UQ STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY CENTRE

Maximise your student experience and enhance your employability
MAXIMISE YOUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND ENHANCE YOUR EMPLOYABILITY

Life at UQ reaches far beyond the lecture theatre, and the UQ Student Employability Centre is here to help you make the most of your time at university.

The future of work is disrupted and disruptive, with employers seeking individuals with a wide range of knowledge, skills and experiences to become part of their organisations. Key competencies that employers are looking for include innovation and creativity, entrepreneurship, leadership and global awareness, resilience and flexibility, and most importantly, a thirst for continuous learning and development.

We can help you to access opportunities that will not only enhance your employability, but will also help you to contextualise your studies and gain a better understanding of the world. We can show you how to unpack your experiences to identify the skills and attributes that you are developing, and to talk about your potential in a way that employers understand. This process of self-reflection empowers you to understand how you have developed your capabilities, and gives you lifelong skills that will make you effective in whatever you choose to do in the future.

We also help you connect and build valuable networks, take on new challenges and discover more about your own passion and drive. This guide provides information about the wide range of experiences, programs and services that the UQ Student Employability Centre 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 to offer.

Best wishes,

Dr Dino Willox
Director, UQ Student Employability Centre
The University of Queensland
# Enhance Your Employability at UQ

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<th>Statistic</th>
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<td>Supported Global Experiences</td>
<td>1000+</td>
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<td>Undergraduate Research Scholars</td>
<td>600+</td>
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<td>Students from More Than 141 Countries</td>
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<td>Figures based on data for 2017 UQ Student Employability Centre supported activities</td>
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<td>Large Careers Fair in QLD</td>
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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 more than 200 exchange partners in 41 countries, student exchange is an ideal way to combine study and travel, and have the adventure of a lifetime. By 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 opportunity 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 an Australian Government loan (OS-HELP) or Centrelink payments while you are overseas.

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

APPLY BY:

- 31 May (for exchange in Semester 1 2019)
- 31 October (for exchange in Semester 2 2019)

uq.edu.au/uqabroad

Duncan Nicol
Student Exchange participant, University of Waterloo

“Exchange has taught me to become a more proactive person. When I first arrived in Canada, I didn’t know anyone and it was the first time I had lived out of home. During my time abroad I made friends from all over the world, travelled across the country and took advantage of all the opportunities I could. I highly recommend that you go on exchange somewhere outside of your comfort zone. You will challenge yourself, have so much fun and won’t regret it!”
INTERNATIONAL SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

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.

APPLY BY:
• 10 March (for programs in July 2018)
• 10 September (for programs Dec 2018 – Feb 2019)

UNIVERSITAS 21 (U21) STUDENT EXPERIENCES

The University of Queensland is a member of 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

Tahlia Smith
U21 Social Entrepreneur Corps Ecuador

“The opportunity to learn how to make lasting change on a grassroots level was too good to miss. During the program, I spent time in a small Amazonian town where I worked on community projects to address issues like water quality, youth empowerment and unemployment. I encourage everybody to take advantage of this amazing opportunity to better your language skills, get to know a new culture and meet motivated people from all over the world.”

Margaret Dickson
Engineering Without Borders Nepal Humanitarian Summit

“The EWB Design Summit gave me an amazing opportunity to learn about humanitarian engineering in Nepal. I was given the chance to work through the design process in a new and challenging context, with the support of a fantastic team of like-minded students and inspiring mentors. I also learned to eat without cutlery and met some adorable baby goats!”
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**UQ EMPLOYABILITY GRANTS**

UQ 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 $1000 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, honours and postgraduate coursework students.

[employability.uq.edu.au/uq-employability-grant](http://employability.uq.edu.au/uq-employability-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.


