

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HANDBOOK





# CONTENTS

Getting a Part time Job	4
Health services	6
Accessing Welfare Supports	10
Accessing Mental Health Supports	11
Crisis and Immediate Mental Health Support	12
Academic Support Services	15
Starting Your life as a UQ Student	18
Choosing Phone Plans	22
Getting around Brisbane	24
How to buy a Car in Australia	26
Transport to UQ	30
Budgeting & Finances	32
Accommodation	36

# GETTING A PART TIME OR CASUAL JOB

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PART TIME AND A CASUAL JOB?

PART TIME	CASUAL	
Generally work the same hours and days each week.	Shifts can vary week to week.	
Entitled to sick and annual leave.	Not entitled to sick and annual leave.	

If you are unsure about your employment status ask your employer or call the Fair Work Ombudsman on 13 13 94. For more information, please visit their website – www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/call-us

## HOW MANY HOURS CAN I WORK ON A VISA?\*\*

# Subclass 500 or 574 (Postgraduate Research) visa holders can work unrestricted hours if:

- you're studying a masters by research or a doctorate degree and you have started your course, or
- the work is a registered part of your course

Otherwise, you can only work up to 40 hours in a fortnight (the 14 day period starting on a Monday).

## "Above is general info. International students should always check the DHA website or speak to a Professionally Registered Migration Agent for advice.

You can book an appointment with a SAS Migration Agent at UQ union through this link at <a href="https://www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u">www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u</a>

Students must make sure they are aware of any changes to visa conditions, including work rights.

For further information, please visit the following links at the DHA website at:

immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/temporary-relaxation-of-working-hours-for-student-visa-holders

## **HOW CAN I FIND A PART-TIME OR CASUAL JOB?**

## There are several ways you can look for part time or casual work:

- 1. Take your resume to businesses you are interested in working for
- Look on the websites of major companies such as Coles, Bunnings, McDonalds etc., and complete an online application form
- 3. Look on specialised sites such as barcats.com.au for hospitality jobs
- 4. Look on general job seeking sites such as seek.com.au, indeed.com.au and jora.com.au

# HOW CAN I DEVELOP SKILLS TO HELP ME GET A PART TIME OR CASUAL JOB?

**VOLUNTEERING** - provides an opportunity to build your skills and extend your professional and personal network while contributing to a worthy cause. It's also great experience to add to your resume to help you stand out from the competition when you are job hunting.

You can volunteer at UQU, UQ or other organisations in Australia. Find opportunities at:

www.ugu.com.au/connecting-u/volunteers

www.volunteeringgld.org.au

www.employability.uq.edu.au/uq-volunteering

https://www.volunteer.com.au/

**INTERNSHIPS** – are short-term placements for you to gain work experience. Work experience allows you to apply and contextualise your studies in an organisational environment and gain a competitive edge in the job market.

Ask your faculty about internship opportunities or visit www.employability.uq.edu.au/work-experience

## WHO CAN HELP ME FURTHER?

If you are looking for a part time or casual job while you study, UQU's Student Advocacy and Support (SAS) team can help with resume and cover letter writing, interview skills and job search. They can also help you with scholarship applications. Contact SAS at <a href="https://www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u">www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u</a> or call 3377 2200 to book an appointment.

For all other career-related services, contact UQ Careers and Employability at <a href="https://www.employability.uq.edu.au">www.employability.uq.edu.au</a> or call 3443 2632 for an appointment.

## **HEALTH SERVICES 101**

## **HOSPITALS**

In case of any life-threatening accidents or any injury/illness and if you need access to a hospital, you should go to the Emergency Department. In Australia there are both public and privately owned hospitals.



In Australia there are both public and privately owned hospitals.

It's important to check which hospitals and services are covered by your health insurance. If you are admitted to a hospital that your health insurance does not cover, you will be charged a full fee by the hospital.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

If you are in an emergency where you or somebody else is in immediate danger, call 000 (or 112 if you are calling from a mobile with limited reception). If you are on campus, it is best to contact campus security first so that they can call the emergency services.

UQ SECURITY 3365 1234

Security is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact no: (07) 3365 1234 | Email: security@pf.uq.edu.au St Lucia: Level 2, Prentice Building (42)

**UQ SafeZone App** - You could also download the UQ SafeZone app which is a free smartphone app that connects staff and students with Security and emergency services during a first-aid emergency on UQ campuses and sites.

campuses.ug.edu.au/information-and-services/security/safezone

For severe weather response and support, please see the following link www.uq.edu.au/about/flood-recovery

## **AMBULANCE FEES**

There are no reciprocal arrangements for ambulance services in Queensland and overseas visitors. International visitors to Queensland are responsible for the cost of services provided. If you call an ambulance, be aware that you will need to pay your invoice in full, but you can request a receipt of your payment to claim through your travel insurance if applicable (it is always best to check with your health insurance to see if they cover the cost of ambulance call outs) A breakdown of ambulance fees can be found here: - www.qld.gov.au/emergency/emergencies-services/qld-visitors-qas

# WHAT IF IT ISN'T LIFE-THREATENING OR SERIOUS ILLNESS/INJURY?

## MEDICAL CENTRES

Below is a list of clinics where you can access a GP. Some clinics can be very busy and you may need to wait a few days before an appointment is available.

#### **CLINICS ON CAMPUS**

#### **UQ Health Care**

St Lucia Campus

Level 1, Greenwood Building

#### **UQ Health Care**

Gatton Campus

Ground Floor, NW Briton

Annexe, (Building 8101A)

## **UQ Dental**

Level 1 Student Union Complex, University of

Oueensland. St Lucia

## www.ughcstlucia.com.au

Phone: (07) 3365 6210

Availability: Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5pm

#### www.ughealthcare.org.au/gatton

Phone: (07) 5460 1396

Availability: Wednesdays and Thursdays:

