


The
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Studies Unit



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

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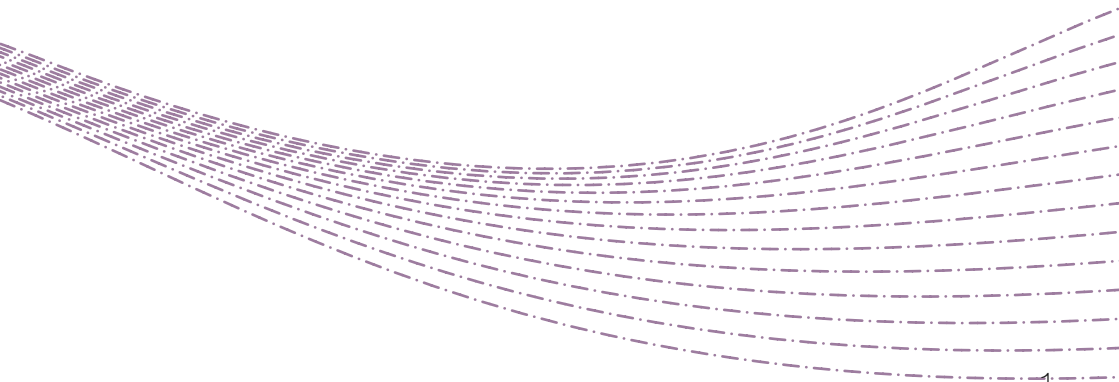
Cover photo: (from left) Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws student John Tapp, Bachelor of Psychological Science student Rhiann Sue See, Bachelor of Laws student Mareshah Bowie, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Psychological Science student Matthew Anderson and Bachelor of Social Work student Karina Hall.

ABOUT THE UNIT

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit (the Unit) was established at The University of Queensland in 1984 to support, academically and personally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and provide culturally-informed input on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues to the University.

There are about 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from communities across Australia studying at UQ's campuses at St Lucia, Ipswich and Gatton. These students are undertaking programs as diverse as Engineering, Law, Medicine, Science, Indigenous Health, Journalism, Social Work and Anthropology.

While the Unit's major objective has been to maintain a committed system of support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, it is also committed to supplementing student support by becoming a centre for excellence and expert opinion in the areas of teaching, research and consultation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



APPLICATION AND ALTERNATIVE ENTRY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants can gain entry to UQ programs through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). This applies whether you are a school-leaver or are seeking mature-age entry. In addition to gaining entry on the basis of your Overall Position (OP), or other entrance score, there is the opportunity to apply for admission through UQ's Alternative Entry program.

Alternative Entry

The Alternative Entry program has assisted many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants. You must identify yourself on your QTAC form as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The Alternative Entry application process considers a range of factors in addition to formal education and asks you to demonstrate your capacity to pursue tertiary study. Factors taken into consideration include:

- consistency in employment and academic pursuits
- employment experiences
- academic abilities
- personal interests
- self-discipline
- family support mechanisms, and
- supporting documents from referees.

Once the Unit receives notification of a QTAC application, you will be contacted to discuss the application in detail. The Unit will also provide assistance and advice to give you the best possible chance of being successful with your UQ application.

As part of this process, you are requested to provide a written application to UQ that contains:

1. A formal letter of application to the Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit.
2. A personal résumé, including referees, evidence of achievements and experience.
3. A brief statement outlining the reasons for wanting to study your chosen program.

Once the application is received it will be considered by the University along with your OP or relevant entrance score (if applicable).

During the application process, you may like to visit the University and meet with members of the Unit. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of the Alternative Entry process, please call (07) 3365 6714 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

GRADUATE MAKES HISTORY

For Luke White, his graduation from the Bachelor of Veterinary Science program in 2006 may have represented the culmination of five years of hard study. But the milestone had a broader, symbolic significance, seeing him become UQ's first Indigenous graduate from the program.

Luke (pictured below) is proud to declare his Aboriginal heritage, which comes from his mother's side of the family.

"My mum's family have been involved in Aboriginal community affairs for many years and are well respected in Queensland," Luke said.

"My grandmother, Phyllis Appo, is an elder of the Gooreng-Gooreng people of the Bundaberg area of Queensland where she and many of my relatives still live.

"I also have links to Cherbourg Mission through my great grandmother Lena Horton who lived there with her brothers and sisters for many years."