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**Elliot Steel**

**UQ Employability Grant recipient**

“In the summer break I was fortunate enough to intern at the NASA Ames Research Centre. During my time at NASA, I worked on the Enceladus Life Finder mission proposal and conducted lab testing on a collection device designed for future Mars missions. The networks I established have developed my career and given me a greater understanding of what is possible professionally.”
OS-HELP LOAN SCHEME

OS-HELP is a loan that 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 2018 are: $6665 for study not in Asia, $7998 for study in Asia, and $1065 supplementary amount for preparatory Asian language study (available 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)

my.uq.edu.au/os-help

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 $1000–7000 depending on the project. Awardees must undertake a study program for which they will receive credit.

employability.uq.edu.au/exchange-funding
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

Allison Carleton
Student Exchange participant, University of Pennsylvania
OS-HELP loan recipient

“Living in the United States can be expensive, and the exchange rates fluctuate. Start researching the OS-HELP loan and the other financial support options now. Extra funding means that you can make the most of your location, take weekend trips and go on holiday over the breaks. It’s so much better to come home with extra money than to not have enough.”

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.”
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 employability tangible to industry and employers.

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

ENGAGE WITH EMPLOYERS

Building a strong network of professional contacts is a great way to tap into opportunities and learn about 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 recruitment presentations and the UQ Careers Fair – one of the largest careers fairs in Australia.

employability.uq.edu.au/industry-connections

Dominic Lam

“I strongly encourage students to consult with the UQ Careers Service throughout their degree. They are outstanding in their service and are a lovely and approachable team. I have really benefited from going to the numerous employer presentations they put on for students each year. These have helped me to better understand what employers are looking for in a graduate.”
The UQ Careers Service taught me to articulate how my experiences have helped me to develop the skills and attributes that are valuable to potential employers. It is important for students to have the determination, resilience and passion to go after what they want. My biggest tip for students is to make the most of your time at university by undertaking work experience, volunteering, extracurricular activities and meeting new people. These experiences are crucial and can help you develop soft skills that are essential in the professional world.

Manasa Pappu

“”The UQ Careers Service taught me to articulate how my experiences have helped me to develop the skills and attributes that are valuable to potential employers. It is important for students to have the determination, resilience and passion to go after what they want. My biggest tip for students is to make the most of your time at university by undertaking work experience, volunteering, extracurricular activities and meeting new people. These experiences are crucial and can help you develop soft skills that are essential in the professional world.”

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 contribute to your community and build your skill set.

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 help you access unique opportunities with organisations in Australia and worldwide. UQ students have been supported to undertake internships with Disney International, Engineers Without Borders Humanitarian Design Summit, and Latin American embassies in Canberra.

employability.uq.edu.au/internships
STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

REPRESENT UQ AS AN AMBASSADOR

Each year the University selects a small number of ambassadors to represent UQ at Australian and international events, including the National Student Leadership Forum, Council of International Students Australia 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/ambassador
**UQ VOLUNTEERING**

Our UQ Volunteer programs offer 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. UQ volunteers are the face of our many programs and aim to create a sense of belonging for all students at UQ.

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

**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 to support student-led events, activities and programs that will benefit their members and contribute to campus culture. Apply from January to September each year.

[employability.uq.edu.au/uq-sponsorship-grant](employability.uq.edu.au/uq-sponsorship-grant)

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**Eloise Matthias**  
UQ Latin American Embassy Intern, Canberra

“This experience changed me profoundly. As an embassy intern, my days ranged from translating official documents from the Peruvian President to the Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers, to attending diplomatic functions at Parliament House. I loved the opportunity to speak and write in Spanish on a daily basis and to deepen my understanding of Latin American relations with Australia.”

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**Moin Rahman**  
UQ Volunteer

“As a UQ Volunteer, my responsibilities ranged from conducting presentations to being a representative at different events. This has enhanced my leadership skills and has helped me to overcome my fear of public speaking. I highly recommend that students get more involved in UQ Volunteering programs. It is incredibly rewarding to give back to the UQ community and you make lifelong friends along the way.”

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**UQ MENTORING PROGRAMS**

Whether you’re looking for a language buddy or an industry expert to kick-start your career, we have a mentoring program to suit your needs. Our mentoring programs can help you enhance your professional development and personal networks.

