Faculty of Science
Gatton campus
First Year Guide 2017
External students
Welcome
to the Faculty of Science at The University of Queensland (UQ).

We are delighted that you have decided to study science at UQ. Attending university is an opportunity for you to expand your horizons and to develop skills and friendships which will benefit you throughout your life. We encourage you to take advantage of all that is offered though UQ's vibrant community of academics, students and support staff.

This guide is designed to help you navigate your way through the transition to university life. We are also available to help you in person, by phone or by email. Find contact details at science.uq.edu.au.

Join us for Orientation Week
20 - 24 February

Join us for O-Week, the official start for commencing undergraduate students with everything you need to get ready to study!

Packed with information sessions, skills workshops, social events and tours, O-week is your chance to explore the Gatton campus and find out what to expect as a UQ student. It’s also a chance to make friends, speak with your lecturers, sign up for clubs and activities, and immerse yourself in university life. During the week there will be a free lunch, music, campus and library tours, helpful student volunteers and loads more! To plan your week, please visit: uq.edu.au/orientation.

Starting at university might seem overwhelming at first when you’re not sure where to begin. This book will help guide you through the initial steps of your journey. We’ve laid out the essential tasks you need to complete, and inside you will find the people, resources, and services that will help you succeed at UQ.
## What do I need to do?

Here’s a checklist that we think is important for you to complete prior to the start of semester!

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### Useful websites for getting started:
- uq.edu.au/startingatUQ
- planner.science.uq.edu.au
- uq.edu.au/student-services/learning
- uq.edu.au/myadvisor
- bit.ly/uquni101

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## Access your study planner, choose your courses and enrol

Visit [uq.edu.au/startingatUQ](http://uq.edu.au/startingatUQ) to access study planners, choose your courses and enrol. Below you’ll find some information to keep in mind.

- Courses are generally coded with 4 letters followed by 4 numbers. Courses with the code 1 as the first number in the sequence are first level courses, so they are generally taken in first year e.g. ARGC1020. Similarly codes which begin with 2 and 3 reflect the year in which they are normally taken.

- International students are expected to maintain a full enrolment of 4 courses per semester and must seek academic advice before reducing their enrolment load.

- Most domestic students do not need to maintain a full enrolment of 4 courses, and in certain situations (e.g. working, or returning to studies) it might be more prudent to study part-time. There may be different requirements for some students (e.g. scholarship holders or centrelink recipients) – please check your eligibility carefully!

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### Need assistance with choosing your courses and enrolling?
- Visit [planner.science.uq.edu.au](http://planner.science.uq.edu.au)
- It’s important that you follow your study plan to ensure that there are no timetable or examination conflicts
- Visit [uq.edu.au/orientation](http://uq.edu.au/orientation) to book an advice session in February
- Contact the Faculty of Science Student Enquiries Office. enquire@science.uq.edu.au or 07 3869 276
- Drop in for enrolment and timetabling assistance, details page 7.

### WARNING: Choosing courses requires careful planning. Please ensure you carefully select the correct courses. Some courses are offered in both internal and external mode.
- DUAL DEGREES can be even trickier! Please seek help from an academic advisor
- Make sure you choose prerequisites for courses you want to do in future. Keep your options open in case you change your study plans. Some courses are only offered in one semester.
Class Sign-On

Class sign-ons for science open from 8:30am 31 January onwards. Be prepared with your preferred choices prior to sign-on opening as classes, particularly practicals and tutorials, can fill up very quickly (sometimes within 10 minutes of opening!). Prepare a plan B ahead of sign-on, with alternative class times.

Contact hours

Contact hours are the number of hours per week of attendance required in a course. The course timetable shows contact hours as a combination of letters and numbers:

e.g. BIOL1020 2L1T 3P
    = 2hr of lectures + 1hr tutorial + 3hr of practical per week.

WARNING: not all classes are held every week. For example, some practical classes are scheduled only every second week, so be sure to check the dates!

Sessions

With over 1000 new students in science, we offer some classes more than once. In these cases, you need to choose:

> One stream of lectures (L01 or L02 or L03 etc)
> One tutorial group (T01, T02 or T03 etc) and
> If applicable, one laboratory or practical group (P01, P02, or P03 etc).

For example, for BIOL1020 you could choose:

• L02 (Lecture stream 2)
• P07 (Practical session 7)
• T15 (Tutorial 15)

1. How do I plan my course timetable?
   Go to uq.edu.au/startingatuq/sign-on-to-classes and follow the link to timetable planning.
   Use the timetable planner timetableplanner.app.uq.edu.au to help you.

