

STUDYING IN A QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

Welcome to the Queensland Department of Education and Training 'International Student Program' which is administered by Education Queensland International (EQI), a branch within the Queensland Department of Education and Training. This information is provided to assist you while you are studying in a Queensland Government school. EQI staff are available to help you should you need it and we wish you every success with your studies.

A General Overview of the Education System in Queensland

In Queensland, children have the option of accessing the Preparatory Year (Prep) prior to entering primary school (non-compulsory). There are seven (7) compulsory years of primary education (Years 1 - 7), three (3) years of junior secondary education (Years 8 - 10) and two (2) years of senior secondary education (Years 11 and 12). After Year 12, successful students can undertake further studies at institutes of Technical and Further Education (TAFE), private colleges and universities.

The school year is from late January to early December and is divided into two semesters of two terms each. It is essential that students attend school on the first day of each school term of the school year. A list of important school dates can be obtained from the school that you will attend.

The Assessment System and Certification

Queensland operates a progressive continuous assessment curriculum. For students attending full-time primary and secondary schools in Queensland, there are no national or state-wide subject examinations. Student progress is assessed throughout the year by classroom teachers through assignments, oral presentations, practical exercises, tests and examinations, depending on the subject. Continuous assessment provides students with many opportunities to improve their results. However, it also means that students need to work hard and consistently throughout the year.

At the end of each semester, students are given an academic report that records their progress in each subject. Usually, results on these reports are written as an achievement level:

Levels of Achievement	Relative Level
Very High Achievement (VHA)	(Highest)
High Achievement (HA)	
Sound Achievement (SA)	(Pass)
Limited Achievement (LA)	
Very Limited Achievement (VLA)	(Lowest)

Sound Achievement indicates that the student is making satisfactory progress. Results of LA and VLA indicate the student is having great difficulty with the subject.

Students completing Years 11 and 12 of secondary education in Queensland are issued with a **Senior Education Profile**. Included in this profile could be:

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) - for eligible students
Senior Statement
Statement of Results
Tertiary Entrance Statement - for eligible students including the student's Overall Position (OP) if applicable

Further information on the Queensland Studies Authority and Queensland Certificate of Education can be obtained at www.qsa.qld.edu.au.

Study Options after Year 12

After Year 12, international students have many options for further study in Australia. They can apply for:

- courses at universities
- courses at TAFE
- courses at private colleges

The selection of a TAFE, private college or university course may depend on:

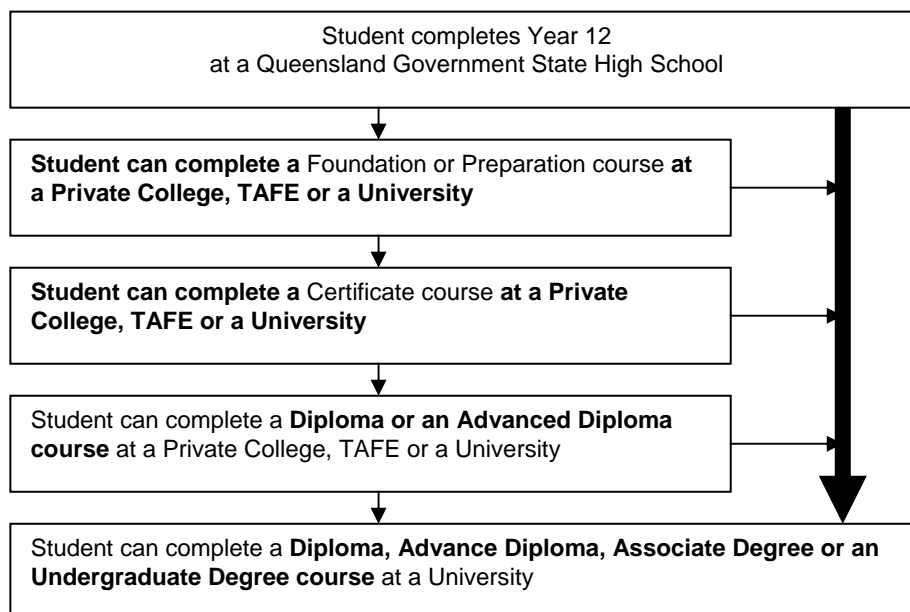
- the student's ability (e.g. TAFE courses, in general, are less competitive)
- the student's career aspirations (e.g. a TAFE course may be the required training for the future job the student wants), and
- the number of years the student is prepared to study after Year 12 (e.g. TAFE courses are shorter than university courses)

Students who wish to gain a place at university, but miss out because their results are not high enough, can improve their results by doing a TAFE or private college course and reapplying for university at a later time. Also, many institutions have bridging courses (e.g. foundation and preparatory courses) for international students who need to improve their Year 12 results.

For diploma, advanced diploma and degree courses, TAFE institutes, private colleges and universities use the information on the Queensland Certificate of Education and the TES (especially the OP) to select students. Students who are not eligible for an OP are allocated a tertiary entrance rank based on the achievement levels and other results recorded on their QCE.

For entry to many tertiary courses, students must also satisfy prerequisites. These may be specific senior subjects (e.g. for many business courses, students must have studied English and Mathematics A or B) or a portfolio, interview or audition, depending on the course. Diagram 1 shows the various standard pathways that students may take to university directly from school or via other courses.

Diagram 1 – Study Options after completion of Year 12



Selecting Subjects

In junior secondary school, students study core subjects (e.g. English, Mathematics and Science) plus elective subjects. At the end of Year 10, students select subjects for Years 11 and 12 (SET Plan). The selection of senior subjects is very important as this may determine how successful the student will be and the tertiary courses he or she can apply for at the end of Year 12. Normally, the only compulsory subject in the senior school is an English subject.

There are different types of subjects and courses available to students in Years 11 and 12.

- **Authority subjects** - the curriculum for these subjects comes from the Queensland Studies Authority and is consistent across the state. Prerequisite subjects for most university courses and some TAFE courses are selected from the range of QSA subjects students can choose in the senior school. Results in QSA subjects are used in the calculation of OPs (further information at www.qsa.qld.edu.au)
- **Authority Registered subjects** - in general, these subjects are usually more practical than Authority subjects and often teach job related skills (e.g. office practices, tourism, hospitality). They are developed at the local school level using QSA guidelines and are registered with the QSA. Results in these subjects are recorded on the QCE and can be used to gain entry to tertiary level courses, especially diploma and advanced diploma courses at TAFE and private colleges. Results are not used in calculation of OPs
- **Other vocational education** - many schools offer vocational education courses that may include on-the-job training as well as formal classes at school, a TAFE or a private college. These courses are practical and job related. They may be recorded on the QCE and may be taken into consideration for tertiary entry. Results are not used in calculation of OPs

Guidance Officers and school staff can assist students in making subject selections. In general, students are advised to select:

- **subjects they are good at** - if students have obtained less than a Sound Achievement in a subject in the junior secondary school, they are unlikely to be successful in that subject in the

senior secondary school. As the level of difficulty increases in senior, students should select the kinds of subjects they have passed in the junior secondary school

- ***prerequisite subjects they need for entry to tertiary courses*** – however, if the prerequisite subjects are subjects the student failed at junior level, it would be advisable to review the student's choice of future tertiary study to select a more realistic option
- ***subjects in which they are interested*** - students usually work harder and obtain better results in subjects they enjoy

Students should try to avoid selecting too many subjects that make high demands on their English language ability. As entry to tertiary courses is competitive, it is very important that students make a realistic selection of subjects that will give them the best possible chance for success.

Further general information on education in Queensland can be obtained from the school your child attends or from <http://education.qld.gov.au>.