



Country  
Universities  
Centre  
MOUNT ISA

# EXPLORE YOUR STUDY OPTIONS

# PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

## Pre-Study Digital Toolkit



Not reading digitally?  
Scan this to access all  
the links provided in  
the toolkit



# ARE YOU READY TO START YOUR OWN STUDY JOURNEY?

Pre-study toolkit is designed for students who are ready to explore their Tertiary Education. This provides the students a platform where they can access and find relevant resources related to university, VET application and course selection.

We strive to help every student identify their aspirations and options, empowering them to confidently take the next step towards Tertiary Education. It's a unique opportunity for the students to build their own study journey.

## Who Benefits from This Toolkit

**1**

### Recent High School Graduates:

- Those who need to strengthen their academic foundation before starting a university degree.

**2**

### Students with Gaps in Study and Mature Age:

- Individuals who haven't studied for a while and need to refresh their skills.

**3**

### Equity Deserving Students:

- Programs are available to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to education.

**4**

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students:

- Specific enabling programs are available to support this students in preparing for tertiary study.

# FIND YOUR PATHWAY TO HIGHER EDUCATION



## Relocation / CUC Mount Isa

Choosing between a university study hub and relocating to the city for higher education depends on your priorities. Study hubs offer support, technology, and a campus-like environment without leaving your community, which can improve access and success rates for regional students.

### Scholarships / Financial Support

Scholarships for higher education students can be broadly categorized as academic-based, background-based or area-of-study-based, offered by governments, universities, and external organizations.

### Pathways

Pathways are flexible educational routes that allow students to achieve a university degree, even if they don't meet direct entry requirements. These programs, such as foundation programs, diploma courses, provide a supportive introduction to higher education, develop academic and often grant academic credit for completed studies, potentially shortening the time and cost of a degree.

### Early Entry

Early Entry programs to students, allowing to secure a university offer before receiving the final ATAR results. These programs typically involve a principal's recommendation or a direct application, are often conditional on meeting subject prerequisites, and provide a conditional offer that becomes unconditional once you meet those requirements.

### Options

Study options for higher education include a wide range of degrees such as bachelor's degrees, postgraduate degrees (master's, doctoral), graduate certificates, and diplomas, and certificates.

### Academic Entry

Academic entry refers to the admission requirements a student must meet, primarily based on their academic qualifications and past performance, to be offered a place in a university course.



# ARE YOU THINKING OF PURSUING YOUR DREAM THROUGH EDUCATION?

It is normal to feel overwhelmed while navigating to University/VET portals but remember you are not alone and there are resources available to help you navigate the process, such as university advisors and student support services. Take time to understand University/VET requirements, research different courses, and don't be afraid to ask questions or seek guidance when you need it. Building a support network of family, friends, University/VET staff can make a big difference in your journey.

## ARE YOU GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL?

*Do you need help with advice for school leavers?*

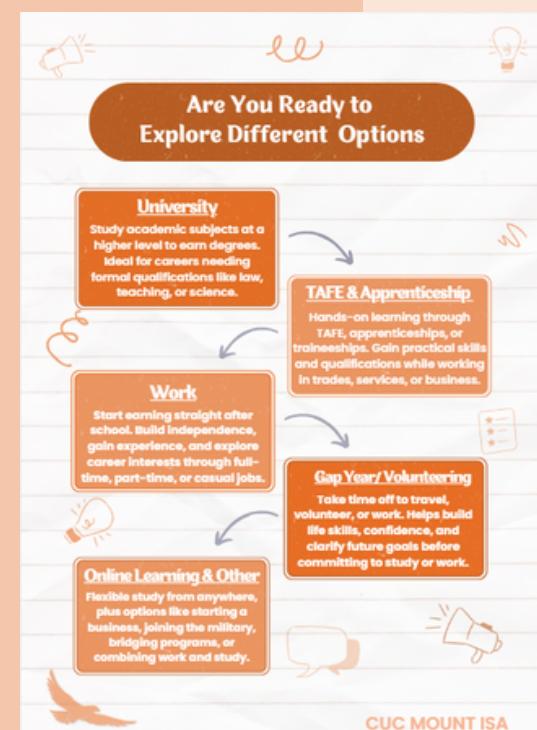
End of secondary education can make students feel underprepared to enter adulthood and choose the next steps towards their dream life.