2. What if my chosen sign-on class is full?
   a) Check course times for alternatives and/or seek further assistance at an enrolling and timetabling drop in session (see page 7).
   b) Email the course coordinator with your request (link at bottom of sign-on page). Ensure you include your name, student number, reasons for your request, and possible alternatives. Try to provide at least two options.
   If all classes fill up, then further classes may be added. Check back regularly for updates.

3. Check your student emails regularly to ensure you are up to date with course sign-on dates/times.

Need assistance with timetabling?
   > Drop in for enrolment and timetabling assistance, details on page 7.
The University of Queensland welcomes our new students and encourages you to take advantage of all that is offered through UQ’s vibrant and rewarding community of students, academics and professional staff.

There are specific introduction sessions for undergraduate programs on Tuesday 21 February. Please check the orientation website for details orientation.uq.edu.au

These important sessions will provide you with an introduction to your program and courses and give you an opportunity to meet your course coordinators, lecturers and other students.

External students will have the opportunity to view the live presentation of their program introduction session if they cannot make it to campus. These important sessions will provide you with an introduction to your program and courses and are highly recommended.

If you want further advice about your program, choice of electives, study streams, please email us at: agriculture@uq.edu.au

Drop in to receive personalised advice from an enrolment assistant from the Faculty of Science. Assistants can help you with course enrolments, timetabling and class sign-on processes.

Separate JSAPP programs will also be offered on 18 February for Postgraduate students and 24 February for Mature Age students.

Book your place at uq.edu.au/orientation.

First year students in science laboratories at UQ Gatton.

Market Day in Orientation Week at UQ Gatton campus.
### FAQs for First Year

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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td><strong>Student email</strong></td>
<td>Check your official student email daily to ensure you are up to date. UQ will only send emails to your official student email address. Always use your student email, not a personal email address, when contacting course coordinators, and include your student ID number.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blackboard</strong></td>
<td>Visit Blackboard (Learn.UQ) regularly to check for course related updates <a href="http://learn.uq.edu.au">learn.uq.edu.au</a>. Your lecturers will use this to make announcements and post important information on assessment, and other course-related matters. Also referred to as eLearning, this is the course website.</td>
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<td><strong>Electronic Course Profile (ECP)</strong></td>
<td>Every course on offer at UQ has an ECP. The ECP contains important information about course requirements, and must be read carefully. <strong>THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.</strong> You can access the full version of your course-specific ECP via Blackboard course sites. You can also view a short version through <a href="http://uq.edu.au/study">uq.edu.au/study</a> by entering a specific course code into the search feature and following the links. The left hand menu of the ECP details the aims and objectives of the course, learning resources and activities and detailed information on assessment. For example, there may be ‘hurdle requirements’ as part of the assessment which must be met in order to pass the course.</td>
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| **What learning resources are available?**                             | • ECP under ‘Learning Resources’  
  • Academic advisors at the Science Student Enquiries Office  
  • Course tutors  
  • Library assistance for IT Help, referencing and accessing databases: [library.uq.edu.au/help](http://library.uq.edu.au/help)  
  • Learning workshops on how to get the most of your studies, tackle assignments and prepare for exams: [uq.edu.au/student-services/learning](http://uq.edu.au/student-services/learning) |
| **Do I have to follow the recommended schedule for my program?**        | You are advised to follow the recommended schedule, but you can change it to suit. However, if you change the order of your courses, or enrol in more than a part-time load, you must ensure you are able to attend all residential schools without clashes. |
| **How can I contact the course coordinator?**                         | Check the ECP or Blackboard for the most appropriate method of communication. Different courses use different methods — some courses have specific course email addresses, while other courses use discussion boards. |
| **How do I access electronic course profiles?**                       | You can view the electronic course profiles for the courses in which you are enrolled through mySI-net. View all other published electronic course profiles via the Programs and Courses Website. |
| **What if my assignment is late?**                                     | Please refer to the ECP for individual course procedures. There are different procedures for different courses and schools. |
| **What is the importance of a mailing address on mySI-net?**           | On occasion your course may include materials which need to be mailed to you. It will be sent to your current mailing address on mySI-net. |
| **What calculator can I use?**                                        | For many science courses, you will need an approved non-programmable calculator for use in exams. For more details on approved calculator models: [uq.edu.au/myadvisor/exam-calculators](http://uq.edu.au/myadvisor/exam-calculators) |
| **What happens if I miss critical assessment in my course and too many lectures?** | If you get too far behind with your work, you might think about withdrawing. Be aware of important census dates. |

### How do I access my study material?  
Your courses will make extensive use of Blackboard and other online learning tools. Check the course profile for guidance on accessing them. Also check your course Blackboard site frequently for activities and information. Any required text will be listed on the course profile. Access to required and recommended resources, plus past central exam papers, may also be available at the UQ Library website [www.library.uq.edu.au](http://www.library.uq.edu.au).  
The University offers a range of resources and services to support student learning. Details are available on the myServices website [https://student.my.uq.edu.au](http://https://student.my.uq.edu.au).  

