



2024 UQ Skills Destination Australia Scholarships

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Purpose

The [Destination Australia program](#) is a scholarship funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and aligns with the *Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030*.

The objectives of the grant are to:

- support higher education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers in regional Australia to provide scholarships to domestic and international students to study in regional Australia
- facilitate domestic and international students completing an Australian qualification at a higher education or VET provider in regional Australia
- help fix areas of skills shortages and fill future skills needs by prioritising domestic and international students studying courses that are aligned with the [Australian Government's National Skills Priority List](#).
- provide scholarships for domestic students from underrepresented groups to enable them to access tertiary education in regional Australia.

Scholarship details

The Department of Education has offered a scholarship for domestic students commencing eligible UQ Skills Diploma programs at The University of Queensland's (UQ) Gatton campus in 2024.

UQ Skills is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO code: #1511) within The University of Queensland's Faculty of Science.

This document sets out the terms and conditions that apply to this scholarship. This information is specifically for **domestic** students.

Scholarship name	UQ Skills Destination Australia Scholarships (Domestic)
Available to:	Future students enrolling in an eligible UQ Skills Diploma program at UQ's Gatton campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma of Agriculture AHC50116
Level of study:	Diploma programs of up to one (1) year duration.
Citizenship:	Australian citizens and Permanent Residents, or New Zealand citizens.
Award value:	AUD \$15,000 per year, for the duration of their eligible Diploma program (up to one (1) year) – paid as \$7,500 per half-year period.
Applications close:	23:59 Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) on 2 February 2024 for a Term 1 (12 February) commencement.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the UQ Skills Destination Australia Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Satisfactorily complete the application process as outlined below (see 'How to apply'), and
- Be able to be classified as an Australian citizen, Permanent Resident, or a New Zealand citizen, and
- *Commence full-time enrolment as a new student in an eligible Diploma program (see Appendix) at UQ's Gatton campus in 2024 (i.e. be new to UQ Skills and/or be new to the eligible program of study), and
- By the scholarship closing date, submit all requested documentation to meet conditions associated with an offer from UQ Skills for an eligible Diploma program (see Appendix), and
- #Maintain ongoing residency in a regional area for the duration of the degree/scholarship, as defined by the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure \(2016\)](#) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (refer to the [Health Workforce Locator map](#) (ASGS Remoteness Areas 2016)), and

- #Before payment of the scholarship, provide evidence of their residential address in the regional area each term (before the academic census date) through a rental agreement, utility bill, statutory declaration or other evidence individually agreed upon with UQ Skills to confirm their residence; and
- Be from an underrepresented group, such as students who are from a low socioeconomic status (low-SES), those who are first-in-family to undertake tertiary study, those living with disability, and First Nations people.

Note:

- #Under the [Destination Australia Guidelines](#), where a course includes study outside a regional area (for example, for a required clinical placement), residency away from the regional area is permitted for:
 - no more than one study period (not exceeding 6 months) per qualification where the qualification is longer than 2 years, or
 - 25% of the qualification length where the qualification is 2 years or shorter, and
 - where the requirements of a compulsory placement exceed the permitted study period away from a regional area, prior approval must be sought from UQ Skills (skills@uq.edu.au) and the UQ Sponsored Students Unit (destination.australia@uq.edu.au). Continued eligibility for the Destination Australia scholarship will need to be re-assessed by The University of Queensland and the Department of Education.
- The government funding received for the scholarship stipulates that for the duration of the scholarship students must maintain ongoing residency in a regional area of Australia as classified by the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure \(2016\)](#) – refer to the [Health Workforce Locator](#) map (ASGS Remoteness Areas 2016).

Ineligibility

Applicants will be considered ineligible for the UQ Skills Destination Australia Scholarship if they:

- Have not completed the application process for entry into one of the eligible Diploma programs delivered at UQ's Gatton campus by the scholarship closing date (see 'How to apply').
- Have already commenced and completed at least one term of study at UQ Skills (in either an eligible or ineligible Diploma program), unless they seek a program change to commence a new course of study in an eligible Diploma program in Term 1, 2024.

Note:

- UQ Skills or UQ alumni commencing an eligible Diploma program in a different level of study in 2024 (i.e. Diploma after a Certificate IV or Bachelors) are eligible to apply.
- Existing UQ Skills or UQ students (in an ineligible program) who seek a program change to commence a new course of study in an eligible Diploma program in 2024 are eligible to apply.
- Are enrolled in a program not listed on the list of eligible Diploma programs fully delivered at UQ's Gatton campus by UQ Skills (see Appendix).
- Simultaneously hold another scholarship from UQ Skills or another UQ School, Faculty or unit for their study at UQ Skills. If an applicant holds or has been offered another scholarship, the applicant should choose which to retain.
- #Live outside of a regional area, as defined by the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure \(2016\)](#) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, at any stage during their Diploma program or scholarship.
- Defer, interrupt, withdraw or cancel their studies or enrolment in an eligible UQ Skills Diploma program fully delivered at UQ's Gatton campus. The scholarship cannot be deferred under any circumstances.
- Are an international student.

