

# Parents

A guide to help you support your son or daughter as they make course and career decisions



## Making an informed choice about university

Most parents want their children to make the right choice about their future. However, sometimes students have many different areas of interest, or they find that their course isn't what they thought it would be. The important thing is that they make an informed choice—by thinking about their strengths and interests, researching different careers, and ensuring they understand how to apply for entry to their chosen course.

Parents and prospective students can access many resources.

Talk to school guidance officers, current university students, people who work in the field of interest, and university staff.

Visit university campuses for open days, events or attend a career expo in your area. If you can't make it on campus, go online and take a virtual tour with current QUT students. Visit [www.qut.edu.au/explore/campuses](http://www.qut.edu.au/explore/campuses)

Read course booklets, admission procedures, and the QTAC Guide. Search the Internet for information about different universities and courses, careers, and industry profiles.

Try it first with the START QUT program. High-achieving students can experience university and extend their studies in Year 12 by studying one or two university subjects in the same classes as current QUT students. Visit [www.qut.edu.au/startqut](http://www.qut.edu.au/startqut)

QUT Careers and Employment counsellors offer fee-for-service career counselling appointments for prospective students. For more information visit [www.careers.qut.edu.au](http://www.careers.qut.edu.au) or email [careers@qut.edu.au](mailto:careers@qut.edu.au)

## More resources for parents

QUT's Open Day includes information sessions for parents. [www.openday.qut.edu.au](http://www.openday.qut.edu.au)

Use our parents' guide to the QUT website at [www.qut.edu.au/parents](http://www.qut.edu.au/parents)



## Andrew Moore

### Bachelor of Business (Accounting)

*The best thing my parents did was to be supportive. They didn't know the ins and outs of what I wanted to study and they didn't need to. I had to make decisions about my future and it was easier knowing that I had the support of my family whatever the outcome.*

Subscribe to QUT News for Parents at [www.marketingcomm.qut.edu.au/srp/parents/news.jsp](http://www.marketingcomm.qut.edu.au/srp/parents/news.jsp)

Email us using the dedicated parents' email address – [parents@qut.edu.au](mailto:parents@qut.edu.au)

Read up on frequently used university terms at [www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/info/facts/glossary](http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/info/facts/glossary)

Visit the QUT Counselling website which also offers advice for parents – [www.counselling.qut.edu.au](http://www.counselling.qut.edu.au)

## Interactive website for school leavers

QUT has created a fun and interactive website to give prospective students some direction about choosing a university. It can help them find a course to match their skills, give an insight into what to expect at university, and they can email questions to real QUT students.

Encourage your son or daughter to visit [www.qut.edu.au/makeit](http://www.qut.edu.au/makeit)



## Josh Skyring

Bachelor of Business/  
Bachelor of Laws

*Neither of my parents went to university, so to understand what I would be doing they went to QUT's Open Day and browsed the websites. Then they were confident that I was making the right decision.*

# Real issues

When we talk to parents the most common questions are about course costs, scholarships, getting a job, and student support. So here is the information you need.

### Balancing the books

University study is not as expensive as you may think, and many students choose not to pay their fees (or contribution) up front.

Most domestic undergraduate places at QUT are partly funded by the government (Commonwealth supported places), with the balance of the course cost paid by the student. Students can defer payment of their contribution with a government HECS-HELP\* loan. Loans are repaid through the tax system when students begin their career and their income passes a certain level.

The actual student contribution depends on the number of units studied and the band for each unit, and can vary from semester to semester. As a guide, the following table shows the estimated student contribution for a whole year if all units were in the same band.

#### 2010 student contribution bands for Commonwealth supported students

Band	Estimated cost (two semesters)
<b>National priority areas</b>	
Mathematics, Statistics, Science	\$4249
<b>Band 1</b>	
Behavioural Science, Foreign Languages, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Nursing and Education	\$5310
<b>Band 2</b>	
Built Environment, Information Technology, Health, Engineering, Science, Surveying, Computing	\$7567
<b>Band 3</b>	
Law, Accounting, Administration, Economics, Commerce	\$8859

\* Commonwealth supported places and HECS-HELP are subject to citizenship requirements.