[my.uq.edu.au/mentoring](my.uq.edu.au/mentoring)

Want to get involved?  
Applications for volunteering and mentoring opportunities are open all year around.
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 higher degree research program.

Participation is open to undergraduate, honours, or masters by coursework students who are enrolled at UQ at the time of application.

Summer Research projects are available in most disciplines for between six and ten weeks over the summer vacation period (mid-November to mid-February). All Summer Research scholars will receive a Summer Research Scholarship equivalent to $360 per week (paid as two lump sums during the program).

Winter Research projects are available in a range of disciplines for between four and six weeks during the mid-semester break (mid-June to mid-July). All selected research scholars will receive a Winter Research Scholarship valued at $1500.

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

Joshua Sheehy
Summer and Winter Research Scholar

“There is no feeling quite like being the only person in the world to know a piece of information, and solving a problem that could benefit those around you. The UQ Summer and Winter Research Programs allowed me to do just that, while connecting with world-class academics, publishing my research, and learning how to solve problems in a new and useful way. I would highly recommend anyone considering applying to give it a go. Even if you’ve never considered research before, the skill set, mentorship and connections that you can gain from these experiences are worthwhile.”
There are a variety of scholarships, grants and loans available to UQ students who wish to go on exchange, participate in research programs, short-term study, volunteering and other extracurricular activities.

UQ lists a small number of prestigious, externally provided scholarships that you may be eligible to apply for, such as the Rhodes Scholarship, Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship, the John Monash Scholarship and Fulbright Scholarship.

With many opportunities available, take some time to research and apply. You might be surprised at how many scholarships you are eligible to apply for.

scholarships.uq.edu.au

Samantha Nixon
Westpac Future Leaders Scholar

“The Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship provides me with support for my research as well as leadership development. As a Westpac Scholar, I have access to a network of inspiring leaders through the Westpac 100 Scholars Network. It has opened the door to opportunities I could only dream about, from developing my scientific leadership in Antarctica to travelling Europe and the United States to be at the front of cutting-edge research in my field.”
Katherine McElrea  
Employability Award graduate

“I learned from an early stage in my degree that employers value practical experience. I was already participating in extracurricular activities, so I used the UQ Employability Award as a motivator to continue and keep myself accountable. A key standout of the Award was my semester exchanges to the United States and Austria. Not only did I make life-long friends, but I also gained soft skills that are valuable to employers. These include an appreciation for diversity, personal independence, self-confidence in meeting others, flexibility and resilience for when things go wrong.”
UQ EMPLOYABILITY AWARD ACTIVITIES

The UQ Employability Award is designed to enhance your time at UQ and help you gain valuable skills to prepare you for employment through a range of activities. To get started, register and complete a skills audit. Then engage in activities that complement your studies, meet your interests and suit your availability. You will need to complete 100 hours of Work Experience, 100 hours of Volunteering and 5 Supplementary activities to be eligible to attend an Award interview and receive the Award upon graduation.

ONLINE EMPLOYABILITY COURSE

EMPLOY101x is a free, self-paced, online course based on UQ’s approach to student employability development. The course features:
• seven modules with videos and interactive activities to help build your employability
• insights from employers, current students, alumni and experts in the field of employability.

Learn how to maximise your experience to develop your employability, communicate your potential to an employer and make an impact throughout your career.

edx.org/uqx/employability

WORK EXPERIENCE
100 hours

Hit the ground running and get real-world experience, fine tune your skills and engage with industry.

VOLUNTEERING
100 hours

Engage in the community, extend your social awareness, make a difference and enhance your leadership potential.

SUPPLEMENTARY
5 activities

Develop your skills through a range of experiences, from participating in research programs to spending a semester abroad.
# 2018 Event Calendar

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**Student Engagement**
employability@uq.edu.au

**Careers Service**
careers@uq.edu.au

**UQ Abroad**
uqabroad@uq.edu.au

employability.uq.edu.au
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Instagram: uqsec