How to apply

1. Lodge a completed application pack for one of the eligible Diploma programs fully delivered at UQ's Gatton campus (see Appendix) by emailing ugskills@uq.edu.au.
2. Receive a UQ Skills Student ID Number. You must meet all conditions by the scholarship closing date. The offer does not need to be accepted by the scholarship closing date.
3. Complete and submit the [UQ Skills Destination Australia Scholarship application form](#). As part of the online application, applicants must submit a personal statement (300 words maximum), outlining:
 - Why are you interested in studying in a regional area in Australia?
 - How have you contributed to your local community, and how do you plan to enrich the UQ Gatton community?
 - What motivated you to choose your intended study program?
4. Application deadline: UQ Skills must receive your program and scholarship applications by the scholarship closing date at 23:59 Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST). Late scholarship applications will not be considered:
 - 2 February 2024 for a Term 1 (12 February) commencement.

Selection process

Following each closing date, applications will be considered through the following process:

- A selection panel chaired by the Faculty of Science Associate Dean (Academic) (or nominee) will select scholarship recipients.
- Selection will be based on the selection criteria shown below.
- Wherever possible, UQ will notify applicants of the outcome of their application within two (2) weeks of the scholarship closing date. UQ reserves the right to extend the scholarship outcome notification period.
- Students will be notified by email if they have been awarded a scholarship and will have until the deadline specified in the email to accept. Students who do not accept by the due date will not be awarded the scholarship and will not be automatically considered for subsequent scholarship offer rounds.
- The decision of the Associate Dean (Academic) (or nominee) is final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

Note:

- The scholarship cannot be deferred under any circumstances.
- UQ reserves the right to alter, update or amend the Terms and Conditions of the scholarship based upon:
 - changes to the Destination Australia program grant agreement, or
 - academic or administrative changes to the eligible UQ Skills program/s of study, or
 - advice from the Department of Education, and/or the Destination Australia [Community Grants Hub](#) unit, or
 - other unforeseen or exceptional circumstances.
- UQ reserves the right not to award the scholarship in a given year, following appropriate negotiations with and approvals from the Department of Education, and/or the Destination Australia [Community Grants Hub](#) unit.

Selection criteria

UQ will select scholarship recipients based on:

- Eligibility as outlined above and in the Department of Education's [Destination Australia Guidelines](#).
- Response to personal statement in the online application form.
- UQ values diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the university. The selection panel may take these values into account.

Obligations of scholarship recipients

Each scholarship winner must, for the duration of their Diploma program and/or their scholarship:

- Commence study in an eligible Diploma program (see Appendix) in the term indicated in their UQ Skills offer letter/confirmation of enrolment.
- Maintain continuous full-time enrolment via internal study mode (in-person at UQ's Gatton campus) in the approved study program for which this scholarship has been offered.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the [UQ Skills Student Handbook](#), in accordance with the [UQ PPL 3.50.14 Academic Progression](#), the [UQ PPL 3.60.01 Student Charter](#), the [ASQA Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTOs\) 2015](#), and the relevant UQ Skills Training and Assessment Strategy throughout their approved UQ Skills Diploma program.
- Diligently and to the best of their ability apply themselves in making the best possible attempt to successfully complete the program of study.
- If the recipient wishes to change their program of study or alter their full-time study load, or if they wish to defer, interrupt or withdraw from their approved UQ Skills study program at any stage during their Diploma program or the scholarship period, they must first notify UQ Skills (uqskills@uq.edu.au) and UQ Sponsored Students Unit (destination.australia@uq.edu.au) in writing.
 - UQ will reassess the student's eligibility to continue receiving the scholarship in future terms according to the Scholarship Terms and Conditions and the Department of Education's [Destination Australia Guidelines](#).
- #Maintain residency in a regional area, as defined by the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard Remoteness Structure \(2016\)](#) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (refer to the [Health Workforce Locator map](#) (ASGS Remoteness Areas 2016), for the duration of the program and/or scholarship.
- #Before payment of the scholarship, provide evidence of their residential address in the regional area each term (before the academic census date - see Appendix) through a rental agreement, utility bill, statutory declaration or other evidence individually agreed upon to confirm their residence.
- Permit UQ to share their name and information with the Department of Education, for the purpose of reporting to the Department of Education on the outcomes of the Destination Australia program.
- Provide a testimonial and/or be interviewed for a feature profile and press release for the purposes of print, radio and electronic publicity, accompanied by an appropriate photograph of themselves, and/or participate in a video project promoting Destination Australia and/or study at UQ Skills and the UQ Gatton campus if requested by The University of Queensland and/or the Department of Education.
- Upon graduation from their UQ Skills Diploma program for which the scholarship has been awarded, complete a graduate destination survey as issued by The University of Queensland for the purpose of reporting to the Department of Education on the outcomes of the Destination Australia program, and/or other promotional purposes as determined by UQ Skills, The University of Queensland and/or the Department of Education.

