Program applications close
- **15** OS Help Loan applications close
- **20** U21 Student Experience applications close
- **22** UQ Careers Fair
- **30** UQ Sponsorship Grant applications close

### APRIL
- **3** UQ Winter Research Program applications close
- **5** Global Experiences Expo

### MAY
- **15** UQ Advantage Grant applications close
- **30** UQ Sponsorship Grant applications close
- **31** Student exchange program applications close

### JUNE
- **15** OS Help Loan applications close

### JULY
- **30** UQ Sponsorship Grant applications close

### AUGUST
- **9** Volunteer Expo
- **15** UQ Advantage Grant applications close
- **12-13** UQ Undergraduate Research Conference
- **30** UQ Summer Research Program applications close

### SEPTEMBER
- **10** Short-Term Summer Program applications close
- **15** OS Help Loan applications close
- **30** UQ Sponsorship Grant applications close

### OCTOBER
- **31** Student exchange program applications close

### NOVEMBER
- **15** UQ Advantage Grant applications close

### DECEMBER

### UQ ADVANTAGE OFFICE

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