



UQ-Link Access Program

Information for Applicants

General information

UQ-Link Access Program

If your academic performance in Year 12 has been affected by financial hardship, you may be eligible for assistance through the University's UQ-Link Access Program.

UQ-Link Access is a special entry, scholarship and support scheme designed to provide equitable access to higher education for school-leavers who have experienced educational disadvantage as a result of financial hardship.

Approved UQ-Link Access applicants will automatically receive five bonus points for entry to all undergraduate degree programs and will be considered for one of 60 UQ-Link Access Scholarships, valued at \$3000 per year for up to four years. Once enrolled, UQ-Link Access students receive a \$500 start-up bursary to help fund up-front education costs.

Eligibility requirements

To be considered for the UQ-Link Access Program you must be:

1. An Australian citizen or Australian Permanent Resident (including holders of Australian Permanent Humanitarian Visas)
2. Currently completing one of the following in the year of application:
 - Year 12 (or seeking entry using combined mode)
 - Full-time Senior External Examinations
 - Full-time Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation
3. Able to demonstrate and provide documentary evidence of educational disadvantage as a result of financial hardship

Please note:

You must satisfy all program prerequisite requirements.

Application form instructions

The UQ-Link Access Application Form enables you to be considered for special entry and the UQ-Link Access Scholarships.

Part 1 – Applicant Details

Please enter your personal information accurately, ensuring it is consistent with all your official records. Also include your QTAC application number. Please notify UQ Admissions if there are any changes to the information given in the application.

Part 2 – Education

Please see eligibility requirements listed above.

Part 3 – Family and Financial Circumstances

In order to determine whether you are eligible for consideration for UQ-Link Access you must demonstrate your financial hardship and document your personal and/or family financial situation. You are requested to provide current documentation that confirms the last 12 months income and/or financial assistance.

Your application will not be considered without appropriate documentary evidence of your financial situation.

Part 4 – Educational Disadvantage

You must demonstrate that your financial situation has adversely affected your education. Supporting statements from your education provider may also be submitted for consideration.

Part 5 – Applicant Declaration

You are required to read the declaration and sign and date the application form to indicate that you accept the conditions outlined. Please note: all information contained in your application is confidential and is used by Admissions and the Undergraduate Scholarships and Prizes Office at UQ to assist in determining eligibility for this program. Please note that Tax Assessment Notices will be destroyed once eligibility has been determined. For more information on the privacy of your information at UQ go to www.uq.edu.au/rti.

Part 6 – Checklist

Before submitting your application please ensure that you have completed all sections and attached all relevant documentation.

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Frequently asked questions

How is financial hardship determined?

You must demonstrate and provide adequate documentary evidence of financial hardship. The information and evidence provided should be sufficient to enable the University to comprehensively assess your financial situation.

If you are in receipt of a means-tested Commonwealth-income support payment, such as Youth Allowance, Austudy, ABSTUDY, or other support pensions, you are considered to have met the financial hardship criteria.

If you do not receive a Centrelink benefit, assessment of financial hardship will be based on your combined family income as evidenced by the Australian Taxation Office assessment notice(s) for the 2009/2010 financial year, and any other documentation that you provide to support your claim. Please note: a Low Income Health Care Card on its own does not demonstrate financial disadvantage, additional evidence must be provided.

Does UQ-Link Access consider other special circumstances?

The main eligibility criterion is demonstrating educational disadvantage as a result of financial hardship.

If your academic performance has been adversely affected by other circumstances beyond your control (such as ill-health) you should consider applying for Special Consideration of Educational Disadvantage on your QTAC application. Detailed information on application procedures can be obtained from www.qtac.edu.au.

Do I still apply to QTAC?

Yes. You must still apply through QTAC for an undergraduate tertiary place at UQ. Before submitting your UQ-Link Access application you should ensure you have at least one UQ program listed as a preference on your QTAC application.

Is UQ-Link Access available mid-year?

No. The UQ-Link Access Program is only available for programs commencing in semester 1.

What documentation do I need to supply?

A completed UQ-Link Access Application Form, including certified copies of supporting documents must be submitted to Admissions at UQ. Application forms are available from your school Guidance Officer, or online at www.uq.edu.au/study/uqlink-access or by contacting Admissions (see details below).

Do not send irreplaceable original documentation, as your supporting documents will not be returned to you.

How are bonus points applied?

All applicants approved entry to the UQ-Link Access Program automatically receive five bonus points towards tertiary admission. Queensland school-leavers should note that bonus points are not OPs, they are ranks. A Queensland student's OP will be converted to an entry rank (on a scale of 1 – 99, where 99 is the highest attainable rank), to which the bonus points will be applied. Note: The maximum number of bonus points a student can receive under any entry scheme is capped at five.

After I apply, how will my application progress?

You will receive notification of your eligibility for UQ-Link Access in late November. Once your Year 12 results are released QTAC will automatically assign bonus points to approved UQ-Link Access applicants. Successful UQ-Link Access Scholarship recipients will be notified in January.

Do I need to submit a separate application form to apply for a UQ-Link Access Scholarship?

No. You only need to complete the one application form to be considered for both entry to the UQ-Link Access program and a UQ-Link Access Scholarship. However, as there is only a limited number of UQ-Link Access Scholarships available, not all eligible applicants will be successful. UQ-Link Access Scholarships provide \$3000 per year for up to four years.

Please visit www.uq.edu.au/scholarships for further information on the range of scholarships available to students at UQ.

Timeline

1 November 2010	UQ-Link Access applications due at UQ Admissions
26 November 2010	UQ will post out notification of eligibility
18 December 2010	Queensland year 12 results released
13 January 2011	QTAC January offers released
Late January 2011	Successful UQ-Link Access Scholarship recipients will be notified
3 February 2011	QTAC February offers released

Contact details

UQ Admissions	Telephone: (07) 3365 2203
Level 2, JD Story Building,	Facsimile: (07) 3365 2061
The University of Queensland	Email: uq.link@admin.uq.edu.au
QLD 4072	Web: www.uq.edu.au/study

Remember to retain a copy of your application and supporting documentation!