Payment of scholarship

- Payment of scholarships is conditional on scholarship recipients meeting the obligations outlined above as at each scheduled payment date (see Destination Australia Scholarship payment schedule below).
- UQ will pay the scholarship in AUD \$7,500 disbursements each in the first and third terms of enrolment, after confirming the student is eligible and fulfils all obligations. The first instalment will be paid to the student within four (4) weeks of the student commencing their eligible program of study. The second instalment will be paid to the student no later than six (6) months from the payment of the first instalment, after confirming the student remains eligible, fulfils all obligations and is making satisfactory academic progress.
- If the student defers, interrupts or withdraws from their approved UQ Skills Diploma program after the scholarship payment has been made (either before or after the academic census date - see Appendix), then they may be requested to repay the paid amount.
- UQ will pay into each recipient's nominated Australian bank account within 20 business days of the scheduled payment date in the first semester of study.

UQ Skills Destination Australia Scholarships payment schedule

- UQ will pay the scholarship in two instalments of \$7,500. The first instalment will be after the census date in Term 1 (March) and the second instalment will be after the census date in Term 3 (August) (as per the [Academic Calendar](#)).
- The second instalment (\$7,500) will be paid to the student no later than six (6) months from the payment of the first instalment, after confirming the student remains eligible, fulfils all obligations and is making satisfactory academic progress.

Termination of scholarship

The University will terminate the scholarship:

- if the recipient does not enrol in an eligible Diploma program in the proposed term of commencement; or
- if the recipient fails to maintain a full-time enrolment via internal study mode (at the UQ Gatton campus) throughout their approved UQ Skills Diploma program; or
- if the recipient defers, interrupts or withdraws from their approved UQ Skills Diploma program at any stage during the scholarship period; or
- if the student commits serious misconduct; or
- if the student fails a unit in their first term; or
- if the student fails to fulfil their obligations as a scholarship recipient as defined in this document; or
- if the student fails to achieve satisfactory academic progress throughout their approved UQ Skills Diploma program as per the [UQ Skills Student Handbook](#), in accordance with the [UQ PPL 3.50.14 Academic Progression](#), the [UQ PPL 3.60.01 Student Charter](#), the [ASQA Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTOs\) 2015](#), and the relevant UQ Skills Training and Assessment Strategy throughout their approved UQ Skills Diploma program.

Appeals against termination of scholarship

Appeals regarding the termination of the scholarship will be considered by the Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Science (or nominee) and/or the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Partnerships), who may consider this and seek approval from the Department of Education.

Definitions

For the purpose of this scholarship, in these rules:

1. **Scholarship** means the Destination Australia scholarship offered by The University of Queensland as part of the Destination Australia program, funded by the Australian Government Department of Education.
2. **Eligible diploma program** means a diploma program offered by UQ Skills fully delivered at UQ's Gatton campus as listed in the list of eligible UQ Skills programs (See Appendix):
 - [Diploma of Agriculture AHC50116](#)
3. **Department of Education** means the Australian Government Department of Education.
4. **UQ Skills** means UQ Skills Registered Training Organisation (RTO code: #1511) within The University of Queensland's Faculty of Science.
5. **UQ** means The University of Queensland (CRICOS Provider Number 00025B) and The University of Queensland's Gatton campus.
6. **Community Grants Hub** means the Destination Australia Community Grants Hub unit within the Australian Government Department of Social Services.
7. **ASQA** means the Australian Government Australian Skills Quality Authority.
8. **Full-time study** means a standard full-time study load per term, as defined by UQ Skills. 'Full-time' study at UQ Skills is defined as 100% enrolment in the number of units of competency each term as set by UQ Skills. Please note the number of units of competency for full-time enrolment varies each term:
 - Term 1, 2024 – 3 units
 - Term 2, 2024 – 3 units
 - Term 3, 2024 – 4 units
9. **New student** means a student commencing full-time enrolment in a new course of study for the first time at UQ Skills in 2024; or a UQ Skills or UQ alumnus commencing an eligible Diploma program in a different level of study in 2024 (i.e. Diploma after a Certificate IV or Bachelors); or an existing UQ Skills student (in an ineligible program) who seeks a program change to commence a new course of study in an eligible Diploma program in 2024.

Appendix

List of eligible UQ Skills programs delivered at UQ Gatton

The following UQ Skills program is eligible for the Destination Australia scholarships as it is fully delivered by UQ Skills (RTO code: #1511) at the UQ Gatton campus:

- Diploma of Agriculture AHC50116

UQ Skills 2024 academic census dates

The academic census dates at UQ Skills (RTO code: #1511) each term in 2024 are as follows:

- Term 1: 26 March 2024
- Term 2: 20 May 2024
- Term 3: 12 August 2024

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RTO #1511 | CRICOS Provider Number 00025B