

# Maximising the Student Experience: The UQ Advantage Award Program

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The University of Queensland

# UQ ADVANTAGE AWARD

Discover solutions to global questions  
and gain valuable career skills

[www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/  
advantage-award](http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/advantage-award)

## Session Overview

- What is the UQ Advantage Award Program
- Why was the program developed
- Key element of the program
- Overview of how the program is administered
- Participation levels
- Feedback and graduate outcomes to date
- Questions

# What is the Award?

- Co-curricular program designed to support students' academic, personal and professional development
- Available to undergraduate students from all discipline areas
- Students have duration of their degree programs to complete requirements
- Combination of experiential learning activities with tailored workshops and seminars
- Official 'statement of attainment' awarded successful students upon graduation

## GLOBAL AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Activities include:

- UQ Abroad
- International short term program or study tour
- International internship
- Chat Mates program
- U21 Student Experience programs

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP

Activities include:

- UQ student group or sporting club executive
- Student mentoring activities
- Volunteering experiences
- Participation in the UQ Student Summit

## RESEARCH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Activities include:

- UQ Summer and Winter Research program
- UQ Undergraduate Research Conference
- Conference presentations
- Competitions and award schemes

## ACCESS A UNIQUE SYMPOSIUM SERIES

These sessions are designed to help you make the most of your UQ experience and accelerate your professional development. Symposia are delivered by UQ researchers, visiting scholars, alumni, industry contacts, and current students.



## Why was the program developed?

- Support UQ's commitment to internationalisation, enriching the student experience, and enhancing the employability of graduates
- Encourage and support participation in global study, leadership, research, community engagement and careers development activities
- Provide a platform for promoting and coordinating the wide range of co-curricular activities on offer at UQ
- Recognise students' contribution to campus life and philanthropic endeavours
- Support the development of well-rounded, socially engaged, work-ready graduates

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## Timeline for implementation

Program development	Date
Initial concept presented to Senior Management	September 2011
Briefing documents for faculties and division	November 2011
Nomination and selection of activities	January – March 2012
Development of Award module (student system)	January – July 2012
Development of promotional materials, resources and guidelines	March – July 2012
Program launch	30 July 2012
First graduate	July 2013

# Program Administration

## Support


- Strong collaboration with faculties, divisions, residential colleges on award activities
- Support with promotion of the Award program
- Nomination of activities and classification
- Approval of students' completion of activities through the verifying officer

## Program Administration

### Systems

- UQ Advantage Award Module developed in the UQ student system (mySI-net)
- Student-friendly interface
- Integration with other student administrative processes
- Register, submit activities, communications
- Secure and central repository for collecting and verifying activities

# Registration



THE UNIVERSITY  
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## UQ Advantage Award

[HOME](#) [ABOUT THE AWARD](#) [INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS](#) [INFORMATION FOR STAFF](#) [FAQS](#)

[Home](#) > [Information for Participants](#) > Register your participation

## Register your participation

Thank you for your interest in the UQ Advantage Award program.

The UQ Advantage Award program is open to all UQ undergraduate students.

If you wish to participate in the program, you will be asked to accept the program's terms and conditions and agree to participate in:

- Co-curricular activities**  
Co-curricular opportunities will enhance your student experience and make you a more effective and sought-after graduate. You will need to complete at least one primary activity from each of the three categories, plus three secondary activities from any category. Details of the approved activities will be outlined so you are able to plan ahead, in terms of what needs to be completed and when these activities are generally available.
- UQ Advantage Symposium Series**  
Participating students must also participate in six training activities, events or workshops offered as part of the UQ Advantage Symposium Series. A symposium program will be released at the start of each semester.

If you have any questions prior to registering your participation, please read the award [terms and conditions](#) or [contact](#) the Office of Undergraduate Education for further information.

[Register now](#)

# Student Summary

UQ Advantage Award

[Other Links](#)

## UQ Advantage Award

The UQ Advantage Award program provides undergraduate students with opportunities to extend themselves beyond the classroom, gain a better understanding of the world, and develop key competencies that employer's value. Designed to complement your studies, the program is a great way to get involved in all UQ has to offer and receive recognition for your participation in a wide range of [activities](#).

### Progress

<b>Primary Activities:</b>	33%	1 of 3 Activities Completed
<b>Secondary Activities:</b>	67%	2 of 3 Activities Completed
<b>Symposia:</b>	0%	0 of 6 Symposia Attended

### Manage

[Activities](#)

[Symposia](#)

### Participation

You are currently participating in the UQ Advantage Award program.

To withdraw from the program, click 'Withdraw' below.

Once you have withdrawn, you can re-register for the UQ Advantage Award at any time, without losing any existing credit towards the award. Please note that the UQ Advantage Award must be completed prior to graduation.

[Withdraw](#)

# Finding Activities

## Activities

Search here for approved [UQ Advantage Award activities](#).

Please ensure the accuracy of the information that you are entering, as this data will appear on your Award statement upon completion of the program. We suggest you carefully check your spelling, dates and contact information.

Search Tips: Remember to keep your search as broad as possible, as this will assist with finding your activity. If you are unsure what Category or Level your activity falls under, we suggest you search by Activity Title.