Luke said the Veterinary Science program had given him a well-rounded education.

"Throughout my practical work I was able to travel to many places including far west Queensland, country Victoria, Sydney and far north Queensland," he said.

An avid traveller, Luke moved to the UK in 2007 to work in a mixed practice.

"I want to be a country vet for a few years and then see where that takes me," he said.

“ Throughout my practical work I was able to travel to many places including far west Queensland, country Victoria, Sydney and far north Queensland. ”



PEARLS OF WISDOM

Two UQ students have been awarded teaching scholarships created in honour of a pioneering Indigenous educator.

Worth up to \$20,000 each for the course of study, the Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships were established in 2000 to encourage outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to pursue careers in the classroom.

A Queensland Government initiative, they are named after Pearl Duncan, who in 1951 became the country's first tertiary-trained Indigenous teacher.

Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Arts student Allison Rocca (pictured left) and Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) student Philip Breslin (pictured right) were named among the recipients during a ceremony hosted by Rod Welford, Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts.

"I've had the privilege of working with some fantastic teachers, which has motivated me to pass on the same opportunity to younger generations by studying to become a teacher," Allison said.

She said she wanted to teach at both primary and secondary levels in remote areas and also in Brisbane.

Allison said the scholarships allowed greater numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become teachers and would inspire others.

"It will demonstrate to the children the benefits of committing to school and going on to tertiary education," she said.

"It will also let them know that it is possible to achieve with effort and persistence regardless of any disadvantage as help is always available."



HOW THE UNIT CAN HELP YOU

The staff members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit support students through their time at UQ, from pre-study enquiries to attending graduation ceremonies.

Services provided include:

- Alternative Entry – assistance to applicants who want to pursue tertiary education.
- Student support – personal and academic advice and assistance to students includes counselling and referrals, computer access, and student facilities.
- Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) – available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who feel they may require additional study support outside of lectures, tutorials and practical sessions. This is particularly valuable for new students making their transition to tertiary study.
- Indigenous cadetship, scholarships and prizes – assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with options and advice relating to the National Indigenous Cadetships Program and scholarships and prizes available at UQ.
- Orientation program for new students – staff spend three days with students assisting with the transition to University life and study.

From left: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit staff Stephen Corporal, Georgina Baira and Judy Dale with Bachelor of Social Work student Lauren Faulkner during Orientation.



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

UQ offers a program of study in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies and you can undertake a major as part of the Bachelor of Arts degree. The major will help you appreciate the unique way that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people see the world. You will gain a deep understanding of Indigenous perspectives on everyday life in Australia today as well as on the major social, economic and political events and processes in Australia's history.

What is it?

The major in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies allows students to choose from a wide range of courses including anthropology, archaeology, art history, Australian Studies, public health, political science, religion and sociology as well as interdisciplinary courses specifically concerned with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and knowledge.

What will I study?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies begins with introductions to Indigenous ways of seeing the world and

thinking about relationships between people. These courses will teach you about yourself and the wider Australian community as well as about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. More advanced courses cover the vibrant worlds of contemporary Indigenous literature, music and dance, as well as important questions of history, social justice and reconciliation. You can also conduct an independent research project.

What will I learn?

You will develop strong research, analytical, and written and oral communication skills. In addition, you will learn how Indigenous Australians and other first peoples see the world and come to understand their lives, cultures and histories. Career opportunities are excellent and include working in Indigenous affairs with community organisations or in national, State or local government agencies, working in sustainable and community development with non-government organisations or private industry and working in Indigenous education or health.

UQ + GO8 = SUCCESS

A globally-recognised science education is truly a “bricks and mortar” investment for UQ Group of Eight (Go8) Scholarship winner Ben Beck.

Ben’s mother, Barbara, increased the mortgage over the family’s home on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast to help send her eldest child to UQ in Brisbane.

Winning a Go8 Scholarship has helped Ben to afford to live at Union College while studying for a Bachelor of Science.

He said that even if he could not afford to live at a residential college, he would be willing to make the three-hour daily round trip from home to study at UQ.

“As far as global recognition goes, a UQ degree gives me a better opportunity for jobs because it is so well-recognised.”

“As far as global recognition goes, a UQ degree gives me a better opportunity for jobs because it is so well-recognised,” he said.