8:30am - 4:30pm

#### www.uqdental.com.au

Phone: (07) 3870 0511

Availability: Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5pm

#### **CLINICS NEAR ST LUCIA**

### St Lucia Medical

32 Hawken Dr, St Lucia

#### St Lucia Dental

215 Hawken Dr. St Lucia

#### www.stluciamedical.com.au

Phone: (07) 3371 6005

## stluciadental.com.au

Phone: (07) 3870 8811

## **CLINICS NEAR TOOWONG**

## **Smartclinics**

Toowong Medical Centre Level 10, 39 Sherwood Road

Toowong

## www.smartclinics.com.au/location/toowong

Phone: (07) 3371 5666

Myhealth

Shop 17, Level 1 Toowong Village www.myhealth.net.au/toowong-village

Phone: (07) 3217 8033

**Toowong GP Super Clinic** 

34 Sherwood Road, Toowong

www.toowonggsuperclinic.com.au

Phone: (07) 3076 4791

**CLINICS NEAR INDOOROOPILLY** 

**Indooroopilly Family Practice** 

Shop 1059, Indooroopilly Shopping Centre

www.indooroopillyfp.com.au

Phone: (07) 3378 1600

**Indooroopilly General Practice** 

Suite 5/66 Station Road Indooroopilly

www.indooroopillygeneralpractice.com.au

Phone: (07) 3009 1800

**CLINICS NEAR GATTON** 

Family Health Clinic Gatton

25/27 Railway St Gatton QLD 4343 www.familyhealthgatton.com.au

Phone: (07) 5462 2355

**Gatton Medical Centre** 

15 William Street

Gatton

www.gattonmedical.com.au

Phone: (07) 5462 1855

**Lockyer Valley Medical Centre** 

131 Spencer St

Gatton

www.lvmc.com.au

Phone: (07) 5462 1188

The Lockyer Doctors Gatton

18 William St Gatton lockyerdoctors.com.au Phone: (07) 5468 0100

Gatton Denta

1/279 Eastern Dr

Gatton

www.gattondental.com.au

Phone: (07) 5462 5616

1300Smiles Dentists

www.1300smiles.com.au

Phone: 1300 764 537

# WHAT HAPPENS IF I GET SICK ON THE WEEKEND OR AT NIGHT?

If you are sick over the weekend or outside of business hours, there are some 7 day clinics that are open until late. These clinics often operate as a walk-in service, in the evenings and on the weekend. This means you cannot book an appointment but will need to go to the clinic and wait until a GP can see you.

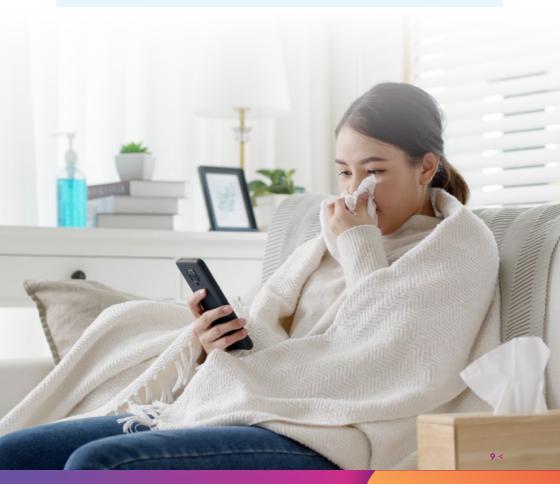


## **Taringa 7 Day Medical Practice**

Phone: 3870 7239

www.ipn.com.au/gp/qld-taringa-taringa-7-day-medical-practice

Opening hours: Monday - Sunday, 7am - 10pm



# **ACCESSING WELFARE SUPPORTS**

For many international students moving away from the support networks of home can be unfamiliar and very stressful. Sometimes during this transitional period people might find themselves needing some extra support around their social, emotional or physical welfare and wellbeing. There are several support services both on and off campus that specifically cater for international students and can provide support on these social, emotional, and physical levels.

#### ON CAMPUS SUPPORTS

## UQ Student Services International Student Advisors

A service for UQ students, that can provide support to students in settling into UQ and becoming familiar with UQ life.

Phone: 3365 1704

www.my.uq.edu.au/information-andservices/student-support/internationalinterstate-students

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORTS**

## **QLD Student Hub**

A service specifically for international students.

#### Services include:

- ▶ Afterhours support
- Accommodation advice
- Public transport and travel advice
- Employment advice
- ▶ Health and wellbeing referrals
- Legal referrals
- Complaint referrals
- A translations service is available

Phone: 1800 778 839

www.studyqueensland.qld.gov.au/live-inqueensland/student-support

# ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

For many international students the stress of moving away from their home and social supports can have an impact on their mental health. If you are feeling that you are struggling with your mental health, it's important to reach out and get the right support. UQ provides some free or low-cost options for helping students to get counselling and support for their mental health.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

## **UQ Student Services**

All current UQ students can access 10 free counselling sessions each year. Student services counselling service offers a range of options for counselling sessions, including:

▶ face-to-face

online support through UniWellbeing program

phone

specialist sexual misconduct support.

Skype

You can book an appointment through the following link www.my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-and-emotional-support/counselling

Cost: Free

## **UQ Psychology Clinic**

A low-cost psychology clinic provided by provisional psychologists. The Clinic offers psychological assessment and therapy services to people of all ages, including children, adolescents, adults and older adults. Full-time students are eligible for a discounted fee per 50 – 60 minute session, as well as a discounted fee for written reports.

Services include:

- Individual counselling
- Group therapy
- Couples therapy
- ▶ Neuropsychological assessment

psyclinic@psy.uq.edu.au | Phone: +61 (07) 3365 6451 Cost: \$25 per 50 - 60min session | \$100 for written reports

Note: If you would prefer to access mental health services off campus there are a range of services available within the community. Book an appointment to talk to one of the independent Student Advocacy and Support welfare advocates. They can discuss with you what community services could be helpful for your circumstances. Book an appointment at: <a href="https://www.uqu.com.au/student-support/welfare-wellbeing">www.uqu.com.au/student-support/welfare-wellbeing</a> Alternatively, you can book anappointment with a GP who can also discuss relevant services that you can be referred to.

# CRISIS AND IMMEDIATE MENTAL HEAITH SUPPORT

If you ever feel that you or someone that you know are experiencing a mental health crisis and need immediate support, there are several organisations that can provide immediate phone and online chat support around mental health issues.



Provide a 24/7 free and confidential phone service. They will listen without judgement, and discuss your needs, worries or concerns and work with you to explore options for support.

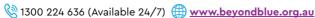


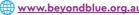
(24/7) www.lifeline.org.au





Provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.





forums.beyondblue.org.au (Available 24/7)





Confidential information, counselling and support service for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.





Counselling services for young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800 (Available 24/7) www.kidshelpline.com.au

Madmin@kidshelpline.com.au (Available 8am and 5pm, daily)

www.kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling (available 24/7)

## MensLine Australia

Phone and online support, information and referral service for men with family and relationship concerns; staffed by professional counsellors, experienced in men's issues.

( 1300 78 99 78 www.mensline.org.au

www.mensline.org.au/phone-and-online-counselling/mensline-australia-online-counselling/ (Available 24/7)



24/7 phone and online counselling to people affected by suicide

(2) 1300 659 467 (2) www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au/phone-and-online-counselling/suicide-call-back-service-online-counselling

## ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT NEAR UQ GATTON

## Lives Lived Well NewAcces

Lives Lived Well is a not-for-profit organisation, working to help people impacted by drugs or alcohol as well as mental health concerns

Address: 14 Crescent St, Gatton QLD 4343

Phone: 1300 727 957

Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm www.liveslivedwell.org.au

## **ReGen Psychology**

ReGen Psychology aims to provide therapy and other clinical psychology services in regional/rural areas, currently offering services in four locations; Toowoomba, Westbrook, Allora and Withcott. The nearest locations from Gatton are Withcott and Toowoomba.