Some students choose to pay their contribution up front each semester and are given a 20 per cent discount (for amounts of \$500 or more). For more information visit [www.goingtouni.gov.au](http://www.goingtouni.gov.au)

For information about international student fees visit [www.international.qut.edu.au](http://www.international.qut.edu.au)

### Scholarships

At QUT we encourage and support academic achievement. We offer up to 200 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships worth up to \$6000 a year for high academic achievers. There is also a range of Dean's Scholars programs and faculty-based scholarships.

In 2011, the QUT Equity Scholarships Scheme has more than \$2 million in scholarships, bursaries and computers specifically for people who need financial help. All low-income students who plan to study at QUT in 2011 are encouraged to apply. Academic results are not taken into consideration for these scholarships, only financial need. Students are also encouraged to apply to Centrelink for Youth Allowance, Austudy or Abstudy in order to access financial support while they study.

For more information about scholarships visit [www.scholarships.qut.edu.au](http://www.scholarships.qut.edu.au)

### Real career outcomes

More than 6000 bachelor-degree students graduate from QUT each year. QUT continues to outperform Queensland and Australian average rates for graduate employment.

QUT prepares students for their careers with courses that match changing industry needs.

We ensure students have opportunities in their courses to gain practical work skills through real-world projects and industry experience as they progress through their course.

Students also have access to interactive online career development programs, advice about career planning, interview and employment search workshops, résumé advice, on-campus careers fairs and employer presentations, and an extensive career mentor scheme. For more information visit [www.careers.qut.edu.au](http://www.careers.qut.edu.au)

### All the help they need

All students will experience a period of adjustment when they start university. The issues that typically concern commencing students are their choice of course, juggling university, work and social/family life, financial difficulties, and learning and study skills. QUT offers a range of services to help including:

- bulk-billed medical services at Gardens Point and Kelvin Grove campuses
- free counselling and welfare service
- academic skills workshops
- peer advisers
- special learning and disability support
- financial support measures.

In addition, QUT has developed the First Year Experience program, which aims to provide a supportive learning environment for all commencing students. Activities include providing key information to students both before and during formal orientation, creating more opportunities for students to make friends and get to know their teaching staff, and identifying students who could use extra help and connecting them with academic and personal support services at the right time.

For more information visit [www.orientation.qut.edu.au/transition](http://www.orientation.qut.edu.au/transition)

## Lisa Kingsberry

Bachelor of Business  
(Public Relations)/Bachelor of  
Journalism

*Mum and Dad were nervous about me moving away from home but they researched the course and spoke to other parents whose children had moved away to study. They realised that this was the best course for my chosen career which gave them peace of mind when I left home.*



# Frequently asked questions (and answers)

### How do students apply to uni?

Applications for current Australian Year 12 students are made through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). Year 12 students receive a QTAC Guide through their school and applications are lodged online. Students list up to six course preferences and, depending on the offer round, have some time to make changes to the order of their preferences or add new courses. Some courses have earlier application deadlines. Visit [www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au)

### How are students chosen for university places?

Students are selected in order of their OP or rank as there are usually more students applying than the number of places available. Published OP/rank cut-offs from previous years are an indication only. Each year, cut-offs are determined by the number of places available in the course, the number of applicants applying for the course, and the standard of applicants (OP). Courses may be easier or harder to get into from year to year, depending on their popularity. The cut-off does not indicate the academic difficulty of the course. Some courses have additional application requirements such as submission of a portfolio, interview or audition.

### What if my son or daughter doesn't get the OP they need?

When completing their QTAC application, students should have a back-up plan as part of their six preferences. Their ideal course should be listed as their first preference. Other preferences should include courses that could be used as an upgrading pathway or courses that would lead to an alternative career interest area. For further information pick up a copy of *Real Options* or visit [www.realoptions.qut.edu.au](http://www.realoptions.qut.edu.au)

### What if my son or daughter doesn't like their course?

Students can talk to their course coordinator about their program of study. Many of our courses are flexibly structured, allowing students to change their major or select units outside of the major area of study, either from within the faculty, or from other faculties at QUT. If your son or daughter is considering changing their course, QUT's Careers and Employment service offers free career counselling to QUT students, as well as online resources to assist with decision making. Faculty office and Student Centre staff can help with administrative issues such as deferment or changing courses.