Ben (pictured above) is one of four talented first-year students at UQ (from a total of 32 in Australia) to receive a Go8 scholarship in 2006. It entitles him to \$6000 per year for the duration of his program.

He has long been an academic prodigy, attaining an OP1 while studying at Matthew Flinders Anglican College at Buderim.

Ben’s life plan includes maintaining his consciousness of and pride in his Indigenous heritage. During Orientation Week he caught up with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and met other Indigenous students.

His main aim now is to forge a career in science.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

R.N. Hammon Scholarships

- for students who have successfully completed at least one year of a UQ degree and can demonstrate academic merit
- social and financial circumstances considered
- valued at approximately \$2000 per year

UQ Economics Scholarships

- for outstanding Year 12 students wanting to study economics at UQ
- applications close in November of the year before entry
- valued at approximately \$20,000 over three years

Mick Young Trust Scholarship

- for a UQ Ipswich student
- based on academic merit and financial need

E.O.H. Handy Memorial Scholarship

- for students who can demonstrate academic merit
- social and economic need considered
- valued at \$500

Robert Riley Scholarship Program

- for students aged up to 25 years who are studying law, human rights, child protection or criminology
- valued at \$5000

Siggins Miller Scholarship

- for a first-year medical student
- based on financial need and demonstrated academic ability
- valued at approximately \$1500

Minerals Council Scholarship Program

- for students aged up to 25 years
- valued at \$5000

University of Queensland College Accommodation Scholarships

- for students seeking college accommodation for the first time at UQ's St Lucia or Gatton campuses
- \$400 interest-free loan from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit

The Ceridwen Indigenous Scholarship

- for undergraduate or postgraduate students within the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture, pursuing study or research that will benefit Indigenous children in Australia
- must have successfully completed at least two years' study and be able to demonstrate academic merit
- valued at approximately \$2500

Indigenous Youth Leadership Program Tertiary Scholarships

- for students aged up to 25 who have demonstrated a leadership capability
- \$6000 per year

Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships

- for students aspiring to be teachers
- provided through the Department of Education and the Arts, Queensland
- valued at up to \$20,000

Australian Government Rural and Remote Nurse Scholarship Program

- for people wanting to study nursing
- \$10,000 per year

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarships – Nursing

- for nursing students
- \$15,000 per year for up to three years

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarships – Medicine

- for medical students
- \$15,000 per year for up to six years

Rural and Remote Pharmacy Workforce Development Program (RRPWDP)

- for pharmacy students
- \$15,000 per year for up to four years

Claud and Kate Delpratt Memorial Scholarship

- for medical students
- \$7400 per year

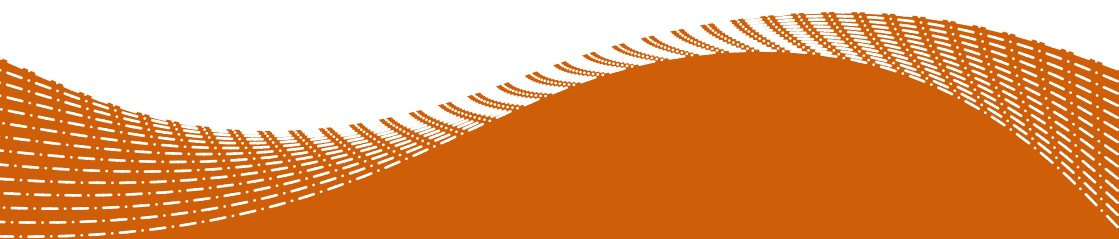
ABOUT STUDENT LIFE

UQ is one of Australia's leading universities and offers a fantastic campus lifestyle with numerous recreation, sporting and social activities. Students can join an array of clubs and societies, use the sporting facilities, or enjoy the markets, shops, museums and cafés on campus. UQ also encourages cultural diversity and provides abundant opportunities for students to make new friends.

The University has Australia's best teachers, world-class facilities and the most comprehensive range of high-quality programs in Queensland. If you choose to become a UQ student, you will join a friendly university community where you will learn to think critically and grow both academically and personally.

UQ's Forgan Smith Building at the St Lucia campus.





For more information about Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander studies and support:

Contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit

Phone: (07) 3365 6699

Email: atsis@uq.edu.au

Web: www.uq.edu.au/atsis