Role and functions

Basis of authority
The University is a body corporate governed by the University of Queensland Act 1998, as amended (the ‘Act’). The University was founded in 1910.

Functions
The University:
- disseminates knowledge and promotes scholarship;
- provides education at university standard;
- provides facilities for and encourages study and research;
- encourages the advancement and development of knowledge and its application;
- provides courses of study or instruction (at levels of achievement Senate considers appropriate) to meet community needs;
- confers higher education awards;
- provides courses of study or instruction (at levels of achievement Senate considers appropriate) to meet community needs;
- confers higher education awards;
- provides facilities and resources for the wellbeing of staff, students and others taking courses at the University;
- exploits commercially, for the University’s benefit, university facilities and resources such as study research or knowledge belonging to the University (or their practical applications), whether alone or with someone else;
- performs other functions given to the University under the Act or another Act.

Powers
The University has powers outlined more fully in the Act.

Controlled entities
In accordance with the University of Queensland Act 1998, the University has established controlled entities that further the University’s educational and research aims.

They are included as part of the consolidated result in the University’s annual financial statements.

At 31 December 2022, the University operated the following controlled entities:
- UQ Holdings Group
- JTech Pty Ltd
- UniQuest Pty Ltd
- UQ College Limited
- UQ Health Care Limited
- UQ Holdings Pty Ltd
- UQ Sport Limited
- UQ Residences Limited
- University Controlled Trusts
- UQ Foundation Trust
- UQ Investment Trust Group
- UQ Investment Trust
- IMBCom Pty Ltd
- UniQuest Group
- Cansinoza Pty Ltd
- Cassowary Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd
- Frontier Inflammase Therapeutics Pty Ltd
- Jeta Therapeutics Pty Ltd
- Liperzte Therapeutics Pty Ltd
- Neo-Rehab Pty Ltd
- Symbiosis Group Pty Ltd
- JTech Group
- SMI-ICE-CHILE SpA

Other Controlled Entities
UQ Jakarta Office Pty Ltd.

Our mission
Our core purpose is to deliver for the public good through excellence in education, research and engagement with our communities and partners: local, national and global.

How we work together
Integrity
We always act with integrity. As stewards of the University’s resources and reputation, we are honest, ethical and principled.

Courage
We are courageous in our decision making. We are ambitious, bold and agile. We demonstrate moral courage, so that we are always guided by a sense of what is right.

Respect and inclusivity
We provide a caring, inclusive and empowering environment for all. We engage respectfully with one another and promote the value that our diversity brings to our whole community.

Our vision
UQ’s Strategic Plan 2022–2025 outlines our objectives to achieve our vision of knowledge leadership for a better world.

Our values
What we strive for
Creativity
We apply our creativity as a way of seeking progress. We value new ideas, seek fresh perspectives and pursue game-changing innovations and opportunities.

Excellence
We strive for excellence in everything we do. We apply the highest standards to our work to achieve the greatest impact for the benefit of communities everywhere.

Central to what we do
Truth
Truth is central to all that we do as a university. We seek truth through our focus on the advancement and dissemination of knowledge, and our deep commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Our operating environment
Statutory obligations
The University of Queensland Act 1998 outlines UQ’s many functions and general powers, including its primary function, to disseminate knowledge and promote scholarship.

And our mission, as defined in the UQ Strategic Plan 2022–2025, is ‘to deliver for the public good through excellence in education, research and engagement with our communities and partners: local, national and global’.

As a University, we have a long and proud history of delivering on this purpose. From an initial intake of 83 students in 1911, UQ has grown to the point that we enrolled more than 55,000 students in 2022. Over the past 111 years, more than 388,600 students have graduated from UQ and our research has contributed new knowledge and innovation across a diverse range of disciplines.

Nature and range of operations
UQ is a comprehensive university offering study and research opportunities across 6 faculties and 8 internationally accredited research institutes with specialised expertise in neuroscience, molecular bioscience, bioengineering and nanotechnology, agriculture and food innovation, sustainable minerals, medical science, and social science. We currently offer 359 programs and 3,140 courses, including tertiary preparation, non-award, diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate coursework and higher degree by research.

Queensland Public Service (QPS) values
The 6 UQ values align well with the 5 QPS values, which encourage creativity, diversity, accountability and collaboration.

- Customers first = integrity
- Know your customers; deliver what matters; make decisions with empathy
- Ideas into action = creativity
- Challenge the norm and suggest solutions; encourage and embrace new ideas; work across boundaries
- Unashamed potential = excellence
- Expect greatness; lead and set clear expectations; seek, provide and act on feedback
- Be courageous = truth, courage
- Own your actions, success and mistakes; take calculated risks; act with transparency
- Empower people = respect and inclusivity
- Lead, empower and trust; play to everyone’s strengths; develop yourself and those around you.

Economic, geopolitical and environmental factors – including February’s floods in South East Queensland – affected the operations of higher education institutions during 2022.

Rising costs, inflation and supply chain issues necessitated continued fiscal restraint at UQ. This has required the re-evaluation and prioritisation of capital needs, and a targeted focus on value-generating initiatives to both grow revenue and improve effectiveness and efficiency.

The election of a new federal government in May 2022 signaled a reset for the sector. The government has an ambitious reform agenda, with several reviews established in 2022, including the Australian Universities Accord process, which aims to build a long-term plan for Australia’s higher education system; and the ARC Review, which is considering the broad governance and focus of the ARC within the national research system so it can meet current and future needs. A renewed focus on the escalation of publicly funded expenditure was exemplified by the government’s one-off investment in 20,000 additional Commonwealth-supported places for students commencing in 2023 and 2024, of which UQ received 379. We are looking forward to working with the government to help develop a higher education and research sector that best meets Australia’s future economic and social needs.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2022
14 15