



QUEENSLAND  
ACADEMIES

Health Sciences Campus

# Admissions Policy



# ADMISSIONS POLICY

(<https://qa.eq.edu.au/apply/admissions-policy/>)

This policy outlines the procedure followed by the Queensland Academies in relation to the enrolment of students at:

- Queensland Academies Creative Industries Campus (QACI)
- Queensland Academies Health Sciences Campus (QAHS)
- Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology (QASMT)

This policy aligns with the department-approved Enrolment eligibility plans for each of the 3 campuses.

## Entry point for enrolment

The Queensland Academies have a single point of entry into the Academy senior years program, which is the start of Year 10. There are no, unless covered by the conditions outlined below, mid-course entries to the Academy program.

The application process is designed to be undertaken by students in Queensland in their junior secondary years of school (or age or education program equivalent) for entry at the commencement of Term 1 of Year 10.

Students who are currently enrolled in or have completed Year 10 (or equivalent) are also eligible to apply, but must complete the full 3 year program, or seek consideration for mid-course entry.

## Acceleration

Students who are seeking entry into Year 10 directly as an acceleration strategy are requested to submit appropriate evidence of giftedness with their application as per the expectation of Education Queensland's policy statement—Curriculum provision to gifted and talented students. This policy states that when providing a higher year level curriculum through acceleration, evidence that it is appropriate for this student must be provided. If appropriate evidence is provided at the point of application, students will be invited to participate in a specific pre admissions interview with the Principal or delegate, the Guidance Officer and the student's parents in order to evaluate the student's readiness to commence the admissions process.

## Mid-course entry

Consideration may be given to students seeking mid-course entry to an Academy from another school where:

- the student is currently studying the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and a case for course continuity can be justified
- or
- the student is not currently studying the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, is seeking to enter in Year 10, and the student has not had a previous opportunity to apply for an Academy within the normal application process because of extenuating circumstance or a justifiable and unforeseen change in life circumstance.

In each case above the individual case will be considered by the Principal, taking into consideration the following:

- Course entry point being requested
- Academic program being studied prior to application and alignment of this program with the rigour of Academy programs at this course entry point
- Availability of enrolment places
- Suitability of the student against the Queensland Academies selection criteria and the enrolment eligibility plan

Mid-course entry cannot be sought where an applicant has previously unsuccessfully applied for entry in that year.

Students seeking mid-course entry must contact Queensland Academies Admissions on (07) 3377 9366 prior to submitting an application.

## Student application process

A student can submit 1 application only to Queensland Academies in a given year. When a student applies to a Queensland Academies campus, they are making a commitment to that campus.

The application process gathers information regarding the student's contact details, medical history, educational history, accommodation requirements, previous achievements and aspirations.

All information relevant to the student selection process that may impact on the assessment of an application must be fully disclosed (where requested in the application, or in a separate statement submitted to the Queensland Academies Admissions Office) at the time of application. Should such information become available after application submission, this must be provided to Queensland Academies as soon as possible and prior to acceptance of offer.

**Note:** the Principal reserves the right to cease processing an application for a future student or cease the enrolment of an existing student where entitlement to enrolment has been obtained through false or misleading statements.

The following documents need to be prepared prior to commencement of the selection process:

- A recent photograph of the applicant (a school ID or passport-style photo taken within the last 2 years)
- Birth certificate (applicants born in Australia or New Zealand) or birth certificate, passport and visa evidence (Australian and New Zealand permanent residents, international students and temporary residents). International students and temporary residents' visa evidence should include visa subclass. If on a bridging visa, provide subclass for visa held prior to bridging visa, as well as subclass of visa applied for.
- Medical diagnosis letter/report\*
- Evidence of giftedness (test results if applicable)
- 2 most recent semester school reports (e.g. Semester 1 2020 & Semester 2 2020).
- NAPLAN results for Year 3, 5, 7, and 9 (or a reason why this cannot be provided—Year 9 Naplan may be requested when available). All students' applications will be acknowledged on receipt and any incomplete information/documentation will be requested before progressing the application through the selective entry process. Incomplete applications will not be progressed to the interview stages.

\*A medical diagnosis report/letter may be requested if an applicant is seeking special considerations (adjustments) for the entrance test. Please note that special needs requests and supporting documentation should generally be no more than 3 years old. Letters from health

practitioners must be on an official letterhead and give clear information on the candidate's condition as it affects their ability to sit the entrance test and recommended adjustments.

Year 10 Applications are submitted via: <https://qaportal.aucrm.com/>

## Entrance test

The Entrance test is a series of tests approximately 3 hours of duration that will be facilitated by Edutest. The tests will cover both ability and achievement.

Ability tests are designed to measure a child's ability to think, reason and solve problems, without necessarily relying on prior knowledge. Ability generally predicts how quickly a child will be able to learn and the level of complexity they can comfortably deal with.

Achievement tests are designed to measure actual achievement or performance in some key academic areas. Achievement scores are influenced by a child's ability, as well as the application and practise of knowledge that has been learned.

| Aspect      | Test area             | Duration | Description                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ability     | Verbal reasoning      | 30min    | Measures the ability to think and reason using words and language. This includes vocabulary, word relationships, classification and deduction.                           |
| Ability     | Numerical reasoning   | 30min    | Measures the ability to think and reason using numbers. This includes series, matrices, arithmetical reasoning and deduction.                                            |
| Achievement | Reading comprehension | 30min    | Measures the capacity to read and interpret meaning from written passages, as well as correct, complete and punctuate sentences.                                         |
| Achievement | Mathematics           | 30min    | Measures year-level appropriate mathematical knowledge, including items tapping numbers, measurement, algebra, space and data.                                           |
| Achievement | Written expression    | 15min    | This test assesses the ability to convey ideas clearly in written form. Punctuation, creativity, construction, grammar, spelling and relevance to the task are assessed. |

## Interview

Applicants invited to attend a campus interview must bring the following:

### Sample of academic work

The purpose of this sample is for the applicant to use it as a basis to respond to questions during the interview as well as communicate reasons they should be considered for a place at the campus for which they are applying. A portfolio of awards and certificates is not required. The sample of work should be from an area of the applicant's interest and should demonstrate academic excellence and innovation. The work sample should evidence an extended piece of writing or journaling; examples may include anything from a scientific research assignment, to a creative piece with supporting written analysis, to a school assignment.