### I don't know what to do for one of my assignments. Who can help me with that?  
For help with assignments, email your lecturer for some advice. If you want help with researching for information, contact the UQ Library. For more general help, for example, with structuring and writing assignments, for their workshops and their do-it-yourself material, see the Student Services website or contact Student Services with specific questions.  

### What is the difference between the Student Centre and Student Services?  
The Student Centre (N.W. Briton Building Annex, 8101A) handles all student administration and general enquiries relating to the university. Student Services (Morrison Hall, Building 8123) provides help with learning, disability and counselling support, and personal and academic welfare.  

### I'm concerned about managing my workload — who can I talk to?  
Student Services run online and on-campus workshops on Preparing for Success at University. Tertiary Writing Skills, Assignment Writing, and more. Sign up at [uq.edu.au/student-services](http://uq.edu.au/student-services).  

### How do I obtain a Student ID Card?  
ID Cards can be obtained on campus. Enquire at the Student Centre ground floor Briton Annex-Building 8101A. Please remember all external students are required to hold a current ID card. ID Cards are to be presented in the following circumstances:  
- attending and sitting exams - regardless of location  
- borrowing books from the library  
- after-hours access to computer labs located in the library.  
More information about Student ID cards can be found at [www.uq.edu.au/startingatuq/get-your-student-id-card](http://www.uq.edu.au/startingatuq/get-your-student-id-card).  

### Semester 1 critical dates  
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>29 February</td>
<td>Classes commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March</td>
<td>Last day to add or substitute courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Last day to drop courses without financial liability* (Semester 1 census date)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>Last day to drop courses without academic penalty*</td>
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*Save your money and don’t carry on with courses you have ‘given up on’. You must formally withdraw:  
> By the end of March so you aren’t charged for the course  
> By the end of April so you don’t lower your Grade Point Average (GPA)*
Terminology explained

**Academic Record**
There are two types of academic records: official and unofficial. The official academic record, called a ‘transcript’, is produced by the University’s Student Centre for a fee (a complimentary copy is provided to graduating students). The unofficial academic record, known as a ‘studies report’, can be printed from mySI-net.

**AskIT**
AskIT offers free computer help and training for UQ students and will assist you with the use of information technology in your studies. library.uq.edu.au/ask-it

**Course list**
The courses you have to pass in order to receive your degree. The Course list specifies compulsory and elective courses – uq.edu.au/study

**Blackboard**
UQ’s learning management system, also known as Learn.UQ. Access via learn.uq.edu.au, or via my.UQ.edu.au under elearning. Contains assessment information, announcements, updates, some assignment marks and discussion boards for each of your courses.

**Course**
Subject or class (e.g. AGRC1020 or VETS1060).

**Compulsory course**
Course that you must take (e.g. CHEM1004 for the BSusAg).

**Discipline**
Field of study or specialisation within your program.

**Electronic Course Profile (ECP)**
Also referred to as the Course Profile, the ECP contains information about individual courses including assessment requirements, contact hours, course coordinators and general information. See page 8 for further details.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)**
The average of the grade of the results obtained by a student, weighted by the unit value of each course in which the student enrolled. GPA is determined on a semester basis.

**Major**
An area of specialised study within a program. A major may be referred to as a specialisation, discipline or plan. See uq.edu.au/study for further details of majors in science programs.

**mySI-net**
UQ’s online student enrolment system – sinet.uq.edu.au. Enrol in courses and access your studies report.

**Plan**
mySI-net calls a discipline or major (e.g. Physics) a plan; you can declare your plan online.

**Prerequisite**
A level of knowledge and skill you must have before participating in a course (e.g. you must have MATH1050 or Maths C before you do MATH1051).

**Program**
Your program is the degree you are taking e.g. BVetTech - Bachelor of Veterinary Technology.

**SAFS**
School of Agriculture and Food Science.

**SVS**
School of Veterinary Science.

**Units (#)**
Most courses are 2 units (#2). A full time study load for a semester is #6 or more, so that’s 3 or more courses. Most students do 4 courses, #8 in each semester. International students must do #8. To complete a 3 year program within the 3 years, students are required to do 4 courses per semester unless they opt into summer electives.
Residential School: What is it?
While you can study many external programs in full distance learning mode, there are a number of courses that have Residential School (Res) components. If these are classed as compulsory, students must attend them in order to fulfil the requirements of that course.