Address: Withcott Medical Centre, 4 Jones Road, Withcott
ReGen Psychology, 63A Taylor Street, Toowoomba City

Phone: 0466 901 914

Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm www.regenpsychology.com.au

## **Gatton Hospital**

Gatton Hospital provides various General, Allied Health and Community health services which includes mental health services.

Address: 97-103 William Street, Gatton

Phone: 07 5468 4188

https://www.westmoreton.health.qld.gov.au/location/gatton-health

# ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

## STUDENT ADVOCACY & SUPPORT (SAS)

UQ Union's SAS provides short-term services for all currently enrolled UQ students in St Lucia & Gatton.

## KNOW YOUR SAS TEAM



Jack Huang International Student Advocate (Visa) St Lucia



Josey Jou Education Advocate (Education) St Lucia



**Nathan Joo** Visa and Migration Advocate St Lucia



**Poonam Cariappa** Solicitor (Legal) St Lucia



Jackie Gonzalez Generalist Advocate (Education/Welfare/ Employment) St Lucia



Kristian Wheelehen Welfare & Community Development Advocate (Education/ Welfare/Employment) St Lucia



Daciana Horvath Generalist Student Advocate (Education/ Welfare/Employment) Gatton



**Jimi Bursaw** SAS Manager

### You can find the SAS team at:

St Lucia Level 4, Union Building (21A), University of Queensland, St Lucia

Monday-Friday, 8am - 4pm, Phone: 3377 2200

Gatton Room 223, Morrison Hall, University of Queensland, Gatton

Thursday, 8am - 4pm, Phone: (07) 5460 1791

# THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY SAS ARE FREE | INDEPENDENT | CONFIDENTIAL



## We help you with:

Interpreting UQ policies & procedures

**Show Cause Applications** 

Grievances/complaints

Student Misconduct

Withdrawals w/o Academic Penalty

Change to finalised results

Removal of Financial Liability



We help you learn the skills to find part time/casual work while you study:

How to apply for jobs

Resume & cover letter assistance

Mock interview practise

Scholarship application help



Our legal team can help with:

Civil disputes

Consumer complaints

Family law matters

General legal advice/referrals

Intellectual property agreements

Motor vehicle accidents

Residential tenancy agreements



# Our Migration Officers help with:

UQ enrolment related visa issues

Practical student visa advice

Student visa emergency assistance

Student visa extensions

Other UQ Student visa matters



We provide support for stress, pressures and emotional challenges that impact your life while studying, including:

## Centrelink

Dealing with financial pressures

Strategies for coping with stress

Self-care practices

Tips for navigating University life

Visit <u>www.uqu.com.au/supporting-u</u> for more information on SAS.

You can book an appointment (online/ face to face) with SAS using the following link: <a href="www.uqu.com.au/student-support/">www.uqu.com.au/student-support/</a> welfare-wellbeing



## SUPPORT TO ENHANCE YOUR ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

## **English for Academic Communication (EAC)**

EAC courses are free and offered to current UQ students from non-English speaking backgrounds. There are a range of courses available with different areas of focus. Each course runs for three weeks with duration of 2 hours in the afternoon.

For example, General courses offered are:

- Grammar refresher for academic writing
- ▶ The ABCs of language for writing
- Introduction to effective essay writing
- Introduction to report writing
- Critical writing
- Reflective writing
- Successful presentation skills

Details and online registration are available here:

icte.uq.edu.au/study/support-uq-students/english-academic-communication

## **UQ STUDENT SERVICES**

## **Learning Advisors**

If you need some tips or assistance to enhance your study strategies, you can book an appointment with a UQ Learning Adviser. They can assist you with things such as exam preparation tips, general study skills advice, assignment writing and providing feedback on assignments before you submit them and lots more!

For more details, please visit:

my.uq.edu.au/contact/student-life/how-learning-adviser-can-help

## **Study Skills Online Guides**

Student services provide several online guides to help you develop your study skills. You will find these here.

my.ug.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/study-skills

### **Proof-reading**

UQ Union provide a list of professional proofreaders that can assist you with proofreading your assignment. The list is located here:

www.ugu.com.au/connecting-u/proof-reader-list

Please note: This is not a free service. You will need to pay for their services

# STARTING YOUR LIFE AS A UQ STUDENT

## SUBURBAN GROCERY SHOPPING

UQ is located in the suburb of St Lucia which does not have a major shopping centre close by. However, there are few small supermarkets located on Sir Fred Schonell Drive and Hawken Drive. For more information, go to:

www.yellowpages.com.au/find/supermarkets-grocery-stores/st-lucia-gld-4067

## St Lucia Supermarket

185 Sir Fred Schonell Drive, St Lucia, QLD 4067

#### **IGA St Lucia**

240 Hawken Drive, St Lucia, QLD 4067

## MAJOR SHOPPING CENTRES NEAR UQ

If you need a major shopping centre, there are two fairly close by, and some in the CBD:

#### TOOWONG SHOPPING CENTRE

www.toowongvillage.com.au

Toowong Village is the shopping centre closest to St Lucia. From UQ, Toowong Village is only 2.4 Kilometres and takes about 6 minutes by car. It takes about 10 minutes to get there by bus (412 and 411). There are about 96 stores located in Toowong Village, including a food court, Coles Super-market, fashion, library and medical specialists.

Mon	9:00 am - 5:30 pm	Fri	9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tues	9:00 am - 5:30 pm	Sat	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wed	9:00 am - 5:30 pm	Sun	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thu	9:00 am - 9:00 pm		

#### PARKING

Toowong Village offers the first 3 hours free of charge.

#### WESTFIELD INDOOROOPILLY SHOPPING CENTRE

indooroopillyshopping.com.au/home/

This is the biggest nearby shopping mall and is about 4.3 kilometres from St Lucia. It takes about 15 minutes to get there by bus (427, 428 and 432). The Westfield Indooroopilly shopping centre has 360 shops, including supermarkets, retail shops, medical tower, cinema, library, Post office, banks and food court.

Woolworths and Coles are two major grocery supermarkets at Indooroopilly Shopping Centre. They have discount items on display every week: you just need to look for the specials with different colour labels. You can buy everything from vegetables, meat, seafood, bread and dairy products to non-alcoholic drinks and everyday items.

You can go through either a normal check-out or self-help check-out. Both options allow you to pay in cash or card.

Both supermarkets also offer parcel pick up. So, if you wish to walk around without pushing your trolley once you have paid for your shopping, you can request 'parcel pick up' from the information desk in the front of the supermarket. The assistant will give you a number and organise for you to pick up your goods from the car park.

