In 2017, UQ’s Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj began his term as chair of the Group of Eight (Go8), a coalition of leading research-intensive Australian universities, of which UQ is a member.

Learning excellence
UQ maintained its position of having won more national awards for university teaching than any other university in the country, with six Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) in 2017. Three UQ academics won Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning: Professor Anthony Cassimatis, Dr Lisa Fitzgerald and Dr Poh Wah Hlkbo. Carl Sherwood won an Award for Teaching Excellence (Law, Economics, Business and Related Studies category). Dr Vincent Wheatley won in the Physical Sciences and Related Studies category, and the First-Year Chemistry Program won an Award for Programs that Enhance Learning (Innovation and Flexibility in Curriculum, Learning and Teaching).

Associate Professor Roslyn Petelin was nominated as one of only 10 edX prize finalists worldwide, for her MOOC White 10X: English grammar and style. UQ was selected as the host organisation for the 2017 China-Australia University Summit on Teaching and Learning (CAUSTL). With the theme of ‘Disruption to Higher Education’, the invitation-only conference attracted 70 delegates to the St Lucia campus.

UQ was a finalist in three categories of the 2017 Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards: Education Technology (with UNSW, for BEST Network’s Slice); Equity and Opportunity (for the Critical Thinking Project); and Industry Engagement (with Boeing, for the Boeing Research and Teaching Project). UQ was named in the world’s top 10 universities for teaching awards, for the first time.

UQ students also won many international scholarships in 2017, for example:

- UQ graduates Jordan England, Steven Etanna and Heather May were named 2018 John Monash Scholars and will be furthering their studies at Cambridge and Oxford Universities in recognition of their leadership potential. Humanities student Damien Mahmoud won a Rhodes Scholarship to study a Master of Arts in modern and contemporary literature at Oxford University.
- Amy Bergmann was selected as one of only eight 2017 laureates for the Embassy of France Nicolas Baudin Program to study at Sciences Po in exchange in France.
- Thomas Lynch was one of only two Australian students to receive the Princess Mary Scholarship to study in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Rhianna Erikson and Xin Liu received the German Baden-Württemberg Scholarship for their exchange to Eberhard Karls University Tübingen, Germany.
- Yoo Kent Lee received the Jassu Scholarship plus $50,000 to study at Kyushu University, Japan.
- Alexander Williams and Kate Goodfinit received New Colombo Plan (NCP) Scholarship funding for their exchange semesters in Indonesia and Japan.
- Six students were awarded Westpac Scholarships for their participation in UQ’s Abroad Student Exchange programs in China, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Student exchange
The 2018 round one of the New Colombo Plan Mobility Program was announced in August, with 42 UQ students receiving mobility grants to travel overseas.

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Joshua Shing Shun Lui won the Science to Art Award in the 2017 ANFRC Research Excellence Awards. Three UQ students featured in the Queensland International Education and Training (IET) Excellence Awards 2017:
- Partha Nasipuri Moltra from India, studying a PhD in engineering, won the Research Student of the Year. Barani Ganapathi from Switzerland/India, studying a Master of Occupational Health and Safety Science, won the Higher Education Student of the Year. Dorothy Sze from Singapore, studying a Bachelor of Commerce, won the Research Student of the Year.

From humble beginnings in 1910, The University of Queensland (UQ) has grown to become one of Australia’s most respected teaching and research universities. 2017 saw our 250,000th student graduate, joining a global alumni network across more than 170 countries—creating change and delivering knowledge leadership for a better world.
Discovery excellence

UQ maintained its strong reputation as one of Australia’s top research-intensive universities in 2017. The University’s reputation for research excellence was again underpinned by its 55th global ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)—the most influential global university ranking. UQ is one of only two Australian universities to be included in the ARWU’s top 60. Of this year’s successful applications, one is from UQ’s Advancing Queensland Innovation Partnerships (AQIP) applicants. UQ had more successful applicants than any other research institution, with six projects sharing $4.2 million in State Government funding. Internationally, UQ’s research community continued to excel in quality and impact, contributing solutions to some of the great challenges of our time. UQ innovators have made genuinely life-changing advances over the years, including the life-saving Gardasil® and Cervarix® cervical cancer vaccines, the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, GroundProbe mine-safety technology, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) image correction technology, and a potential new treatment for pain that is currently being developed by Novartis Inc, after acquiring UQ spin-out company, SpinPhex Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, in one of Australia’s largest ever biotech deals.

In May, the Boeing Research and Technology–Australia Technology Centre relocated to UQ’s St Lucia campus into purpose-built space in the Hawken Building, which includes laboratories and office space for an initial 35 Boeing research staff and a high-tech, open, student-Interaction area. While the major focus of UQ’s relationship with Boeing involves collaborative research, Boeing also provides a wide range of support for undergraduate programs.

