Student Employability Centre

Maximise your student experience and enhance your employability
Make the most of your time at UQ

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

Student’s face a future of work that is disruptive to the status quo, 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, Student Employability
The University of Queensland
Enhance your employability at UQ

1000+ SUPPORTED GLOBAL EXPERIENCES
650+ UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS
51,000+ STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN 141 COUNTRIES

$1.6 million IN FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE UQ STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY CENTRE
400+ UQ VOLUNTEERS
131 UQ EMPLOYABILITY AWARD GRADUATES

SUPPORTED LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
200 EXCHANGE PARTNERS IN 38 COUNTRIES
11 UQ LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSY INTERNS IN CANBERRA
6 COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AUSTRALIA (CISA) NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE DELEGATES IN CANBERRA
8 UQ REPRESENTATIVES AT THE QUEENSLAND SERVANT LEADERSHIP FORUM
340+ STUDENTS INVOLVED IN STUDENT-STAFF PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS

Figures based on data for 2018 Student Employability Centre supported activities
Global experiences

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 degree.

With more than 200 exchange partners in 38 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 of the following year)
- 31 October (for exchange in Semester 2 of the following year)

employability.uq.edu.au/global-experiences

TERRI TAM
Student Exchange
Korea University

“I made a lot of new friends from all over the world and hope to see them again when I visit their countries some time in the future. It was very interesting to experience life in a new country and environment with fellow exchange students. Everyone viewed life through different cultural lenses and it was wonderful to learn about their cultures and countries, and to see my own from new perspectives.”
Short-term global experiences

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 experiences 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 structure is not conducive to semester-long exchange.

Apply by:
• 10 March — for programs offered in Winter (July)
• 10 September — for programs offered in Summer (December — February)

employability.uq.edu.au/short-term-experiences

Universitas 21 (U21) student experiences

UQ is a member of Universitas 21 (U21), an international network of leading research-intensive universities which work together to enhance the student experience across the world.

You can apply to participate in U21 student experiences such as the Global Ingenuity Challenge, Summer/Winter Schools and International Exchange opportunities and build your global network of like-minded peers.

employability.uq.edu.au/u21

MARK McCONNACHIE
Engineering Without Borders
India

“My favourite memory from the experience would be enjoying milk tea with the locals during the rural home stay with my mates from the trip. We would sit around all afternoon and just absorb the experience, it was great and something I won’t forget.”

MARK McCONNACHIE
Engineering Without Borders
India
Financial support

Employability grants
Employability Grants provide financial assistance to support your participation in professional development and extra-curricular activities, such as internships, volunteering, conference presentations and more.
Funding will be 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

Funding for global experiences
UQ 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 facilitated by UQ are automatically considered for funding.
employability.uq.edu.au/financial-support

OS-HELP loan scheme
The OS-HELP loan provides financial assistance to eligible Commonwealth-supported students to undertake part of their studies 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 OS-HELP loan amounts available for studies undertaken in both Asia and non-Asian destinations change each year. Please refer to the website for this year’s maximum amounts.
OS-HELP loans are allocated in various rounds throughout the year. Please refer to the website for current deadlines.
my.uq.edu.au/os-help

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

ATHENA DODRILL
Copenhagen Business School, OS-HELP Loan and Scholarship recipient

“Exchange in Copenhagen is expensive! Denmark is one of the most expensive countries in the world even if you live the budget lifestyle. To finance my exchange, I was fortunate enough to receive the OS-HELP Loan of $6000 and an academic exchange scholarship of $3000”
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 $3000–7000 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

Prestigious Scholarships

There are a variety of scholarships, grants and loans available to UQ students who wish to go on exchange or 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

Get in early

Scholarship applications close at different times throughout the year – plan your response and apply early so you don’t miss out! Register to receive email updates about current opportunities and available support at bit.ly/prestigschol

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.”
Professional experiences

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 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 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.”

MANASA PAPPU
“The 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
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

Student-Staff Partnerships

Partnership Projects provide a valuable opportunity for students and staff to actively collaborate to enhance the student experience. Students and staff work in partnership to co-design courses, tutorial or assessment activities, co-creating engagement initiatives and resources, co-developing university strategy or policy.

Projects vary in length, with a maximum duration of one semester. In recognition of their collaboration, Student Partners receive grants of up to $1000 and are invited to participate in a range of professional development workshops and networking events to maximise their partnership experiences.

Representation and Voice initiatives ensure that the student voice is heard and valued throughout the University. Students can register to serve as a student representative on UQ committees at a program, school or faculty level, along with a wide range of opportunities to participate in focus groups and feedback sessions on issues that directly impact the student experience.

Serving as a student representative, or participating in these voice activities, is a unique way to have a real impact on the strategic direction of UQ. These opportunities also provide invaluable employability skills and networking opportunities.

employability.uq.edu.au/student-staff-partnerships

MOIN RAHMAN
Volunteer

“As a 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 volunteering programs. It is incredibly rewarding to give back to the UQ community and you make lifelong friends along the way.”

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
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

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.”

Want to get involved?
Applications for volunteering and mentoring opportunities are open all year around.
Summer and Winter 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 UQ undergraduate, honours, or masters by coursework students.

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.

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. Refer to the website for the current scholarship rates for both of these programs.

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 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.”
Complement your studies with the Employability Award

The Employability 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 extracurricular experiences such as work experience, volunteering, 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 employers value. By reflecting on these experiences, you will understand your capabilities, how you can communicate them to an employer and apply them in a work environment.

Program elements

You can participate in the program at any stage of your undergraduate or postgraduate coursework studies. 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.

Once you complete the minimum program requirements and apply to receive the Award, you will be required to communicate your employability in an Award interview. This opportunity will establish your ability to articulate how you have developed personally and professionally through your engagement. Upon graduation you will receive your formal Certificate for the Employability Award which attests to your enhanced student experience and employability.

employability.uq.edu.au/award

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 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.”
Employability Award activities

The 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. Register online, and then start engaging 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