

Supporting Your Child's Future: Post-School Pathways, Study & Wellbeing

As students move through the senior years of schooling, families play a vital role in supporting learning, wellbeing, and conversations about life after school. Queensland offers a wide range of post-school pathways, and success can take many different forms over time.

University, TAFE, trades, and direct employment are all valid and valued options, and many students will move between pathways as their interests and goals develop.

University Options in Queensland

Queensland universities offer diverse learning environments, entry pathways, and areas of specialisation.

- **The University of Queensland (UQ)**
A research-focused university offering degrees in health, science, engineering, business, law, and education, with ATAR and alternative entry pathways.
- **Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**
Known for industry connections and practical learning across technology, business, education, health, engineering, and creative industries.
- **Griffith University**
A multi-campus university with strengths in health, education, criminology, environmental science, business, and the arts, and strong student support services.
- **Southern Cross University (SCU)**
Offering a supportive learning environment with smaller class sizes, SCU provides courses in education, health sciences, business, and environmental studies across northern NSW and South East Queensland.
- **Bond University**
Australia's first private not-for-profit university, offering accelerated degrees, small class sizes, personalised learning, and a range of scholarships.

Most universities offer ATAR and non-ATAR pathways, early or conditional offers, TAFE-to-university options, and opportunities to attend open days or online information sessions.

TAFE, Trades & Vocational Pathways

Vocational education and training (VET) pathways suit students who enjoy hands-on learning or want to enter the workforce sooner.

- **TAFE Queensland** offers certificates, diplomas, and apprenticeships in areas such as construction, automotive, health, hospitality, business, and information technology.
- **Gold Coast Trades College** specialises in trade training for careers including carpentry, plumbing, electrical, engineering, and automotive trades.

These pathways provide nationally recognised qualifications, job-ready skills, and strong links to employment and further training.

Employment & Work Readiness

Some students choose to move directly into employment after school. Schools support this by developing key employability skills, including:

- Communication and teamwork
- Reliability and time management
- Problem-solving and initiative
- Workplace safety and digital skills

Part-time work, volunteering, and structured work experience are valuable ways for students to build confidence and workplace readiness.

Career Resources for Families

Reliable online resources can help families explore options and support informed decisions:

- **myfuture** – <https://myfuture.edu.au>
Career exploration tools, interest profiling, job information, and education pathways.
- **QTAC** – <https://www.qtac.edu.au>
Information on tertiary applications, entry requirements, and pathways.
- **TAFE Queensland** – <https://tafeqld.edu.au>
Details on vocational courses, apprenticeships, and traineeships.
- **Job Outlook** – <https://joboutlook.gov.au>
Labour market trends, future workforce demand, and job information.

Exploring these resources together can help students feel more confident and supported.

Study & Wellbeing Tips for the Year Ahead

Academic success is closely linked to wellbeing. Families can support students by encouraging balanced habits throughout the year:

Study tips

- Use a planner or digital calendar to manage assessment dates
- Break large tasks into smaller, achievable steps
- Encourage regular study routines rather than last-minute cramming
- Support help-seeking early if a student is struggling

Wellbeing tips

- Maintain regular sleep routines, especially during busy assessment periods
- Encourage physical activity and time away from screens
- Support healthy boundaries between school, work, and downtime
- Keep communication open and check in regularly

A balanced approach supports both learning and long-term wellbeing.

Looking Ahead

Post-school pathways are no longer linear, and many young people will change direction as they gain experience and confidence. With encouragement, access to reliable information, and a focus on wellbeing, families can help students navigate their options and move forward with confidence.

Every pathway — university, TAFE, trades, or employment — can lead to meaningful and successful futures.