The University of Queensland's selection as 1998/99 Australian University of the Year, an accolade from the Good Universities Guide, capped a year of achievement. Highlights included national teaching awards, a $9.8 million library upgrade, the announcement of a multi-million dollar Institute of Molecular Bioscience and completion of the initial stage of a third major campus.

The University was established in 1911 as the fifth in Australia, after the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Tasmania. That year we enrolled 83 students in three faculties – Arts, Science and Engineering.

Now we are known internationally as a leader among Australia's 28 universities. We rank consistently in the top two or three by most performance measures, and are among only three Australian members of Universitas 21 – a select global alliance of comprehensive, research-intensive universities committed to world-best practice.

We have 28,431 students (including 5774 postgraduates) studying in 59 departments and schools organised in seven faculties. We have 4427 staff (including 1773 academics) and two major campuses, with a third ready to open in 1999; and our new graduates seeking jobs have recorded Australia's highest employment rate for three of the past four years.

We teach Queensland's most comprehensive range of quality courses incorporating more than 5500 subjects from undergraduate to postdoctoral level. Many courses, such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, are unavailable elsewhere in the State.

Governed by a Senate of 35 members representing our University and the community, we have an annual budget approaching $500 million, control 2000 hectares of land and 692 buildings, and own assets worth $1.2 billion.

Our heart is the 114-hectare St Lucia campus, situated on a magnificent river-front site just seven kilometres from Brisbane's city centre. Gatton College, 80 kilometres west of Brisbane, combines modern teaching and research facilities with century-old heritage buildings set on 1068 hectares. Stage one of the new 25-hectare campus at Ipswich will open in 1999 as a leading-edge flexible learning centre capitalising on the latest technology.

We maintain the heritage-listed, riverside Customs House in Brisbane's CBD as our city base and we operate specialist teaching and research centres elsewhere in the State.

These include medical and dental schools in Brisbane, a clinical school of medicine in North Queensland, a marine research station at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef, international seismograph stations at Mount Nebo and Charters Towers, agricultural and veterinary science farms at Redland Bay and Mount Cotton, and an underground mine just four kilometres from the St Lucia campus.

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The mission of the University of Queensland is to create and transmit ideas and knowledge and to develop cognitive skills through teaching and research of the highest international standards, for the particular benefit of Queensland and the good of the wider national and international communities.