The School Leaver Toolkit is a collection of resources and information designed to help young people make informed decisions about their future after school.

## FEELING LOST ON WHAT TO DO AFTER SCHOOL?

We created another toolkit that guides you through exploration of options such as further education, training, or entering the workforce and provide support to develop essential life skills for adulthood including financial management and planning.

[>> Access the digital toolkit here.](#)



# How do I get started?

With so many courses to choose from it is hard to know where to begin especially if you live in a regional area.

Course Seeker is a tool where you will find comprehensive and transparent information about Higher Education admissions process, and by using this tool you can even compare the courses from different institutions.

## **Course Seeker can help you with:**



## **Other useful links:**



# ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Academic entry requirements for tertiary education typically involve a combination of completed secondary qualifications like Year 12 or equivalent, a minimum entry score in ATAR, subject prerequisites, and English language proficiency, though requirements vary significantly by institution and course. Alternative pathways such as foundation courses, diplomas, or recognition of prior learning (RPL) may also be available to meet these criteria.

## Where to Find Specific Requirements

**QLD Government Website**

**QTAC**

### QLD University Websites

[Queensland University of Technology](#)

[James Cook University](#)

[University of Southern Queensland](#)

[The University of Queensland](#)

[Central Queensland University](#)

[Griffith University](#)

[University of the Sunshine Coast](#)

[Bond University](#)

### VET Websites

[TAFE Queensland](#)

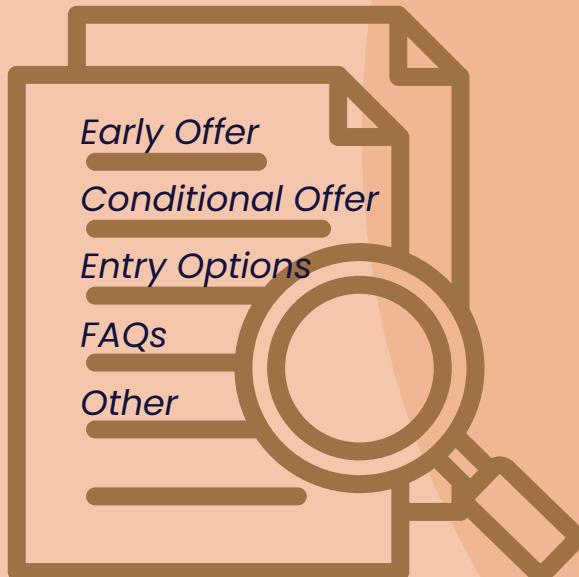
[Study Queensland](#)

# EARLY ADMISSION

Early admission or early entry offers Year 12 students a pathway to receive a conditional university offer before final exam results are released, typically based on Year 11 results, school recommendations, and extracurriculars rather than an ATAR.

Eligibility, application processes, and specific criteria vary for early offers by university. These offers reduce stress and provide an early offer of admission, but students must still meet certain conditions, like completing Year 12 and specific prerequisites, to convert the conditional offer into an unconditional place.

## Resources for Early Entry



[QTAC](#)

[FAQs & List of Early Entry Programs](#)

[How to Get Early Entry Offers in Queensland](#)

# TERTIARY PREPARATION PATHWAYS

Tertiary preparation pathways provide alternative routes into higher education for students who don't meet direct entry requirements, offering foundational study skills, academic knowledge, and the confidence to succeed in a degree.

Depending on the provider and your eligibility many options available to Australian citizens and permanent residents for free.

## Resources for TPP

[QCE Pathway](#)

[QTAC Pathways,  
Enabling & Bridging](#)

[2026 Fee-Free Uni Ready  
Course Booklet](#)

[Explore Your Career  
Pathways](#)

## Some Institutions with Pathway Options

[Central Queensland  
University](#)

[James Cook University](#)

[Queensland University of  
Technology](#)

[TAFE Queensland](#)

[University of the  
Sunshine Coast](#)

[University of the  
Southern Queensland](#)

# SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students can explore a variety of scholarship/financial support opportunities to help with their study costs.