## **Standard Trading Hours**

Mon	9:00 am - 5:30 pm	Fri	9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Tue	9:00 am - 5:30 pm	Sat	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wed	9:00 am - 5:30 pm	Sun	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thu	9:00 am - 9:00 pm		

#### **PARKING**

Indooroopilly car park offers partial free parking. The first 3 hours are free of charge. If you spend \$200 per visit, you will be eligible for free parking all day.

Please refer to these links below for parking rates.

www.indooroopillvshopping.com.au/visit/parking/

www.pointparking.com.au/parking-locations-details

## **CBD SHOPPING**

## **QUEEN STREET MALL**

Queen Street Mall is in the heart of Brisbane city and is the inner city's most popular non-smoking pedestrian shopping and entertainment destination. It is host to more than 26 million visitors a year.

There are more than 700 local, international labels and flagship stores in the Queen Street Mall. Those stores are located at Queens Plaza, Myer Centre, Wintergarden, MacArthur Central and tucked away behind the magnificent heritage-listed Brisbane Arcade and Tattersalls Arcade.

#### TYPE OF SHOPS

Fashion shops, duty free, bags & luggage, footwear, cosmetics, gifts and flowers, jewellery, liquor and tobacco, book stores, eateries, medical professionals and much more.

#### CBD TRADING HOURS

Most retailers at Queen Street Mall open from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on week days, and until 9:00 pm on Late Night Fridays. On the weekend opening hours are from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Sunday and 9:00 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday.

### WOOLWORTHS, COLES AND QUEEN STREET FARMERS' MARKET

Woolworths is located at MacArthur Central Shopping Centre, 259 Queen Street

Coles supermarket is located at Queens Plaza, Queen Street and Edward Street

**Coles Express** (a small branch of Coles) is located at Travelex, Level E Elizabeth Street, Myer Centre

**Queen Street Farmers' Market** is located at Queen Street and George Street every Wednesday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. This colourful and buzzing market offers a large selection of local fresh fruit, vegetables and yummy street cooked food.

#### **CBD PARKING**

There are many parking options in the CBD.

The most economical option is street meter parking, but it is often difficult to find. In addition, most meter parking zones have time restrictions, ranging from 2 to 8 hours. If you park in the 2-hour zone and need to stay longer, you will need to move your vehicle to a different spot as you cannot refill your parking meter.

There are also parking precincts, the most popular in the CBD being Wilson, Queens Plaza, Myer Centre, King George Square and Winter Garden. Some precincts offer special flat rates for weekend, evening, early bird and prepaid parking. To find out more, please refer to below links:

www.themyercentre.com.au/parking/car-park-rates

www.visitbrisbane.com.au/parking

secureaspot.secureparking.com.au - Online Booking

www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-and-transport/parking-in-brisbane/parking-meters-and-fees/parking-meter-fees-for-cars - Meter Parking

www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-and-transport/parking-in-brisbane/car-parks/kinggeorge-square-car-park - King George Square

# GATTON GROCERY SHOPPING

The nearest grocery stores near UQ Gatton are as follows

## **Coles Gatton**

Ann St, Gatton Monday to Saturday – 7am to 9pm Sunday – 9am to 6pm

## Spano's IGA SUPA IGA Gatton

8 Railway St, Gatton Monday to Sunday – 6am to 9pm

#### **ALDI**

7 Ballantine St, Gatton Monday to Wednesday– 8:30 am to 7pm Thursday – 8:30 am to 8pm Saturday – 8am to 7pm Sunday – 9am to 6pm

# MAJOR SHOPPING CENTRES NEAR UQ GATTON

#### **Gatton Square**

114 Spencer St, Gatton QLD 4343 www.gattonsquare.com.au/

Monday, 9am to 5:30 pm Tuesday, 9am to 5:30 pm Wednesday, 9am to 5:30 pm Thursday, 9am to 9pm Friday, 9am to 5:30pm Saturday, 9am to 5pm Sunday, 9am to 5pm

## **PLAINLAND PLAZA**

3 Gehrke Rd, Plainland https://plainlandplaza.com.au/

Monday to Saturday – 7am to 9pm Sunday – 9am to 6pm

# MARKETS NEAR UQ GATTON

There's no better way to spend your mornings than taking a scenic country drive to enjoy one of the Lockyer Valley's many community markets and to buy some fresh local produce and home-made treats.

## **Laidley Village Markets**

Every Friday Patrick Street & The Mall, Laidley 7am to 1pm

## **Mulgowie Farmers Market**

1st Saturday every month Mulgowie Hall Grounds, Mulgowie 8am to 11am

## **Gatton Village Markets**

1st Sunday every month Lake Apex Precinct 7am to 1pm

## **Fairways Tavern Markets**

2nd Sunday every month Fairways Tavern, Fairways Drive, Hatton Vale 7am to 11am

## **Murphys Creek Markets**

3rd Saturday every month Murphys Creek Sports Grounds 18 Jessie Lane, Murphys Creek 7am to 1pm

## My Local Market - Plainland

3rd Sunday every month Plainland Hotel Grounds, Plainland 7am to 12 noon

## **Ferrari Park Markets**

4th Saturday every month Ferrari Park Whites Road, Laidley Laidley Recreational Reserve 7am to 12 noon

## **Cahill Park Community Market**

4th Sunday every month Cahill Park Sports Complex Buaraba Street, Gatton 9am to 2pm

## PHONE PLAN

There are several different types of phone plans available in Australia, and it's important to choose the one that's right for you. Here are a few points you need to consider:

- Your budget
- Your data usage
- The provider's service coverage (this is particularly important for regional areas where some networks have better service than others)
- ▶ The number of international calls you make
- ▶ What kind of contract you prefer (pre-paid, 12- or 24-month lock in etc)

There are many competitors in the market often promoting special deals for the customers. To determine what is the best plan is for you, you should estimate your usage for calls and data. It's a good idea to ask friends about their experience with different providers and networks to assist you in making a choice. There are also a number of websites that provide comparisons between providers:

www.whistleout.com.au/MobilePhones/Mobile-Phones-SLP





## Tip

International calls and text may be very costly. There are a number of apps you can use to call overseas such as WhatsApp, Viber, Skype, and FaceTime. These use data rather than having an international call charge.

## HOW DO YOU PURCHASE A SIM CARD OR PHONE PLAN?

You can buy a plan from phone companies, online or at supermarkets. Listed are major phone companies and purchase outlets.