If you cannot locate your activity, please contact the [Office of Undergraduate Education](#).

### Activity Search by Title

Activity:

For Example: Internship

OR

### Activity Search by Category/Level

Award Category:

Level:

Search

Clear

# Approval Process

## Activities

Please enter the details of your completed activity. If you are required to enter contact information, this refers to the verifying officer (activity coordinator, academic advisor etc.) who can confirm your completion of the activity.

This page may require you to submit a **Verification Document**. You can access the Verification Document template [here](#). This form needs to be completed and signed by the verifying officer.

Award Category:	Global and Cultural Engagement
Level:	Secondary
Activity:	Institute of Modern Languages (IML) - Language Course (short)
Date Completed (DD/MM/YYYY):	<input type="text" value="31"/>
Organisation Name:	<input type="text"/>
Country:	Australia
Contact Name:	<input type="text"/>
Contact Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Contact Email:	<input type="text"/>
Verification Document:	Click Upload button to attach verification document <input type="button" value="Upload"/>
Comments:	<input type="text"/>



## UQADVANTAGE AWARD ACTIVITY VERIFICATION FORM

This form is to be used to verify that The University of Queensland student listed below has completed a co-curricular activity, which may be recognised towards the achievement of a UQ Advantage Award. The verifying officer must be the activity coordinator, supervisor or academic advisor.

Please note if you would like to verify multiple students' completion of an activity, please contact the [Office of Undergraduate Education](#) to request a group verification form.

I hereby confirm that the following student has completed an activity with the organisation listed below. The details are as follows:

Student ID number	Student first name	Student last name	Duration of activity (Start and end date)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Details of verifying officer

Full name	<input type="text"/>
Position	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
Department/School	<input type="text"/>
Name of organisation	<input type="text"/>
Name of activity	<input type="text"/>
Website address	<input type="text"/>

### Declaration

- I declare that the information provided above is true and correct.
- I understand that this information is strictly confidential and, except in the performance of my duty as an employee of The University of Queensland or the above organisation, I will not either directly or indirectly make a record of, divulge or disclose this information.
- I confirm that I am the authorised contact for this activity and am therefore able to provide this information on behalf of the organisation.
- I understand that I may be contacted by a representative from the Office of Undergraduate Education to confirm the details listed.
- I agree that I do not have any conflict of interest in verifying this information, and I understand that I must declare promptly any interest of which I become aware later\*.

Signature  Date

By typing your name into this box, it is considered that you have signed this form and all the information is true and correct (An electronic signature is not required).

\*Disclosure of potential areas of conflict of interest  
The responsibility for verifying an applicant's activity can only be delegated to a prescribed person where there is no conflict of interest, such as a personal relationship with the applicant. You should not complete this form if you have a close personal relationship with persons named in this form, which may potentially lead to a conflict of interest in respect of your position in the organisation which offers the aforementioned activity.

**The completed form must be uploaded by the student to the UQ Advantage Award module in SI-Net for final approval.**  
UQ Advantage Award - Activity Verification Form

# Activity Overview

## Activities

On this page you can register your completed activities for recognition towards the UQ Advantage Award.

Further information about approved activities is available in the [UQ Advantage Award Activities Guide](#). Activities that have been completed after 1 January 2012 may be included for credit toward the Award. You will need to be able to provide evidence of your participation within 12 months of completion of the activity.

If you require any assistance, please contact the [Office of Undergraduate Education](#).

### [Register Activity](#)

Registered Primary Activities				
Activity	Category	Date Completed (DD/MM/YYYY)	Date Submitted (DD/MM/YYYY)	Status
UQ Student Club or Society (executive member)	Social Responsibility and Leadership	16/11/2012	05/12/2012	<a href="#">Approved</a>
UQ Colleges Inter-College Council Women's Cup	Social Responsibility and Leadership	16/11/2012	05/12/2012	<a href="#">Approved</a>
UQ Colleges Sir Zelman Cowan Cup	Social Responsibility and Leadership	16/11/2012	05/12/2012	<a href="#">Approved</a>
College Sport Programs	Social Responsibility and Leadership	16/11/2012	05/12/2012	<a href="#">Approved</a>

Registered Secondary Activities				
Activity	Category	Date Completed (DD/MM/YYYY)	Date Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY)	Status
School of Pharmacy -Health Fusion Team Challenge (HFTC)	Research and Entrepreneurship	27/07/2012	05/12/2012	<a href="#">Approved</a>
UQ Colleges Pink ribbon events (volunteer)	Social Responsibility and Leadership	20/10/2012	05/12/2012	<a href="#">Approved</a>