In 2017, the $31.9 million ARC Centre of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems (EQuS) began its second term and will focus on harnessing the quantum world for practical applications such as improving medical imaging technology.

UQ was awarded two Australian Laureate Fellowships commencing in 2017, with a total value of $5.8 million. The new Australian Laureate Fellow are Professor Zhiqun Yuan, Director, Advanced Water Management Centre, and Professor George Zhao, School of Chemical Engineering.

The prestigious 2017 Queensland Government, Queensland Greats Awards recipients included Professor Perry F Barlett, FAA, the inaugural Director of the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and Emeritus Professor Cindy Shannon, FQA, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) at UQ (since retired). These three University of Queensland researchers were awarded prestigious Fulbright Scholarships and Fellowships; UQ music expert Professor Margaret Barrett, intellectual history and literature researcher Professor Tim Mohiutt, and PhD student Victoria Reynoldson.

In 2017, the Australian War Memorial launched a new interactive online exhibition called Part of Nation. The virtual exhibition, which brings Charles Bean’s War World War era vision for the Memorial to life for the first time, was achieved through the work of UQ researchers in conjunction with Quba Pty Ltd, which was established as a UniqStartup in 2009. UQ continued to participate in the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Pilot of the Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) program. The pilot aims to address the under-representation of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEM) disciplines using a rigorous evidence-based accreditation framework. UQ aims to achieve a Bronze Award in early 2019.

Engagement excellence

In 2017, UQ launched an historic philanthropic initiative with host it! When - the Campaign to Create Change. This campaign illustrates the importance role partnerships and philanthropy play in accelerating opportunities and tackling issues with global impact. It also highlights what donors have already achieved and what they can do in the future, such as supporting disadvantaged students, driving research and discoveries, and providing transformative learning environments that attract and retain the best and brightest students.

UQ alumni continued to optimise the University’s vision of knowledge leadership to a better world, with leaders in government, law, science, sport, commerce and the arts all making a difference around the world. Among these in 2017 were:

- Julianne Alroe, CEO and Managing Director Brisbane Airport Corporation, who was appointed as Chair of Infrastructure Australia
- Associate Adjunct Professor Dimity Doman, AO, Executive Director and Founder of Hear and Say, who was announced as 2018 Queensland Senior Australian of the Year for her work helping children and young adults through bionic technologies
- Alborz Fahal, who was named UQ’s Entrepreneur in Residence after turning a blog he started as a UQ student for a cost of $35 into a business he later sold a stake in for $35 million
- The Honourable Mark McGowan, MLA, who was elected as the 50th Premier of Western Australia
- 2014 Distinguished Young Alumni Award winner Carl Smith, who received a 2017 Walkley Award in the Young Journalist of the Year (longform) category for his radio series Bionic Bodies.

Donors, industry and community partners continued to choose UQ as their trusted partner in 2017 to support students, research and teaching. In 2017, Annual Giving—gifts received from UQ alumni, staff and friends predominately for amounts under $1000—comprised more than 70 per cent of the total number of gifts to UQ. In total, donations from current and former UQ staff raised $1,455,742. The UQ telephone engagement campaign also resulted in more than 1400 gifts to UQ in 2017, 40 per cent of which were from first-time donors.

In 2017, UQ continued to engage its alumni by keeping them connected through global alumni networks, informing them about exciting new research developments, and providing examples of UQ’s intellectual standards and academic rigour—as demonstrated through representation and participation in a wide range of conferences, seminars, executive missions, colloquia and research projects in Europe, North Asia, Latin America, North America, South Central Asia and South-East Asia.

UQ was also involved in many international development opportunities, including being the lead research provider for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) with $1.1 million of funded projects in Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The UQ Global Strategy and Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme co-sponsored 18 initiatives to develop mutually beneficial education and research outcomes, totalling $169,727 across the US, UK, Germany, China, Indonesia, India, China and Singapore.

Closer to home, UQ hosted several key conferences and business meetings, including the UQ Changemakers with Andrew Liveris, AO in July that focused on how Australia can improve its competitiveness globally.

Secondary school liaison remained a key feature of the University’s strategy for influencing student choice for UQ with a particular focus on regional areas in 2017. Open Days, school visits, scholarly programs, campus tours, teacher and guidance officer training, student mentoring and hands-on experience days were just some of the activities undertaken.

News dissemination also remained a key focus, with more than a million views of UQ news stories alone. Other media channels included the University’s Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube and Instagram accounts; official speeches and letters; blogs; video news items and academic articles in The Conversation.