## List of some popular phone providers in Australia

www.finder.com.au/mobile-plans/providers

Telstra

▶ Catch Connect

Optus

- TPG mobileDodo Mobile
- VodafoneAmaysim
- Circles. Life
- Ailiaysiiii
- Circles. Life
- Boost Mobile
- ▶ Numoblie
- ▶ Belong Mobile
- Lebara
- Southern Phone
- Moose Mobile

## **TYPES OF PLANS**

## SIM Only (pre-paid and post-paid)

SIM Only is designed for people who already have a phone and need SIM card access to networks and services. SIM Only services have become extremely popular for their flexibility and no lock-in contracts, which means you can change providers with no limitations. Unlike traditional phone plans with monthly set price payment, SIM Only services can be a cheaper option if they meet all your needs.

#### **Pre-Paid**

If you sign in with a pre-paid plan, your account will be charged an agreed sum of money at the beginning of the month. The advantage of a pre-paid plan is that you will never be over the limit or risk having excess usage charges. This is because you will not be able to use your phone when you reach the agreed limits.

## **Post Paid**

If you sign up for a post-paid plan you will be charged a monthly access fee at the end of every month, plus any extra usage charges on top of your standard inclusions. The advantage of post-paid is the convenience of your account being automatically paid every month. However, the disadvantage of a post-paid plan is that there is no limit to what you can use each month; this means you will need to monitor your usage carefully to avoid excess charges.

# GETTING AROUND BRISBANE

## **TRANSPORT**

## **Bicycle**

Bikes are a great way to get around Brisbane. For most journeys, you may need to ride onroad or on footpaths to access a shared path or bikeway. Cycling Brisbane has compiled a Riding in Brisbane guide, containing essential information and resources for people who want to ride a bike.

View the guide here: <u>Riding in Brisbane</u> - Helping you ride around Brisbane safely and confidently

There are several bike racks and bike boxes where you can park your bike on campus. A bike box is a secure and sheltered bicycle storage room with lockers for hire, showers, and toilets. They are free for UQ staff and students to use. You just need to apply for access.

For more information on bike facilities on campus or to apply for bike box access visit: campuses.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/parking-transport/cycling/parking-facilities

Under Queensland law, it is compulsory for cyclists to wear helmets. You will be fined if you do not.

#### Public transport

The main forms of public transport in Brisbane are buses, trains, and ferries (called CityCats in Brisbane). If you use public transport regularly, it is highly recommended that you purchase a 'Go Card', as the fares are cheaper than purchasing one off tickets (at least 30% cheaper). The 'Go Card' is an electronic ticket used on trains, buses, CityCats, trams and CityCycle bike hire around South East Queensland. You preload credit on to the card and touch on at the beginning of your journey and touch off at the end. Your fare will be deducted from your credit. The touch on points are at entry to the train stations, onboard the Citycat or inside the doorway on the bus.

Some tips while using Public Transport in Brisbane-

- ▶ To get off a bus, press the stop button well before your stop. (Red button on the safety rails near each seat)
- Bus stop names will not be displayed in buses here. You will need to download the MyTranslink app on to your phone which will show you all the stops on the bus route.

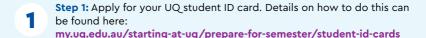
- If you are not familiar with the bus stop you want to get down at, activate the 'stop alarm' button on the app and it will tell you when to press the stop button.
- ▶ To hail a bus, raise your hand when you see your bus to show that you'd like the bus to stop

For more details on Go Cards visit <u>translink.com.au/sites/default/files/assets/resources/tickets-and-fares/go-card/go-card-user-guide.pdf</u>

The MyTransLink app helps to access timetables and journey planner to help you plan your trip.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR GO CARD CONCESSION FARES

As a full time student you can apply for concession fares. These are 50% cheaper than standard adult fares on Translink public transport services (excluding the Airtrain) and regional geonnect bus services.



Step 2: Buy a Go Card. You will need to purchase an adult Go Card (blue colour), they cost \$10 (\$5 is a refundable deposit and \$5 is minimum credit requirement). Go Cards can be purchased at many locations around Brisbane.

Visit <a href="https://translink.com.au/tickets-and-fares/go-card/locations">https://translink.com.au/tickets-and-fares/go-card/locations</a> to find a retailer.

Step 3: Apply for Concession with TRANSLink. You will need to apply for concession through Translink. You can apply here:

gocard.translink.com.au/webtix/tickets-and-fares/go-card/online/
concession/step-one

If you travel regionally on concession you can phone Translink on 13 12 30 to get a concession sticker.

**Step 4:** Register your Go Card. If it is lost or stolen you can transfer any credit to a new card.

# WHY BUY A CAR IN AUSTRALIA?

The total land mass of Australia is similar in size to the United States. However, Australia's population does not equal that of the United States. You will need transport to get around, and you'll find that public transport operates more frequently in populated areas. In Brisbane for example, you will find more frequent services close to the city centre. If you are located on the outskirts of the city, public transport may offer limited services with longer waiting times.

Due to Australia's large geographic land mass and often sparse population density, some people find owning a car practical. The benefit of car ownership is that it gives you the freedom to travel between cities and different UQ campuses. Parking and the stress of driving are, however, significant factors to consider.

## **BEFORE BUYING A CAR**

If you decide to purchase a car, do not rush. Take your time to research the different brands and models. Other factors you should consider are:

## **YOUR BUDGET**

You should have some idea how much you would like to spend buying a car. The RED BOOK is a good guide to indicate the value of cars by their year and model.

www.redbook.com.au/cars/

#### THE MAIN WAYS YOU WILL USE YOUR CAR

Do you really need a four-wheel drive with power engine and seven seats?

#### SAFETY

If you are buying a new car, please refer to the ANCAP safety rating www.choice.com.au/transport/cars/new/articles/ancap-new-car-safety-ratings

If you are buying a second hand car, please refer to the UCSR safety rating www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au/Rating-Process/What-is-UCSR/

## **IMPORTANT TIPS**

#### HIRE AN INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR

If you are not comfortable inspecting the car you are buying, you can organise an independent inspector through the registered motor organisation of your state e.g. RACQ

### CHECK THE PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITIES REGISTER

When you finally find a car that suits your needs, you should check that the car is debt-free. When you purchase a car from a dealer, they are legally required to guarantee that car is debt-free. However, if you buy a vehicle in a private sale, you will need to check the national 'Personal Property Securities Register' (PPSR)

#### www.ppsr.com.au

## **ASK QUESTIONS**

When buying a second-hand car, you should thoroughly investigate the history of the vehicle you are intending to buy. For example, how many owners has the vehicle had previously? Check the service log to ensure the car was regularly serviced. How much does it cost to fill the tank? Is the vehicle currently registered and insured? What kind of safety features does it have?



#### **PURCHASE INSURANCE**

Any vehicle operating on Australian roads must be insured. Finding suitable insurance can be as complicated as buying a vehicle. There are so many things to take into consideration in addition to identifying the company that offers you the best deal in terms of excess fees, comprehensive or third party only, and so on.

Depending on your specific requirements, there are three types of insurance coverage from which to choose. There are Comprehensive, Third Party Fire and Theft, and Third Party Property Damage.