Students should first identify their eligibility for the specific scholarship/Financial support such as academic merit, citizenship, or specific course enrolment. Next, they must locate and meet the application requirements, which typically involve completing an online application form, submitting academic transcripts, and providing a statement of purpose. Finally, they should submit the completed application well before the closing date, following all instructions carefully.

## Useful Links

### National Support

[Queensland Government Financial Support info](#)  
[Study Assist Loans and Support](#)  
[Fee Free TAFE 2026](#)

### Local Support

[Mount Isa Employment Pathways](#)  
[Employing Queensland: Innovative Pathways \(Education\)](#)  
[CUC Mount Isa](#)  
[JCU Student Travel Subsidy](#)

### University Links

[Queensland University of Technology](#)  
[James Cook University](#)  
[University of Southern Queensland](#)

Tip: Search for your selected university's scholarships page

### Prac & Relocation

[Tertiary Access Payment \(relocation\)](#)  
[Commonwealth Prac Payment](#)  
[Nursing and Midwifery, Regional, Rural and Remote Student Placement Allowance](#)

### Scholarships

[Study Australia](#)  
[Studies in Australia](#)  
[Elevate STEM Scholarships](#)  
[AusIMM \(Mining\)](#)  
[Energy Queensland \(Engineering\)](#)

[Australia Indigenous Scholarships & Funding](#)

[Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships](#)

[Australian Rotary Health](#)

[Australian Indigenous Education Foundation](#)

[Indigenous Pathways Portal](#)

# ARE YOU MOVING AWAY FROM HOME?

Regional students often face significant adjustments when relocating to study, including adapting to a new environment, managing higher living and accommodation costs, and navigating social and emotional challenges. Many students experience homesickness and initially struggle to build a sense of belonging without an established support network.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

CUC Mount Isa is here to help. See one of our CUC Mount Isa staff to help you navigate through university portal and help you with your study options.

Our centre is a safe, supportive, inclusive and welcoming environment for tertiary education students. CUC Mount Isa provides high-quality facilities to students and we're here to support students holistically whether they choose to stay and study without having to leave their community or to attend campuses away from our region.



**A PLACE TO STUDY, MEET  
FELLOW STUDENTS & REST  
\*FOR STUDENTS FROM ALL  
TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS**

### WHAT WE OFFER

STUDY FACILITIES

FREE WIFI & PRINTING

KITCHEN & LOUNGE

STUDENT EVENTS & MORE!

# ARE YOU STUDY READY?

Whether you're heading to university, TAFE, or starting study again after a break, it's natural to wonder if you're ready. Here are a few helpful questions to reflect on:

- Do I have a clear idea of what studying will involve and how it might fit into my life?
- Am I comfortable with using technology for learning, like online platforms or email?
- Do I have strategies for managing my time, especially around work, family, or other commitments?
- Do I know where to go if I need help—academically, emotionally, or financially?
- Am I open to learning new skills and building my confidence along the way?

If you're unsure about any of the questions above, that's completely okay—getting ready is a journey, and support is available.

CUC Mount Isa has free support services including [Learning Skills Advice](#) – book an appointment if you require any support.

The [Uni Ready Toolkit](#) is a free, practical resource designed to help you feel more confident about starting study. It includes short videos, tips, and interactive tools to help you build study skills, understand assessments, manage your time, and find support. Whether you're studying close to home or relocating, the Toolkit is here to help you take the next step with confidence.



# APPLICATION SUPPORT

Applying for degrees, scholarships, grants, placements and other programs can be as challenging. When applying for something, read the instructions and selection criteria carefully.

Some common documents required for applications include:

## RESUME OR CV

A clear, up-to-date summary of your education, experience, and skills—tailored to match the opportunity you're applying for. Highlight relevant achievements and use keywords from the selection criteria.

## COVER LETTER

A brief 1-page, personalised letter that explains why you're applying and how your background fits the role or program. Address the selection criteria using STAR method and show genuine interest.

