

# Get Serious About You



Ever wondered what it would be like to go to uni but worry about getting in, getting lost and getting through? Stop worrying. We asked some students, who used to have the same concerns as you, to tell us about their experiences at university and here's what they told us.



## **Richard Earnshaw**

*I decided to go to uni to get the practical skills and knowledge I needed to build a career and future. You meet some amazing people and make connections. So follow your passions and never give up. They are the greatest years of your life.*



## Wendy Serrano

*Without the Q-Step program I would not have been able to study my first course preference at the beginning of university. I was granted three bonus OPs which meant I could follow my study goals.*

### People like you do go to uni

Universities are diverse places – there are all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds. There are people just like you at uni. In fact, you may be interested to know that about 40 per cent are the first in their family to go to uni, about 25 per cent are from outside Brisbane and about one-third are from a low-income background. But, the one thing many university students have in common is that they had help to get there. Read on to find out how QUT can help you get into uni and support you once you're there.

### Getting in, getting started

QUT has entry programs that help you get into uni, by providing an OP/rank boost, guaranteed financial assistance and lots of support.

#### Entry programs

**For people from low-income backgrounds...** If financial hardship has made it difficult for you to achieve your full potential, the Q-Step Program can help. Q-Step helps low-income students get into QUT by providing an admission bonus of up to three OPs (or six ranks) for entry into most undergraduate courses.

And, with guaranteed financial assistance (see 'Scholarships and financial support' section on next page) there'll be no stopping you.

If you want to be considered for the Q-Step Program, start by getting an application form from Q-Step ([www.qstep.qut.edu.au](http://www.qstep.qut.edu.au)) or by phoning 07 3138 8766). Application forms are also available through school guidance officers.

**For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people...** If you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and have uni in your sights, QUT's Oodgeroo Unit can help you get there. The Unit helps with alternative entry (which recognises

## Here's one we prepared earlier...

This DVD contains info about life, music and u – u now and future u – after school finishes. So grab this and get serious about u...

project u is an interactive DVD featuring current uni students talking about how they made the decision to go to university and what it was like when they got there.

There are no scripts – just real students – like you – telling it like it is. There's also music, videos and other cool stuff. You can also check out the project u website [www.projectu.com.au](http://www.projectu.com.au) for further information, links and resources.



## Will Dawson

*Everybody wants to get a job that they love – but university is much more than that. Moving to the city from a regional area I've learnt a lot about myself, my ambitions and my lack of organisational skills! But, I've had the time of my life. It's the best decision I could have made.*



that your life/study so far may not reflect your potential, skills or commitment) and support once you're in, like a pre-orientation program, tutorial assistance and computer labs. Also, Oodgeroo Unit students will be guaranteed financial assistance (see 'Scholarships and financial support' section opposite).

For more information contact the Oodgeroo Unit about their recruitment and selection process by phoning 07 3138 3610 or toll free 1800 645 513 or email [information.oodgeroo@qut.edu.au](mailto:information.oodgeroo@qut.edu.au). Information is also available at [www.oodgeroo.qut.edu.au](http://www.oodgeroo.qut.edu.au)

### A roof over your head + money in your pocket

If you have to leave home to study at university read this. No, really.

#### 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.orientation.qut.edu.au/transition/newtobrisbane.jsp](http://www.orientation.qut.edu.au/transition/newtobrisbane.jsp) 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.accommodation.qut.edu.au](http://www.accommodation.qut.edu.au). If you plan to share-house, visit QUT's share-housing portal at [www.qut.edu.au/sharehousing](http://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.clv-kelvingrove.com.au](http://www.clv-kelvingrove.com.au)

#### Scholarships and financial support

Think scholarships are only for high achievers? Think again. In 2010 QUT gave out more than \$2.5 million in scholarships, bursaries and computers specifically for people who need financial help.

So if you are coming to uni in 2011 there's even more financial support available to you including scholarships, bursaries, free desktop computers, a financial helpline, budgeting workshops and lots more to help you manage your finances while you are studying. We want you to focus on study not finances!

What's more, if you are commencing at QUT in 2011 and are accepted through the Q-Step Program ([www.qstep.qut.edu.au](http://www.qstep.qut.edu.au))

or are an Indigenous Australian, QUT guarantees you will get one of our scholarships or bursaries.

For more detail, including how to apply and when, visit [www.equity.qut.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.equity.qut.edu.au/scholarships) or join our mailing list by sending your email address to [equityscholarships@qut.edu.au](mailto:equityscholarships@qut.edu.au)

Don't forget to find out if you are eligible for income support or government scholarships through Centrelink. Talk to Centrelink on 132 490 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

#### Part-time work

Most students have a part-time job and, on average, work about 14 hours per 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](http://www.careerone.com.au) or [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)
- QUT's Student Guild at [www.guildonline.net](http://www.guildonline.net)
- QUT Career Hub at [www.careers.qut.edu.au](http://www.careers.qut.edu.au)





## Ashleigh Newbery

*When I graduate I will become a Visual Arts teacher – something that I always wanted to be. I know the sense of accomplishment will be worth the work. It's important to balance your social life and uni. Too much of either one will end in tears!*

### Finding your feet

Finding your feet in the first few weeks at uni can be challenging, especially if you don't know anyone. But, don't panic, most students feel the same way. The best tip is to ask for help, QUT has lots of support services – you just need to know where to look. And, O-Week is a great place to start.

### Uni starts with an 'O'

Orientation Week 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 units, 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. If you're relocating to study, you may also 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.orientation.qut.edu.au](http://www.orientation.qut.edu.au)

### 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 QUT's eLearning Services. 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.kickstart.qut.edu.au](http://www.kickstart.qut.edu.au). The main thing to remember is that there are lots of people to help you. And, if you haven't already, visit [www.orientation.qut.edu.au](http://www.orientation.qut.edu.au) and follow the steps to an easier uni life.

### Still not sure which way is up?

Visit [www.projectu.com.au](http://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, it will give you an insight into what you can expect at university and you can email your questions to real QUT students. Visit [www.qut.edu.au/makeit](http://www.qut.edu.au/makeit)

### Get yourself on campus

During the June–July and September–October school holidays, QUT offers prospective students the chance to have a personalised tour around the campus of their choice with a current QUT student.

Tours leave every 30 minutes from 10am and you just need to meet at the designated point for each campus. For Gardens Point and Kelvin Grove campuses meet at A Block, and for Caboolture campus meet at J Block.

During the September–October school holidays, prospective students will also be able to participate in tours of facilities and information sessions for specific study areas, and hear from current students about life as a university student and living in Brisbane. To find out more, visit [www.qut.edu.au/explore/events](http://www.qut.edu.au/explore/events)

### Tips for parents and guardians

Each year, QUT holds a Parents seminar. Parents can also subscribe to our electronic newsletter. For more information visit [www.qut.edu.au/parents](http://www.qut.edu.au/parents), email [parents@qut.edu.au](mailto:parents@qut.edu.au) or phone 07 3138 8501.

### Speak to us in person

QUT Information Services  
07 3138 2000  
[ask.qut.edu.au](mailto:ask.qut.edu.au)