**COMPREHENSIVE** — This full package covers any damage to your car as well as the damage your car might have caused to other people's car or property. The coverage usually includes theft and accidental damage, as well as natural events such as flood, earth, fire and storms.

**THIRD PARTY PROPERTY DAMAGE** — Third party insurance is the compulsory insurance required by law. This type of insurance covers the costs of damage that your car causes to other people's car or property. However, this insurance does not cover you for any damage to your own car from an incident in which you were involved.

**THIRD PARTY FIRE & THEFT** — If you do not wish to pay for full comprehensive insurance, but you want more than Third Party Property Damage insurance, Third Party Fire and Theft might suit your needs. This combines Third Party Property Damage benefits as well as protection against fire, theft and earthquake.

#### VEHICLE REGISTRATION

In Australia, it is the law that every vehicle on the road must be registered, or, as Australians say, every car needs 'rego'.

#### **HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE**

Registration requirements vary between states in Australia. In Queensland, Department of Transport and Main Roads would be the place to go to register. In general, you will need the following documents:

- Identification documents (passport)
- ► Current driver's licence (If your driver's licence is in a language other than English, you should provide a valid international licence as well).
- Any sales receipt (e.g. electricity bill) that shows that you are a resident in QLD.
- A roadworthiness certificate. The car you have bought MUST have roadworthy or safety certificates to show the general condition of the vehicle, and to confirm that suspension, body condition, types, brakes and lights etc, are in working order. It is the seller's responsibility to get a roadworthy or safety certificate approved by the inspection station or a Transport and Main Roads Motor Vehicle Inspection centre. If you do not get one from the seller, you could end up paying significant amounts of money in fines, repairs and fees.

## **DEALER VS. PRIVATE PURCHASES**

#### **DEALER PURCHASES**

#### **PROS**

- The dealer generally handles all the paperwork associated with ownership transfer and registration for you.
- ▶ The dealer may offer a range of financial options.
- ▶ The dealer may provide a statutory warranty which guarantees cover for any repaired parts within the warranty period. The dealer may also be able to offer additional warranties, which is beneficial if you are buying a used car.
- ▶ The dealer will need to ensure there is no money owing on the car.
- You can trade in your old car.
- ▶ The car has been thoroughly inspected, or if necessary, repaired.
- ▶ Time savings less time spent searching.
- Dealerships offer more legal protection than private sales. It is the seller's responsibility to get a roadworthy or safety certificate approved by the inspection station or a Transport and Main Roads Motor Vehicle Inspection centre. If you do not get one from the seller, you could end up paying significant amounts of money in fines, repairs and fees.

#### CONS

- ▶ A dealership may charge higher prices than a private sale.
- Dealing with a professional sales team could give you less opportunity to negotiate.
- You may easily get distracted by special deals and Main Roads Motor Vehicle Inspection centre. If you do not get one from the seller, you could end up paying significant amounts of money in fines, repairs and fees.

#### **PRIVATE PURCHASES**

#### **PROS**

- ▶ It is easier to negotiate the price with a private sale, especially if the seller is wanting a quick sale.
- They generally cost less.
- ▶ It is more likely that the private seller has taken good care of their own vehicle.
- ▶ You can search for vehicles through online websites such as Carsales, eBay or gumtree.

#### CONS

- ▶ There is no warranty on the vehicle as private seller sells their used car 'as is'. As soon as you drive away with the car, it is yours 'as is'.
- You are likely to spend more time searching and/or travelling long distances to find the car you want.
- You will need to arrange a time to inspect the vehicle or have it inspected by the RACQ.
- ▶ You and the private seller are responsible for all the relevant paperwork.

# TRANSPORT TO UQ ST LUCIA

#### Bus

St Lucia campus has two main bus stations UQ Chancellors place (located in front of J.D. Story Administration Building #61) and UQ Lakes (located behind the Union Complex near the river) www.pf.uq.edu.au/maps/StLucia.pdf

All timetables are displayed at the bus stop or you can download 'MyTransLink app'.

#### Train

Services cover the whole of South East Queensland, such as Sunshine Coast (North), Gold Coast (South), Airport, Ipswich (West) and Cleveland (East) as well as other major destinations. There is no direct train line to UQ so you need to get off the train at Park Road Station if you were coming from the South, East or Southbank; or Toowong Station if you were coming from the North, West or the city. From the train stations you would need to get a bus the rest of the way to campus.

## CityCat

St Lucia campus has a ferry terminal and is the last stop heading up the river. The CityCats stop at a number of locativons all the way down to Northshore Hamilton terminal. It is a relaxing way to travel but is not the fastest way. If you travel from North Quay (city) to St Lucia, it will take about 20 minutes. The St Lucia Terminal is located near Eleanor Schonell Bridge, please refer to the UQ maps N7 www.pf.uq.edu.au/maps/StLucia.pdf

#### Car

There are many car parks at UQ St Lucia campus. Depending on location, the price range will be different. Most undercover parking will be charged on an hourly rate of \$2.50 (2020 pricing). Some car parks will charge a daily rate of \$5 (2020 pricing). However, daily rate parking is very popular and will be filled quickly during semesters. UQ has changed parking from Pay-and-display to Pay-by-registration. You can sign up Pay-by-app for casual parking or you can type your number plate and pay at closest vending machine.

### **After Hours Safety Bus**

There is a free safety bus that runs on the St Lucia campus after 6pm Monday to Friday (except Christmas to New Year and public holidays). For timetables and route details visit campuses.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/security/safety-bus

## **Inter Campus Transport**

There are UQ shuttle bus services between Gatton and St Lucia campuses and from St Lucia to Long Pocket. To secure your seat, it is highly recommended to make a booking. You will need to swipe your student ID in order to get on to the bus. For timetable details and bookings please refer to <a href="https://www.pf.ug.edu.au/buses/">www.pf.ug.edu.au/buses/</a>

## TRANSPORT TO UQ GATTON

Gatton Campus is approximately 82km from St Lucia Campus, you can get there by car, train or bus.

### By car

It takes about 1 hour to drive to UQ Gatton from St Lucia, depending on the traffic.

At UQ Gatton campus, there is extensive parking available, but students may only park in designated areas. For a map of the UQ Gatton campus with all the parking available, please visit campuses.uq.edu.au/files/2823/29-gatton-car-parking-map.pdf

## By Inter-campus bus

The inter-campus bus travels between UQ Gatton and St Lucia and runs four times a day, Monday – Friday, excluding public holidays. This is a free service that all students can book by using their university login credentials. You will need to reserve your seat in advance.

For more information and bookings go to <u>campuses.uq.edu.au/information-and-</u>services/parking-transport/campus-bus/intercampus

#### By train and bus

If you need to get to Gatton Campus from Brisbane on the weekend when the Intercampus bus is not running you will need to catch the train to Ipswich, and then another train to Rosewood station. From here the Route 539 bus will take you from Rosewood to UQ Gatton Campus.