All schools are compulsory unless otherwise stated in the timetable or the course profile.
A Residential School involves a period of time that must be spent on campus, usually at Gatton but sometimes other locations. These take place during the semester breaks March - April (Easter) in semester one, or September - October in semester two. They can be held over one day or up to six days and are practically-oriented.

When planning your enrolment each year, you should follow the recommended study planners, to avoid clashes with the Residential School timetable. If you do make changes to your enrolment, it is your responsibility to ensure that you can attend any Residential Schools.

Preparing for Residential School and your timetable
Before you arrive at Residential School, please carefully check the timetable for Semester 1 2017 to ensure you don’t miss the required classes and make note of any special requirements for your course. You will find them listed in the right hand column of the timetable online at [http://www.uq.edu.au/agriculture/external-students](http://www.uq.edu.au/agriculture/external-students)

Need accommodation during Residential School?
The Halls of Residence offers convenient on-campus accommodation during your stay at Res School.
External students who choose to stay on-campus during residential school can apply for a student room in the Residential Halls with shared bathroom facilities at $75 per day (includes three meals a day). The cost of on-campus accommodation includes a single study room and three meals per day, bed linen, towel, blankets and a pillow.

Remember, there is 24/7 space accessible after-hours via the back of the library near the IT Annex. UQ Library members can activate swipe access on their UQ ID cards at the Gatton Student Services Centre. You will need your Student ID card to access this area.

Student Services - they’re here to help!
Student Services are here to help you, offering services in the areas of learning assistance, personal counselling, careers and employment. All appointments are confidential. Appointments can be made for a face-to-face visit via email or telephone.

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am-4.30pm
Phone: (07) 5460 1046 or Email: ssgatton@uq.edu.au
Location: Morrison Hall (Building 8123)

Computers and Internet Access
As an external student you have access to the computer laboratories in the library (check details through the library). The primary wireless network available at UQ is eduroam—please follow the prompts on your computer to set up wireless internet.

Details available at [www.its.uq.edu.au](http://www.its.uq.edu.au)

Food options
Dining Hall at Gatton is open every day of Residential School but opening hours are limited so please check the schedule to avoid missing out. Students not staying in the Halls of Residence can also access the Dining Hall and purchase buffet meals at a cost of $10 each.

- Breakfast - 7.30am to 8.30am
- Lunch - 12.00pm - 1.00pm
- Dinner - 5.30pm to 6.30pm

The Walkway Café
Open 9:00am to 3:00pm during the week. Not open on the weekend.

McDonald’s
Located opposite UQ Gatton on the other side of the Warrego highway.

St Lucia
For those of you required to attend any classes at St Lucia on the weekend, a few of the campus cafes are open on Saturday:
- Wordsmiths (Wordies) Café – Open 8.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday
- UQ Pizza café – Open from 12.00pm on Saturday
- St Lucia Village (The Ville) – Various cafes and restaurants are open on Saturday at The Ville, around a 10 minutes’ walk from St Lucia campus

Library
During residential school, the library is open for access to learning resources. Advice or to answer any questions you may have during your stay.
You can also make an appointment.

Interested in a break or time out during Res School?
UQ Sport offers a daily pass to the pool and gym for $15.00 or simply grab a pool pass for $4.00 and enjoy the heated 25 metre pool. You must show your student ID card to get students prices.

UQ Sport is open 7 days a week.
- Monday - Friday 6:00am - 8:00pm
- Saturday 10:00am - 2.00pm
- Sunday 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Got questions about your courses?
While on campus, if you have questions about your program, future enrolments, timetables or any other general queries you are welcome to talk to someone at the Student Centre or SAFS Admin Building 8101A (see map). Both are staffed Monday to Friday from 8.30am-4.30pm.

Both places are your “starting point” on campus. If you’re not sure of anything, go there.
Staff are there to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can. You may also want to meet with an academic or course coordinator. As residential school becomes quite busy, we recommend the best course of action is to email in advance and make an appointment during the week.

ATM
There is an Automatic Teller Machine located at the end of the Briton Building (8101) next to the Security office.

Second hand books
You can visit the UQ Union web page to find out more information in regards to second-hand books and stationary. Please visit [www.uqu.edu.au](http://www.uqu.edu.au)

There is another web page open to students in any institution to access the database searching for books: [www.onlinebooks.com.au](http://www.onlinebooks.com.au)

Post Office
The Post Office located at the Gatton campus is open Monday–Friday 9am to 4.30pm (Except public holidays)

Phone: (07) 5460 1210
Location: Ground floor Briton Building (8101)

A limited range of Australia Post services and stationery supplies is provided. Payment for UQ services/goods is also available.

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