Information about Educational System in Queensland

Overview of study pathways in Queensland

The QCE
- A new Senior Secondary Certificate of Education is offered from 2008 in Queensland. This is the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The QCE creates a wider range of learning options in Years 10 – 12.

The QCE is Queensland's senior school qualification, which is awarded to eligible students usually at the end of Year 12. The QCE offers flexibility in what is learnt, as well as where and when learning occurs. Students have a wide range of learning options; these can include senior school subjects, vocational education and training, workplace and community learning, as well as university subjects undertaken while at school.

- To be awarded a QCE, students must have at least 20 credits in the required pattern, and fulfil literacy and numeracy requirements. Please also see Planning your pathway to a QCE fact sheet (PDF, 646 kB).

- All students who finish Year 12 receive a transcript of their learning account in the form of a Senior Statement, which is issued in December. After finishing Year 12 students who become eligible for the award of a QCE will receive a Statement of Results. A Statement of Results is a cumulative transcript of their learning account.

- To be eligible for university entry, a student completing Year 12 does not need to be eligible for a QCE. However, a student must have a Tertiary Entrance Statement (TES) to be eligible to apply to study at any university or tertiary provider in Australia or overseas.

- Please see the following links for further details:
Assessment in Queensland Schools:


- **Senior Assessment**
  Queensland’s system of externally moderated school-based assessment for senior subjects is unique. In Queensland, senior students are taught and assessed by their schools. They do not undertake any subject-specific public exams - unlike students in other states and territories. A rigorous quality-assurance framework ensures reliable and comparable assessment of student achievement.

Tertiary Entry

- Australian students studying in Queensland schools must be eligible to receive a ranking for tertiary entry. In Queensland eligible students are ranked by Overall Position (OP) and Field Position (FP). Eligible overseas students are given an “equivalent Ops and FPs” for the purposes of tertiary ranking. To be eligible, students must:
  - complete study in 20 semester units of Authority subjects
  - complete three of those subjects for four semesters each
  - attend all four sessions of the QCS Test.

- The equivalent OP and FPs are recorded on the visa student’s Tertiary Entrance Statement with the note that “Overall Position and Field Positions obtained are equivalent to those of Australian students”.

- For full details of procedures, please see [Visa student procedures: Equivalent OPs and FPs](http://www.lhc.qld.edu.au/index.html) (PDF, 183 kB)

- In some cases, overseas students can apply for direct entry to the university of their choice. The School Careers Counsellor can give advice in this case.

- Information about tertiary entry is also available at:


Queensland School Calendar


- The following is a general guide to the Queensland School Year:
  - School Year Begins end January (usually after Australia Day public holiday on or near 26th Jan)
  - SEMESTER 1, Term 1 approx. 10 weeks; (Easter Vacation 2 weeks over Easter)
  - SEMESTER 1, Term 2 approx 10 weeks; (Winter Vacation 3 weeks end of June to mid-July, 2 weeks only for Senior Students – Year 12)
  - SEMESTER 2, Term 3 approx. 10 weeks; (Spring Vacation - 2 weeks Sept-Oct)
  - SEMESTER 2, Term 4 approx. 9 weeks; (Summer Vacation - December and January)
WEBSITES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION


- Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) [www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au)


