

Introduction

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) receives and processes applications for course places at:

- ✚ Queensland Universities
- ✚ Universities in northern New South Wales
- ✚ TAFE Queensland (for Degrees, Advanced Diplomas, Diplomas and some Certificate courses)
- ✚ Some private tertiary course providers.



Start early — don't leave it to the last minute.

You don't apply to each uni separately if they're part of QTAC. You submit **one QTAC application** that includes up to 6 of your preferences. The main exception is **TAFE Queensland**, where you can choose to apply directly.

If you rush, you might:

- ✚ miss early closing dates
- ✚ miss required tests (like UCAT for some health courses)
- ✚ miss audition or portfolio deadlines
- ✚ run out of time to upload documents
- ✚ not have enough time to prepare properly

Also, some courses close **earlier than the main QTAC deadline**, so always check dates carefully.

What you need to know before you apply!

The online QTAC Guide is a great starting point — read the front section carefully. Remember, always double-check the entries on the wider QTAC and uni websites for the latest info before you apply.

Make sure you understand:

- course entry requirements and application process
- assumed knowledge and subject prerequisites
- ATAR/selection rank needed
- any extra requirements (tests, interviews, auditions, portfolios)
- key application and documentation deadlines
- adjustment factors you might be eligible for
- how to order your course preferences

Doing your research now, helps you avoid mistakes later.

Starting your application

- Go to the QTAC [website](#) and click 'QTAC Application Portal' (top right-hand corner) then complete the 'Create Account'
- You will need your LUI (Learner Unique Identifier) number which your school will give you, a personal email and DOB.
- You will need to pay for your QTAC application using a credit card, QTAC voucher or debit card (debit card payments must be processed through the banking process prior to any closing date deadlines). If you don't pay, you'll not be considered for an offer.
- Follow their steps to complete your application.



The golden rule of preferencing

Preferences 1–2: Dream courses

- Put your favourite course first — even if it's competitive. You might get in, but don't stress if you don't.
- Follow up with your 2nd preference

Preferences 3–4: Realistic options

Choose courses you like that are **easier to get into**. These can:

- be the same course at a different uni or TAFE
- be a pathway you can **transfer from after you complete your 1st year** (you may get credit — check with the uni)

Preferences 5–6: Safety net

- These are your **back-up courses**, so you still get an offer.

A TAFE Diploma is a great option — you'll:

- gain practical skills
- get a tertiary rank
- be more competitive for uni the following year
- Get a casual/part time job in that area while you are studying at uni — experience!

This way you aim high, stay realistic and always have a plan B.

QTAC applications: don't rush them

Apply by 30 September to get the early bird discount, then leave your preferences alone until you get your ATAR and finish your research.

Plan your course list somewhere else first (notes app, doc, bedroom wall even!). You can swap options, add ideas and check entry requirements without using your free changes.

Remember:

- You get 3 free change sessions
- A change only counts when you hit 'Save' (you can make multiple changes then hit 'save')
- You can change preferences up to early January (check QTAC Key Dates)
- Finalise your preference order after you get your ATAR

Only log back into your QTAC application before December if:

- you get an early offer
- a uni tells you to change your preferences to be eligible for an early offer

Start early, keep refining your plan and you'll be ready to update quickly once your ATAR arrives.

Got a QTAC offer!

You must respond by the deadline. If you don't, the offer disappears and your application becomes inactive.

You have two main choices:

1. Outright response

You can:

- accept the offer
- reject it (you won't get any more offers)
- accept and **defer** it to start the following year (uni only)

2. Conditional acceptance

This is like a **second chance**.

You:

- add new preferences to your QTAC application (can include courses you missed)
- put your current offer **last**
- stay in the system for future offer rounds

If you don't get a higher preference in later offer rounds, you **keep your original offer**.

Don't panic if friends get offers in December and you don't — many offers come out in the January round.

Money stuff to sort before study

- Apply for a [Tax File Number](#) (TFN) — you need it if you want HECS-HELP (uni) or VET Student Loan (TAFE).
- Look into a [Health Care Card through Centrelink](#) (you 'claim' a card).
 - It's based on your income, not your parents' and if you're going to TAFE, you may only pay the concession fee.
 - You need to have it before you enrol. It also gives other discounts
- Check if you're eligible for [Youth Allowance as a student or apprentice](#) — you might get extra financial support while you study.

In Conclusion

Ask the right people and back yourself!

Don't just rely on your mates — talk to people who actually know the answers.

- Check your plans with your Guidance Officer/School Counsellor
- Go to uni, TAFE and provider open days
- Try work experience in the holidays
- Double-check info on the QTAC website (it can change)
- Read the front section of the online QTAC Guide — it answers heaps of questions

And most importantly:

Back yourself.

Aim high. You can always change your plan later — Aim low and you may miss a great opportunity.