\*This trip takes several hours due for a long wait at Ipswich station between trains if you don't catch the right trains



## FINANCES AND BUDGETING

## WHAT IS BUDGETING?

A budget is a written plan that helps you know how much money you have coming in and what you need to spend it on.

#### Budgeting means you can:

- ▶ Keep a regular check on where your money goes
- ▶ Pay for the things you need such as food and your current bills
- Prepare for emergencies and unplanned expenses
- Save for something special
- Decide how to spend your money

Start with a spending diary in order to track your day to day spending. It is easy to spend a few dollars here and there which can add up quickly over a short period of time. You can use an app such as Track my spend (<a href="www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-tools/mobile-apps/trackmyspend">www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-tools/mobile-apps/trackmyspend</a>) or a notepad to write down everything you spend over a 2 week period. At the end of the tracking period add up everything you have spent so you have an idea of your day to day expenses.

Then look at where your money goes month to month. Remember basics like food, groceries and transport, bills like rent, electricity, phone and insurance and other things like car registration, clothing, medical costs and the internet.

Use a budget planner to enter all money coming in and going out. You can find a good one at <a href="https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-tools/budget-planner">www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/calculators-and-tools/budget-planner</a>

The budget planner will show if you are spending more or less than you can afford. Depending on the outcome you can then take action and find the right balance.

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Identify irregular and long-term expenses such as textbooks, gifts etc. and add an amount to save each week for these expenses
- ▶ Define how much you have for "extras" such as entertainment and eating out
- Open a separate bank account and put money in each week/fortnight so that when bills come in you have the money to pay for them
- You may need to re-do your budget several times in the first few months to come up with something manageable and achievable

## **PART TIME WORK**

If things are tight financially you could consider increasing your income by finding a part time job. If you decide to do this, remember;

- Visa requirements state that you cannot work more than 40 hours a fortnight during term time
- ▶ Do not work for cash you must have a tax file number to give to your employer who must then pay you the correct wage. You can check how much you should be paid at the Fair Work Ombudsman Website www.fairwork.gov.au/pay
- We can help you with job search strategies, resume writing and interview techniques just make an appointment online with SAS team at: www.ugu.com.au/supporting-u

## **MONEY SMART**

Juggling your finance for the first time is a challenge, let alone juggling them in a foreign country and in foreign currency. The Australian Department of Education and Training estimated on average an international student will spend approximately (depending on personal preference and course of study) AUD380 a week on living expenses but not limited to rent, food, clothing, leisure, transport and telephone. So, it is essential for you to take charge and control of your money.

You can be money smart by:

- ▶ Tracking your expenses what and how much did you spend
- ▶ Balance money in and money out make sure you don't overspend what you have
- ▶ Prioritise your expenses spend on the "need" and "think" again about wants
- ▶ Lifestyle Adjust your personal situations as soon as practical

## **BANKS**

Knowing you have safe and quick access to your funds in a new country makes moving to a new place slightly easier.

Having access to your funds in a new country will allow a sense of security helping you settle just that little bit easier. With internet banking and Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) being the main options in Australia, access to your money has never been easier and faster.

Most major banks now allow bank accounts to be opened online before you leave home, having direct access to know which account to transfer to and what you are required to provide to the bank upon your arrival before fully accessing your account.

Some of Australia's major banks are:

- ANZ
- Bank of Queensland
- Citibank
- ▶ Commonwealth Bank
- ▶ HSBC
- ING Direct

- Macquarie
- ▶ National Australia Bank
- St George
- Suncorp Metway
- Westpac

## **BANKING**

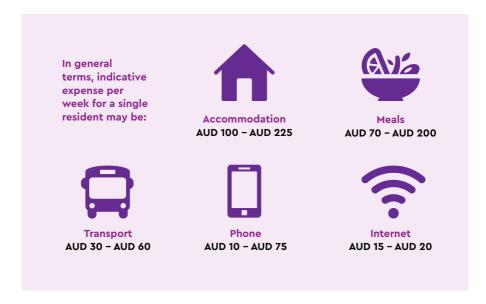
The majority of banks and building societies that offer banking services encourage their customers to access their services through online banking. Through their website online banking allows you to handle your daily finance activities, with transactions at your fingertips. Common services available are:

- ▶ Checking account balance
- Transactions
- Bill payments
- ► Funds transfers (both internationally and locally)
- Bank statements and history

If you are a more hands on approach money handler, you may still present yourself at a local branch or through the use to Automated Teller Machines – known as ATM. But there may be limitations with accessing services in person at a branch, so it is important for you to speak to your banking officer when you are deciding on the type of account you are opening.

## **HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?**

As per student visa requirement, all applicants must show they have genuine access to sufficient funds to cover their costs while in Australia. So it is important to make sure you have sufficient funds to support yourself (and your family) when you arrive in Australia. Some recommend that you have approximately AUD 1,500 ~ AUD 2,000 available in the first 3 to 4 weeks while you settle in.



## **ON-CAMPUS - ST LUCIA**

The Commonwealth bank on Campus is now closed. The nearest branches are:-

- ▶ Commonwealth Bank Toowong Branch
- ▶ Commonwealth Bank West End Branch
- ► Commonwealth Bank Indooroopilly Branch

## **Opening hours**

Monday to Wednesday and Friday: 9.30 am - 4 pm

Thursday: 9.30 am - 5pm

There are two Commonwealth Bank automated teller machines located in St Lucia; outside the J.D Story Building near the Student Centre as well as outside the branch.



## **ACCOMMODATION**

## **UQ ST LUCIA CAMPUS**

There are many different types of accommodation available in Brisbane. Depending on your budget as well as duration of your university program, you can choose from below:

## **Homestay**

The advantage of living with an Australian host family is that you can explore Australian living style, practice your English, enjoy homemade cuisine, participate in the host family's daily routine and adjust quickly into the new environment. It would be a great starting point to understand Australian culture. It also allows your host family members to exchange culture with you, such as custom, food, people and festivals. Most importantly as an international student new to the foreign country, staying with a homestay can provide you with a safe living environment and emotional support, especially since your host family will treat you as part of the family. This may ease any feelings of being overwhelmed and culture shock.

The cost of living with homestay depends on the different range of facilities and services provided. Please see the below link for 2023 pricing:

#### www.homestaynetwork.org/brisbane-pricing

Important - please be aware of what has been included and excluded in the price. For example, a private room would be more expensive than a share room. With regards to meals, the week day breakfast, dinner, and 3 meals on the weekend is mostly covered. The list of pricing does not include housekeeping, ironing, transport, excursion, airport pick up and drop off, internet and eating out. Laundry can be negotiated, as some people would rather wash their own clothes.

