

# Career guide for international students

## Your career starts now

Welcome to The University of Queensland. You have embarked on an exciting journey studying in another country to gain new knowledge, skills, perspectives and experiences. Please read this guide for some helpful tips and insights about how to be successful and boost your career prospects, whether you return home upon graduation or stay in Australia.

**Your future starts now.**



## Prepare now for graduate employment in future

### FIRST YEAR

- Find local referees through volunteering or joining clubs
- Practise speaking English if it is not your first language and learn some Aussie slang
- Join online social and professional social media
- Check out your visa options upon graduation and start planning your career now
- Attend the Volunteer Expo

### SECOND YEAR

- Seek casual work experience or start volunteer work
- Seek (un)paid opportunities relevant to your discipline (university, professional associations, student clubs)
- Attend career events such as industry events, employer presentations and Careers Fair
- Explore global opportunities (overseas study or work) and start preparing

### PENULTIMATE YEAR

- Consider internships, vacation work, research programs and work experience
- Apply for graduate programs that start next year
- Hone your employability skills and prepare for future graduate opportunities (resume, interview skills, networking skills)

### FINAL YEAR

- Apply for graduate opportunities
- Create job alerts and attend career events for networking opportunities
- Further strengthen your employability

# FIRST YEAR

## First-year focus

**Study:** In your first semester, you will have to get used to the university systems, expectations and the demands of your study. You will have to find the best way to organise your time and prioritise your study load.

**Find local referees:** If you wish to apply for jobs in Brisbane, you will need local referees, people in Australia who have worked with you and can provide information to your prospective employer. As Brisbane employers can choose from many students for their vacancies, they generally prefer those with some experience. So, it is important to **gain work experience** (paid or unpaid). For example, assisting at an event is considered valuable experience and shows that you can work in the Australian workplace, providing customer service and demonstrating other relevant skills.

**Practise your language and communication skills:** If English isn't your first language, become more confident in conversations and learn some Australian (Aussie) slang.

**Build up your network:** Make contact with industry associations.

**Update your resume:** This needs to be done in Australian format.

### 'Must do' actions in your first year

- Gain local referees by volunteering; actively participate in (student) clubs
- Integrate into the Australian culture through joining social clubs (student clubs, UQ mates etc.)
- Join online social and professional networks (LinkedIn, job search engines)
- Check out which visas you are eligible for upon graduation, and start planning accordingly

## Bonus first-year activities

- **Complete some online career quizzes** such as [myfuture.edu.au/mycareerprofile/interests?activityid=21](http://myfuture.edu.au/mycareerprofile/interests?activityid=21) or [myfuture.edu.au/minicareerexplorer/index.html](http://myfuture.edu.au/minicareerexplorer/index.html).
- **Create a profile** on [volunteeringqld.org.au](http://volunteeringqld.org.au) and on festival websites (Brisbane has festivals almost every weekend and they always need volunteers).

## Bonus activities for any year

- **Check out websites** like [outlook.gov.au](http://outlook.gov.au) or [myfuture.edu.au](http://myfuture.edu.au) to gain insight on job prospects. Prepare your resume for casual work or get advice on equity, gender, migration and legal issues – book an appointment with UQ Union on [uqu.com.au](http://uqu.com.au).
- **Start preparing** for life after graduation by attending faculty workshops or UQ Careers workshops (book via UQ Studenthub).
- **Book a career appointment** with your student employability team in your school/faculty or book an express career appointment online with UQ Career advisers via UQ Studenthub. If you would like personal career advice on your career direction, ask for referral for a longer personal career planning session in the express career appointments.
- **Attend the UQ Careers Fair** to learn about job opportunities and requirements. Do you meet requirements and what must you do to get there? See: [employability.uq.edu.au/careers-fair](http://employability.uq.edu.au/careers-fair).
- **Attend an Employers on campus session** with your favourite employers: book through UQ Studenthub.

# SECOND YEAR

## Second-year focus

**Gain casual work experience:** You will be able to demonstrate your skills in the workplace, which will also allow you to reflect on the experience you gain, and your skills, preferences and aspirations.

**Start looking for university or other (un)paid opportunities:** Preferably relevant to your discipline and interests, consider joining a student club (e.g. Robogals UQ), assisting with an existing research project, or volunteering at a nature conservation Non-Government Organisation.

**Apply job searching and networking strategies:** Once you have casual work experience, you can try to find part-time professional work experience and access the hidden employment market.

**Explore global experiences:** Contact UQ Employability for information about study and overseas short-term mobility.

### 'Must do' actions in your second year

- Join clubs and societies: [uqu.com.au/clubs-societies](http://uqu.com.au/clubs-societies)
- Show genuine interest in the research your lecturers are involved in
- Find out if your environment has any contacts to start networking
- Attend UQ career workshops such as job searching and networking
- Attend industry events in your faculty, school or student club
- Attend UQ Careers special events: Volunteer Expo, Careers Fair, Employers on campus

## Bonus second-year activity

- **Apply networking and job search strategies** to access the hidden employment market.

# PENULTIMATE YEAR

## Penultimate-year focus

**Hone your employability skills:** Decide what you want to do with your degree so that you can articulate relevant skills and strengths in interviews and applications.

**Update your resume:** Include all extracurricular activities and work experience you have completed during your studies.