### A statement of academic journey

This statement should be a maximum of one A4 page, font size Arial 10, outlining the applicant's academic journey, including the highs and lows.

## Student selection process

The selection process seeks to holistically assess the following attributes:

- Demonstrated academic ability
- A high level of commitment, work ethic and application to study
- Demonstrated capacity for planning, effective organisation and time management
- Very high levels of personal behaviour
- Demonstration of personal qualities for success in a rigorous academic program

The assessment of a student's suitability for a Queensland Academy will include the following processes to explore the attributes listed above:

- Completion of the specified entrance test
- Analysis of school reports and other academic performance data e.g. NAPLAN results
- An interview by the specific Academy

**Note:** The Principal has the right to withdraw an offer of enrolment should evidence become available that the student is not able to meet expected standards of behaviour.

The information received from each of the above selection processes will be analysed to determine an outcome for each student.

## Re-interview arrangements

A decision may be made where justifiable circumstances exist, that the Principal or panel will reinterview a student where further information or clarity is required.

## Enrolment decisions

The Principal is responsible for all decisions on selective entry enrolment and this decision on selection will be final. There is no internal review of the Principal's decision and no feedback will be given. Entrance test data is confidential, and individual results will not be released.

## Re-applying

Students seeking to re-apply must seek advice from the Queensland Academies Admissions Office prior to submitting a new application.

## Student transfer between Academies

### Change of campus preference prior to commencement

Applicants are made an offer of enrolment for a particular campus for the full three-year duration of the course of study at Queensland Academies. When applicants apply to or accept an offer at a campus, they are making a commitment to that campus. If extenuating circumstances arise and the applicant needs to apply for consideration of a change of campus, they and their parents/caregivers must follow the process below:

Request a change of campus preference and submit reasons for request in writing to the Manager, Queensland Academies.

This request will be tabled with the appropriate campus Principals for permission to proceed or otherwise.

A final decision will be made in consultation with the relevant Principals.

## **Inter-academy transfer after commencement**

Should a student/parent/caregiver need to consider the student transferring to another campus they need to contact the Principal at their current enrolment location. The Principal at their current location advises the parent of the process and eligibility.

The Principal at the requested site makes a decision whether a transfer is possible and advises the parent requesting the transfer accordingly.

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## **Homestay**

Queensland Academies are committed to facilitating happy and supportive homestay arrangements for International (EQI) students requiring accommodation. We will enter into discussions with families seeking homestay in order to raise their awareness of the complexities of supporting a child in homestay over the three year period of study. This process may involve communication involving campus counselling staff, the homestay provider and the families wanting a homestay placement prior to commencement.

The Queensland Government enforces stringent homestay standards, ensuring high quality accommodation is arranged with convenient access to the Academy and that all homestay providers undergo orientation, training and police checks.

Applications for homestay are made via: [admissions@qa.eq.edu.au](mailto:admissions@qa.eq.edu.au)

## **Brilliant Futures Gold Coast Program**

A preparation program for students wishing to commence study at Queensland Academies, Gold Coast in Year 10.

Brilliant Futures Gold Coast is a preparation enrichment program designed to develop highly capable students' attributes as learners and to provide a transition engagement for students seeking enrolment with Queensland Academies, Gold Coast for Year 10. Students who are currently in Year 6 are welcome to apply.

Brilliant Futures Gold Coast is only available to students seeking entry to Queensland Academies, Health Sciences (QAHS) Gold Coast Campus and is not transferable to another Queensland Academies campus. A student can submit one application only to Queensland Academies in a given year.

## **Objectives**

- to engage students in STEM-based enrichment activities enabling collaboration with a like-minded, highly capable cohort of peers
- for students to experience teaching and learning with Queensland Academies, Health Sciences Gold Coast and its industry/university partners in a supportive, challenging and engaging program.

## **Benefits**

Students will engage with expert teaching staff developing contemporary skills in collaboration, creativity, deep inquiry and research that provides a unique preparation for successful transition into Queensland Academies, Health Sciences Gold Coast Campus.

## Key information

Year 6 students are welcome to apply. Applications will be analysed and students will then sit the admissions test. It is an expectation that students demonstrate NAPLAN results in the upper two bands in the majority of components in order to proceed to the testing point: Year 3 NAPLAN reports should be submitted with the application.

Students who were not successful in gaining a place in Brilliant Futures Gold Coast, or who withdraw from the program prior to completion, would be welcome to re-apply for Year 10 enrolment as per the general process for Queensland Academies admission.

Applications for Brilliant Futures Gold Coast Program are made via: <https://qaportal.aucrm.com/>

### Related policies and documents

- QAHS Inclusivity Policy
- QA Admissions Policy
- EQI Homestay Handbook (<https://eqi.com.au/pdfs/homestay-handbook.pdf>)
- IB From principles into practice (DP)

Policy endorsed: March 2021