#### Rental

The advantage of choosing to rent a room or flat could be cheaper than living with a host family. Some of the main factors you may need to put into consideration would be location, rent, facilities and transport. The rental process can be complicated, it is highly recommended to seek assistance from UQ Rental rental.uq.edu.au/Accommodation. You can register your name on their website. UQ Student Services offer workshops to assist students seeking suitable accommodation. Please book via www.uq.edu.au/student-services/workshops/accommodation-information-session-7029

#### Locations

Brisbane is a big hilly city and many suburbs are spread out. It is important to consider location of the property as well as transport and local amenities. Most property near UQ is quite popular as many of the students prefer to live close by and within walking distance. Other students prefer to live close to major shopping centres where it is convenient for shopping and transport.

#### Rent

If you wish to rent a flat, house or individual room, this can be done through a Real Estate agent or private landlord. Any rental property must be compliant with RTA (Residential Tenancies Authority) legislation <a href="www.rta.qld.gov.au/">www.rta.qld.gov.au/</a>

In general, the tenants are required to pay a 'bond' (usually 4 weeks rent) as a security deposit as well as 2 weeks rent in advance to the agent or landlord. The purpose of the bond is for fees to repair any damage of the property and professional cleaning fees after you move out. The agent or landlord will refund the remaining part of the bond to you on termination of the contract. It is likely that the Real Estate will request an inspection of your property every 6 months.

#### Factors to consider when renting

The rent will depend on the quality of facilities, number of bedrooms, bathrooms, parking spaces, furnishings, (the price may be cheaper if furniture is not included), etc. Some properties also include the use of a swimming pool and BBQ facilities.

Most rental properties do not include Internet, phone line, power and gas. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the tenant to organise these services.

#### Type

There are many different types of properties for rent such as Queenslander homes (low set or high set), flat, townhouse, studio, individual room, apartments, etc.

### Lease whole house/flat

If you have a group of friends that agree to live together, you can consider renting a flat or whole house that contains many bedrooms and you can share the cost of living with your friends. The most common method to rent a house/flat is to approach a licenced real estate company. It is highly recommended that you inspect several properties before you decide which property will suit you most. The next step is to lodge a rental application and understand the rental terms and conditions. When your application has been approved, it is time to move into your new home.

Most contracts are 6 months to 12 months. If you change your mind before the end of your contract, you still have an obligation maintain your rental payment. You can either find another tenant to replace your spot or you can pay the penalty and break the contract. It is highly recommended that you contact UQ Student Service for assistance.

Important - Any maintenance and repair costs should be covered by your Real estate or Landlord. For example, door cannot close properly, leaking taps, air conditioner or light bulb doesn't work, ripped curtains, etc. Some properties do not allow pets. It is important to ask permission before you move in your new home.

### Rent a room or share house/flat

Some students may like to rent a room or share a flat with other people, as this is a cheaper option. Here are a few factors that you may need to consider:

- Flatmates who are they, their living styles and daily routine? For example, if your flatmate is a party enthusiast, and often host parties or constantly plays loud music, this may affect your study or daily routine.
- ▶ **Location** close to facilities, public transports, and UQ. The surrounding environment is also very important as this has a significant impact on your living quality.
- Price it is important to understand what facilities has been included in your rent such as room size, internet, power and water bills. Sometimes a cheaper rental means that you do not rent a single room, but share a room with other people.

## **UQ** College

UQ at St Lucia has 10 residential colleges offering accommodation to domestic and overseas students as well as University staff. The advantage of living in one of these colleges is that you are on campus and can have all the University facilities at your fingertips. Other advantages of living in the college are:

- Secure living environment
- Academic tutorial program and peer support group
- Sport, culture and social events
- Establishing a social network
- Catering services (can be various, please see below link)

If you would like more information, please contact the college directly via following link:

Accommodation - my.UQ - University of Queensland

## **UQ GATTON CAMPUS**

While studying at UQ Gatton you will have few accommodation options. You can live on campus or you can choose from accommodation options available off campus.

#### Location

Lockver Valley and Gatton

Lockyer Valley is an area south west of Brisbane which spreads from West of Brisbane to Toowoomba.

Gatton is the administration centre of Lockyer Valley and it has a population of over 6800 people.

The town and the surrounding areas, in Lockyer Valley, are well known for the agricultural fields and the farms, with vegetables making most of the crops.

Just 5 km to the east of Gatton, is the University of Queensland Campus which is home to agricultural and veterinarian students.

## **On Campus Accommodation**

At UQ Gatton campus, Halls of Residence offers accommodation to approximately 436 students (male and female). The Hall of Residence at UQ Gatton offers students a range of services from accommodation, dining, internet access to a complete sporting and social program throughout the year.

If you would like to find more information please contact:

The Halls' Office Phone: (07) 5460 1215
Halls of Residence Fax: (07) 5460 1498
The University of Queensland Gatton Email: halls@uq.edu.au

Gatton, Old. 4343 Web: ugres.com/halls-of-residence

Australia

The Hall of Residence also provides a list of off campus options. This list can be viewed at <a href="https://www.uq.edu.au/halls/residential-schools">www.uq.edu.au/halls/residential-schools</a>

UQ Gatton managed houses are also available for rent and are located within the campus. These houses are shared houses and offer students the chance to be part of a small community of students coming from all parts of the world. The houses are fully furnished, and the rent is affordable, therefore the demand is high, and it is recommended to apply and reserve this type of accommodation as soon as possible.

To apply for on-campus accommodation at UQ Gatton go to: ugres.com/ug-res-homes

## OFF CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

## **UQ Rentals**

You can rent a place by using the UQ Rentals. It is highly recommended that you register your name with UQ rentals here: <a href="mailto:rental.uq.edu.au/Accommodation">rental.uq.edu.au/Accommodation</a>

Other ways of finding rent in by looking up properties on various websites

www.unilodge.com.au/student-accommodation-brisbane www.realestate.com.au www.domain.com.au

You need to ensure that you know your rights as a tenant and know that your landlord has few obligations.

Your rights as a tenant are:

www.gumtree.com.au

- ▶ Pay rent on time
- Maintain the place in good condition
- Comply with your tenancy agreement conditions
- ▶ Respect your neighbour's rights to peace and quiet.

Also, your landlord has few obligations. Some of these include:

- ▶ Give you notice if they want to inspect the premises
- ▶ Respect your privacy.
- ► Complete any required repairs, etc. For a full list of tenant/landlord rights and obligations please go to

## www.rta.qld.gov.au/during-a-tenancy

Alternatively, If you have questions about any tenancy related issue or have any query, please contact the Residential Tenancies Authorities (RTA) on 1300 366 311 or from overseas call +61 7 3224 1600

You can also utilise RTA web services through this link: www.rta.qld.gov.au/rta-web-services