**Apply for graduate programs:** You need to start looking early as recruitment starts one year prior to graduation.

**Meet relevant job criteria:** Prepare to start your graduate career and check if you meet all requirements for the job of your choice. Some employers expect you to have specific work experience, be involved in the community and have demonstrated leadership, technical or research skills – so you will need to research the prerequisites for your favourite graduate job opportunities.

**Acquire industry work experience:** As a penultimate student, you are usually eligible for internships, work experience (part-time) or vacation work.

**Consider a global experience:** Study or work overseas.

**Join professional associations:** Depending on your discipline, you may be eligible for student membership in organisations such as Engineering Australia, CPA or Ecological Society of Australia etc.

### 'Must do' actions in your penultimate year

- Attend careers workshops and career appointments to become graduation ready
- Attend all career and industry events for networking opportunities
- Consider summer or winter research opportunities
- Create job alerts with your favourite employers, allowing you to check if you are suitable for their graduate opportunities
- Use your online professional social media to network with experts in the field
- Attend the employer presentation of your preferred employers and show your genuine interest by networking

## Bonus penultimate-year activities

- **Investigate summer and winter research** opportunities on [employability.uq.edu.au/winter-research](http://employability.uq.edu.au/winter-research).
- **Check out Global experience** for overseas study and work experience opportunities on [employability.uq.edu.au/global-experiences](http://employability.uq.edu.au/global-experiences).

# FINAL YEAR

## Final-year focus

**Study:** The final year demands can be high. Simultaneously, you may be involved in casual or professional part-time work, community clubs and roles, or research. You also want to make sure that you graduate.

**Start serious networking and job searching:** If you haven't applied for graduate programs, ensure that you have access to relevant graduate job opportunities through creating job alerts at employer careers pages, creating profiles in job search engines (e.g. CareerOne, Seek, and discipline-specific engines such as Physio-bob, Jora etc.)

**Be open to other job opportunities:** Not everyone secures a place in a graduate program. You can also apply for graduate roles or entry-level positions. If you have sufficient professional experience, you can also apply for professional roles.

**Apply for an employability award:** Could all your gained experiences result in additional acknowledgement on your degree certificate?

### 'Must do' actions in your final year

- Attend careers workshops and career appointments to become graduation ready
- Attend all career and industry events for networking opportunities
- Create job alerts (with employers and job search engines), allowing you to check available opportunities and check if you meet the criteria for these job opportunities
- Use your online professional social media to network with experts in the field
- Attend the employer presentation of your preferred employers and show your genuine interest by networking
- Apply for the employability award

## Bonus final-year activity

- **Attend industry specific sessions** organised by your faculty, UQ Careers and student clubs including industry networking events, employer-driven activities, or the annual Volunteer Expo. See: [studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/Type/6/expo-s-and-fair](http://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/Type/6/expo-s-and-fair).

### Bonus penultimate and final-year activity

- **Check out the UQ Employability award** at [employability.uq.edu.au/award](http://employability.uq.edu.au/award).



## Useful resources

### Employability services at UQ

#### UQ Union

##### [uqu.com.au](http://uqu.com.au)

- Career appointments – preparing for casual work
- Immigration and legal advice

#### Your faculty Student Experience team

- Internships and industry placements
- In-faculty appointments and workshops
- Check your faculty website (e.g. [eait.uq.edu.au/employability](http://eait.uq.edu.au/employability))

#### UQ Employability

##### [studenthub.uq.edu.au](http://studenthub.uq.edu.au)

##### **Workshops:** [studenthub/students/events/career and job assistance/](http://studenthub/students/events/career%20and%20job%20assistance/)

- Applications: how to write a resume and cover letter
- Interview: Identify and building strong responses
- Job searching and networking
- Job searching for international students
- Graduate recruitment and internships: online applications

##### **Appointments:** [studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/appointments](http://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/appointments)

- Express career appointment about resumes, employment options, other queries (10 minutes)
- Individual career appointment for career planning or if you are confused about your career direction (30 minutes – referral through Express career appointments)

##### **Resources:** [studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/resources](http://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/resources)

- Online videos by employers
- Fact sheets on all relevant career topics including interview skills, networking, job searching, applications, and many more
- Information sheets about careers with certain discipline

##### [employability.uq.edu.au](http://employability.uq.edu.au)

- Overseas study and work experience UQ Global experiences
- Summer and winter research
- UQ Employability award

#### Ventures

##### [ventures.uq.edu.au](http://ventures.uq.edu.au)

- Participate or volunteer at the startup hub

### Job searching skills

#### Job searching in Australia

##### UQ Studenthub videos

- Tips from Australian recruiters for International job seekers
- Hear from Industry about the benefits of international experiences
- Skills and experiences which interest recruiters
- Success in the workplace – Tips from Industry

##### Popular links

- Studenthub, Gradconnection, LinkedIn

#### Job searching overseas

##### UQ Studenthub resources

- Job search overseas (fact-sheet)
- Graduate job searching for International students (fact-sheet)
- Are you keen to work overseas but not sure where to start? (information page)

##### Popular links

- GlobalGrad, GoinGlobal

#### Employability skills videos

- Networking: It's never too early – International Students [vimeo.com/86267219](https://vimeo.com/86267219)
- Job searching and Application Tips for International Students [vimeo.com/85992069](https://vimeo.com/85992069)



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### For further details, please contact:

#### Careers Service

Student Employability Centre

[careers@uq.edu.au](mailto:careers@uq.edu.au)

[employability.uq.edu.au/find-a-job](http://employability.uq.edu.au/find-a-job)



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