### How often will my son or daughter be at uni?

Each unit usually has a weekly lecture and tutorial. Lectures are generally one to two hours duration. Tutorials are generally one hour duration and are a group learning situation based on lecture material. Students may also have other types of classes. As little as 12 hours per week may be spent in classes which can be on one or two days or spread over the whole week. Eight to 10 hours per unit per week should be spent outside the classroom reading and working on assignments and tutorial tasks.

### What accommodation options are available?

Campus Living Villages operates a student accommodation complex adjacent to QUT's Kelvin Grove campus. Students can apply online at [www.clv-kelvingrove.com.au](http://www.clv-kelvingrove.com.au)

Other options include student residences, boarding with friends or family, or renting a property with other students. For more information visit [www.accommodation.qut.edu.au](http://www.accommodation.qut.edu.au)





## Adele Howard

### Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)

*My parents went with me to open days and helped me research my course. When I started university they helped me make the necessary changes to my routine such as working out public transport.*

#### What else do I need to know about entry to QUT?

QUT has a number of entry programs students need to be aware of to maximise their chances of gaining entry into their chosen course.

Students who have experienced financial hardship making it difficult to reach their full potential may be eligible for entry through the Q-Step program.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are supported through the Oodgeroo Unit with an entry program and academic, cultural and personal support.

The Elite Athlete Entry Program helps sportspersons, managers and coaches to gain entry to QUT and provides support while they study.

QUT has replaced mandatory subject prerequisites with an Assumed Knowledge scheme. QUT specifies the knowledge it

assumes students have for each course but does not use this as criteria for entry. We recommend students undertake preparatory studies if they do not have the specified Assumed Knowledge.

Applicants to QUT who receive an OP1–5 are guaranteed a place in the majority of QUT courses through QUT's OP Guarantee.

The QUT Entry Bonus Scheme offers bonus QTAC ranks for students completing Mathematics C, Languages Other Than English (LOTE) subjects, or for completing a university subject while still at school. Bonus ranks are also offered to students who have successfully completed Engineering Technology and who apply to study a QUT Bachelor of Engineering or related double degree.

START QUT is an opportunity for high-achieving students to experience university. Students study one or two university subjects in the same classes

as current QUT students. Students who pass two units receive guaranteed entry to selected QUT courses following completion of Year 12.

For more information about all of these entry programs visit [www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/apply/ug/info](http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/apply/ug/info)

#### Other useful publications

We trust this brochure has been helpful. You can order copies of course booklets and other publications online at [www.qut.edu.au/explore](http://www.qut.edu.au/explore)

#### We value your feedback

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve our resources for parents, please email [parents@qut.edu.au](mailto:parents@qut.edu.au)

#### Please visit us

##### QUT Student Centres

The QUT Student Centre on each campus can assist you with general enquiries about admission, academic credit, enrolment, fees, student ID cards and other matters.

##### Gardens Point

2 George Street, Level 1, A Block

##### Kelvin Grove

Victoria Park Road, Level 6, F Block

##### Caboolture

Tallon Street, Ground Floor, J Block

#### Please ask us

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

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#### 2010 calendar of events

QUT staff and students will be available at the following 2010 events to answer your questions. You can sign up to receive email reminders about upcoming events at [www.qut.edu.au/explore](http://www.qut.edu.au/explore)

##### Regional Careers Markets

March–August  
Queensland and New South Wales

##### Return to Study Seminar

21 April, 6–7pm  
Kelvin Grove campus

##### Parent Information Seminar

21 April, 6–7pm  
Kelvin Grove campus

##### Careers and Employment Expo

7–9 May  
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
9am–5pm daily

##### Holiday Campus Tours

28 June–2 July  
Gardens Point, Kelvin Grove and Caboolture campuses  
10am–12pm daily

##### TSXPO (Tertiary Studies Expo)

17–18 July  
Exhibition Building  
RNA Showgrounds  
10am–4pm daily

##### QUT Open Day

25 July  
Kelvin Grove campus  
9am–3pm

##### QUT Caboolture Campus Open Day

15 August  
Caboolture campus  
10am–2pm

##### Adult Tertiary Entry Expo

1 September  
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
11am–6pm

##### Holiday Campus Tours

27 September–1 October  
Gardens Point, Kelvin Grove and Caboolture campuses  
10am–12pm daily

Faculty activities and tours also available. For full program visit [www.qut.edu.au/explore](http://www.qut.edu.au/explore)

##### QUT Real Decisions

21 December  
Gardens Point campus  
10am–2pm