## A LETTER FROM YOUR EMPLOYER

A written endorsement from someone who knows your work or character. Give them plenty of notice with brief description of the selection criteria so they can tailor it to your application.

## TRANSCRIPT

An official record of your academic results, showing completed subjects and grades. Make sure it's current and includes all relevant qualifications or courses.

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

A reflective piece that shares your story, goals, and motivation for applying (often used for university, scholarship, or program applications). Be honest, specific, and connect your experiences to what the opportunity offers using STAR method.



# STAR METHOD

**STAR Method** is the structured approach to answering interview questions and written applications to thoroughly address the criteria.

**S**

## SITUATION

Provide context.

What was happening? Where? When?

**T**

## TASK

What was needed to be done?

Describe your role or goal.

**A**

## ACTION

Elaborate your specific action. What did you do?

How? What tools did you use?

**R**

## RESULTS

Explain the outcome or impact. Quantify the result and tie back to criteria question.

Question:

Can you give an example of a time you had to meet a tight deadline?

Answer (using STAR):

During my final semester at TAFE, I was part of a group project with only two weeks to complete a research report (Situation). As the team coordinator, I was responsible for keeping everyone on track and ensuring the report was submitted on time (Task). I created a shared timeline, organised weekly check-ins, and supported team members with their sections (Action). We submitted the report two days early and received a distinction for our work (Result).

# SELF-CARE AND STUDY

Being a Higher Education student is a really exciting time in your life, but it can also be stressful and overwhelming. Often people say University is the “best time of your life” but most of the time it is not that simple. It can be fun, but it is a big change and challenge.

Being away from home, missing family and friends, feeling the pressure to make new friends, figuring out your living situation, meeting deadlines, and managing your money – it all adds up. And it can easily feel like everyone else is having a great time while you’re just trying to keep it together. Make sure to find ways to look after yourself.

## Self-Care Tips for Students

### Sleep

Sleep is non-negotiable and not a luxury. It's a basic survival necessity. It is crucial for cognitive function, mental health, learning and academic performance. A good night time routine can help the brain shut down and keep sleep routine consistent.

### Eat Real Food

Your brain needs good fuel. Make sure you have a balanced diet. Batch cooking is a great way of having a healthy meal that saves time.

### Move

Move your body even if it's just a walk. It helps your mood, stress levels and your sleep. Walk helps you come back to your studies with a calmer and clearer mind. Exercise is a great way to boost your self-esteem, sleep quality and energy.

### Keep in touch with family

One of best self-care tips for students is to keep in touch with friends and loved ones regularly. The transition to studying can be a lonely experience. It is crucial to have a support system of family and friends that will help adjust to the new environment.

### Money Stress is Real

Track what you are spending. Cook meals with your flatmates, take advantage of any student discounts, and plan ahead as much as you can. You don't have to have it all figured out, but creating healthy money habits can help with looking after yourself and stress.

### Alone Time

Make sure you set aside time for yourself as often as you can. Take yourself out for a coffee or go somewhere like a park to read. Your own time is valuable, and you don't owe others an explanation for wanting to preserve some peace and quiet in your life.

### Check in with Yourself

When you reach the point of being so busy that you don't even know how you're feeling, you know it's time to slow down and take a break. Make sure you ask yourself the important questions: Am I sleeping enough? Have I eaten today? When was the last time I did something just for fun? Have I taken time and done something for myself?

### Clean your space

Keeping your room even slightly tidy can make a huge difference to your mood. When your surroundings are messy and disorganised, it adds to your stress load.

### Schedule “me” Time

Doing things that you enjoy, no matter what anyone else thinks, is important! After all, self-care involves doing things for you! Here's a tip on keeping up with self-care – put it in your calendar. Schedule one hour a week for yourself, and make sure you stick to it!



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MOUNT ISA

*Regardless of what pathway  
you are taking  
**CUC Mount Isa***

*is here to assist and support you to achieve  
your educational goals.*

**We are here for you!**

**Visit us online or drop in for a cuppa to find  
out how we can help you with your  
study journey.**

**Office Hours: 8:30am–5pm Monday to Friday  
Address: 16 Miles Street, Mount Isa 4825  
[CUC Mount Isa Website](#)**

