



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Senior subject selection guide

A five-step guide for Year 10 students



STEP 1

Understand why senior subjects matter for university

So, you've been asked to create a SET plan and you're interested in studying at university – maybe even at The University of Queensland (UQ).

What do the senior subjects you choose in Years 11 and 12 have to do with that? Well, it's all about prerequisites.

What are prerequisites?

Prerequisites are subjects you need to have completed before you can start studying at most universities (including UQ). Undertaking these subjects prepares you to succeed in your chosen degree, and the easiest way to complete them is as part of Years 11 and 12.

How does this relate to my SET plan?

You'll need to record what senior subjects you want to take in your SET plan. To give you the best chance of getting into UQ, you should ensure you're taking subjects that are prerequisites for the UQ degrees you're interested in studying.

Does this mean I need to settle on a degree now?

Not at all! Whether you know what you want to study, or you're still in the investigation stage, we encourage you to keep your options open and take senior subjects that will help you get into several degrees of interest.

For example, if you take English or Literature, and Mathematical Methods, you could be eligible to study Commerce, Computer Science and Mathematics at UQ.

If you added one of either Chemistry, Physics or Biology to these senior subjects, you'd also be eligible to study Science, Biomedical Science and Biotechnology. There are even UQ degrees that ONLY require English or Literature as a prerequisite, so you'll have plenty of degrees to choose from.

You can explore your options in more detail in Step 3. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

So, I can just study English or Literature and I'll be good to get into a UQ degree?

Not exactly. If you want to take the most straightforward pathway to university after high school, you'll also need to:

- get an ATAR (you can chat to your teacher or guidance counsellor about how to create a SET plan that will put you on an ATAR path)
- have an ATAR high enough to get into the degrees you're interested in
- achieve a grade of C or higher in your Year 12 subjects that are prerequisites for your degree/s of interest.

Some degrees at UQ also have additional entry requirements, such as interviews or tests.

Don't panic!

If you're thinking this all sounds like a lot, remember that getting into university is a gradual process that you'll chip away at over the next few years. You'll prepare for an ATAR and focus on achieving the grades you need with plenty of support from your teachers.

All you need to do now is think about what senior subjects you want to take. Let's get the ball rolling by exploring your interests and matching them with university study options.

STEP 2 | What does it mean?

You might know exactly what you want to study at university, or you might not know at all. If you're not sure what you want to study, start by thinking about what subjects you enjoy at school and what things you're interested in. This table is a great starting point to help you decide what university degrees might align with your interests.

I want to ...	I'm really good at computers, science and numbers	I'm really good at pictures, words and being creative
Explain things to others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Science - Biotechnology - Clinical Exercise Physiology - Computer Science - Dental Science - Economics - Education - Engineering - Health Sciences - Information Technology - Mathematics - Medicine - Pharmacy - Politics, Philosophy and Economics - Psychological Science - Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Humanities - Arts - Communication - Education - Health, Sport and Physical Education - Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management - Journalism - Law - Nursing - Occupational Therapy - Politics, Philosophy and Economics - Social Science - Social Work - Speech Pathology - Western Civilisation
Use money wisely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Business - Advanced Finance and Economics - Advanced Science - Agribusiness - Business Management - Commerce - Economics - Mathematics - Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Business - Business Management - Criminology and Criminal Justice - International Studies - Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Help the environment and animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Science - Agribusiness - Agricultural Science - Computer Science - Engineering - Environmental Management - Health Sciences - Information Technology - Politics, Philosophy and Economics - Science - Veterinary Science - Veterinary Technology - Wildlife Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Management - Law - Urban Planning - Social Science - Wildlife Science
Be creative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Business - Agricultural Science - Architectural Design - Computer Science - Dentistry - Education - Engineering - Health Sciences - Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences - Information Technology - Mathematics - Psychological Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Business - Advanced Humanities - Architectural Design - Arts - Business Management - Communication - Design - Education - Information Technology - Journalism - Law - Music - Urban Planning
Make and build things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architectural Design - Biotechnology - Computer Science - Dentistry - Engineering - Information Technology - Pharmacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Architectural Design - Arts - Design - Engineering - Health, Sport and Physical Education
Help others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Business - Advanced Finance and Economics - Agricultural Science - Biomedical Science - Biotechnology - Clinical Exercise Physiology - Commerce - Computer Science - Dental Science - Economics - Education - Engineering - Exercise and Sport Sciences - Health Sciences - Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences - Information Technology - Medicine - Midwifery - Nursing - Occupational Therapy - Pharmacy - Physiotherapy - Politics, Philosophy and Economics - Speech Pathology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts - Business Management - Criminology and Criminal Justice - Education - Health Sciences - Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management - International Studies - Law - Politics, Philosophy and Economics - Psychological Science - Social Science - Social Work

STEP 3 | Check UQ degree prerequisites

Now that you've identified some of the degrees you may be interested in based on your goals and strengths, check their prerequisites to help you decide what senior subjects to select.

● This symbol indicates that the subject is a compulsory prerequisite, which means you must complete it before you start your degree. English/Literature is compulsory for all UQ degrees, and some degrees have other compulsory subjects as well.

●.....● This symbol indicates that you have a choice of subjects to complete. For instance, you might need to complete one science subject as a prerequisite, but you can choose whether you study Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) has specific requirements – please see footnote [^] below.

R This symbol means that it's recommended you complete the subject, but it's not compulsory. You don't have to complete these subjects to gain entry to the degree, but it will help with your prior knowledge.

Finally, certain degrees have further entry requirements on top of subject prerequisites, such as an audition or test. For the full details on entry requirements for each UQ undergraduate degree, visit our website, study.uq.edu.au.

* This program is only offered as a dual program with Arts, Business Management, Mathematics, Music or Science. You must also meet the entry requirements (including subject prerequisites) for the non-education degree.

x If you're interested in studying medicine at UQ, please visit study.uq.edu.au/admissions/doctor-medicine for a full breakdown of the unique entry requirements of this degree.

[^] The prerequisites for the Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) are English/Literature, Mathematical Methods, plus two of Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics and Specialist Mathematics (at least one of which must be Chemistry or Physics).

- Where a prerequisite for any program is listed as Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics will also be accepted in lieu.

Studying Specialist Mathematics (Units 3 & 4, C) and both Chemistry and Physics is recommended as students will have increased flexibility in their studies.



BACHELOR'S PROGRAM	SUBJECT PREREQUISITES							
	English / Literature	General Mathematics	Mathematical Methods~	Specialist Mathematics	Chemistry	Physics	Biology	Additional Subjects
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT								
Agribusiness	●	●.....●						
Agricultural Science	●	●.....●						
Environmental Management (Honours)	●							
Veterinary Science (Honours)	●		●		●	●.....●		
Veterinary Technology	●	●.....●			R.....R.....R			
Wildlife Science	●	●.....●			R.....R.....R			
ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING								
Architectural Design	●							
Design	●							
Urban Planning	●							
ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES								
Advanced Humanities (Honours)	●							
Arts	●							
Communication	●							
Criminology and Criminal Justice	●							
International Studies	●							
Journalism	●							
Music	●							
Social Science	●							
BUSINESS, ECONOMICS AND LAW								
Advanced Business (Honours)	●		●.....●					
Advanced Finance and Economics (Honours)	●		●.....●					
Business Management	●	●.....●.....●						
Commerce	●		●					
Economics	●		●					
Laws (Honours)	●							
Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Honours)	●		●.....●					
Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management	●	●.....●.....●						

BACHELOR'S PROGRAM	SUBJECT PREREQUISITES							
	English / Literature	General Mathematics	Mathematical Methods~	Specialist Mathematics	Chemistry	Physics	Biology	Additional Subjects
EDUCATION								
Education (Primary)	●	●.....●.....●						
Education (Secondary) *	●	●.....●.....●						
ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING								
Computer Science	●		●	R				
Engineering (Honours) *	●		●	R	●.....●			
Engineering (Honours)/Master of Engineering #	●		●	R	●.....●			
Information Technology	●		●					
HEALTH, BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES AND MEDICINE								
Biomedical Science	●		●		●.....●.....●			
Clinical Exercise Physiology (Honours)	●				●.....●.....●			
Dental Science (Honours)	●				●		R	
Exercise and Sport Sciences (Honours)	●				●.....●.....●			
Health Sciences	●				R.....R.....R			
Health, Sport and Physical Education (Honours)	●	●.....●.....●			●.....●.....●			
Human Movement and Nutrition Science	●	R.....R.....R			R.....R.....R			
Midwifery	●							
Nursing	●				R.....R.....R			
Nutrition Science/Master of Dietetics Studies	●	●.....●.....●			●.....●.....●			
Occupational Therapy (Honours)	●				●.....●.....●			
Pharmacy (Honours)	●	●.....●.....●			●		R	
Physiotherapy (Honours)	●				●.....●.....●			
Psychological Science (Honours)	●							
Social Work (Honours)	●							
Speech Pathology (Honours)	●				●.....●.....●			
Medicine (Doctor of) *	●							
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS								
Advanced Science (Honours) ^	●		●	●.....●.....●.....●.....●				
Biotechnology	●		●		●.....●.....●			
Mathematics	●		●	R				
Science *	●		●		●.....●.....●			

STEP 4 | Make a plan for your future

Name: _____

Take a moment to think about your current high school subjects and list the subjects you enjoy the most.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Use the table in Step 2 to identify potential UQ degrees that you may be interested in studying.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

To be eligible to apply for these degrees, list the subjects that you will need to complete in Years 11 and 12, using the table in Step 3.

- *English / Literature* _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Step 5 outlines programs and events that may help you narrow down what you would like to study at UQ and how you can start your journey to university. List the ones you'd like to find out more about.

- _____
- _____



You might also like to explore the types of careers a degree at UQ will prepare you for. Considering specific careers can help you clarify your goals for your SET plan.

[Scan QR code to explore career options.](#)

STEP 5 | Explore your future at UQ

Meet like-minded peers

Young ChangeMakers

If you're a motivated high school student, YCM is an excellent opportunity to discover, learn and engage with UQ's academic community and like-minded students from across Queensland.

Find out more at young-changemakers.uq.edu.au.

Experience university

Enhanced Studies Program

Want to try out university before committing to tertiary study? With this free program, you complete a university course during either Year 11 or 12. You will receive one adjustment to your selection rank, and you may receive credit for the course you completed if you go on to study at UQ. Some courses are available externally or via flexible delivery.

Find out more at esp.uq.edu.au.

InspireU camps

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students can explore their study and career options through our various on-campus experiences. Build relationships with Indigenous peers and university staff to ease the transition from high school to university.

Find out more at study.uq.edu.au/inspireu.

The information is accurate at April 2025. However, the University has many programs and courses, and updates them from time to time and without notice. It is your responsibility to visit study.uq.edu.au for up-to-date information.

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Discover UQ student life

Open Day

Find out about programs and courses, explore the campus and facilities, meet staff and current students, and enjoy a range of fun activities.

Find out more at study.uq.edu.au/open-day.

More information



Give us a call

Ring our dedicated call centre for support and advice
+61 7 3346 9872



Ask us a question

Email us your query and receive helpful advice about study and life at UQ
ask@uq.edu.au



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study.uq.edu.au