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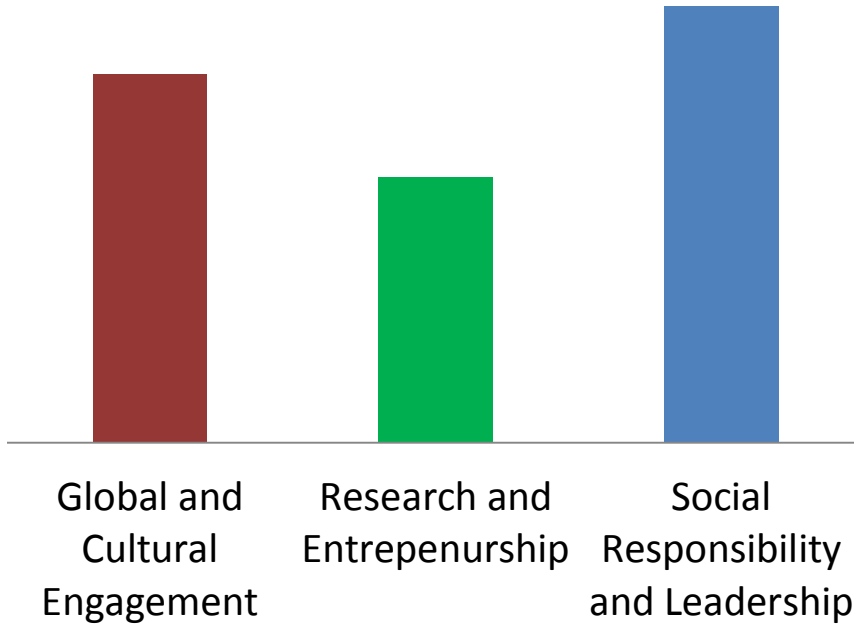
[www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/  
advantage-award](http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/advantage-award)

## Support and student resources

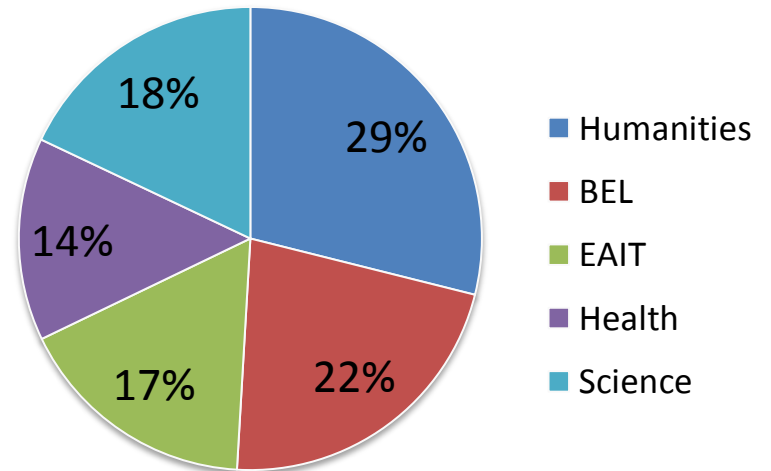
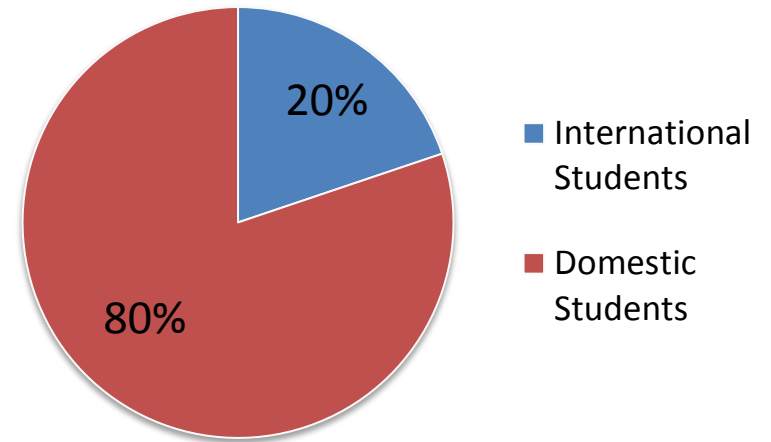
- Information sessions scheduled throughout the semester
- Activities guide and program documentation
- Funding to support participation in Award activities
- Pre-departure guides for international activities
- Occupational Health and Safety information and checklist
- Symposium Series

# Participation Rates

2, 816 students currently registered



**14 Symposium  
with more than 950 attendees**



## Outcomes to date

- Strong interest and participation rates in the program across all disciplines
- Range of activities expanding
- Industry and alumni engagement in the program
- Exceptionally positive feedback from students
- 8 student will graduate with the Award in 2013
- Industry recognition – program received a Lord Mayor's Award for Excellence in International Education

"I believe that travelling overseas boosts your confidence and helps develop your ability to work independently.

Moreover, interacting with people from around the world shapes your personality by broadening your cultural, social and scientific outlook."

Akash Boda  
UQ Advantage Award recipient  
July 2013



"I was already pretty involved with a lot of things around UQ, and the Award Program presented me with an opportunity to formalise what I was doing.

My expectations were exceeded however, as being involved in the Program actually allowed me to do and participate in so many more events and activities that I would not have been able to otherwise."

David McEniery  
UQ Advantage Award recipient  
December 2013



“The UQ Advantage Award really opened up different opportunities that I would never have considered.

I volunteering in Nepal challenged my negotiation skills and my ability to demand respect Potential employers find this very interesting.

The Award encouraged me to participate in opportunities and activities I didn't know were available to me at UQ.”

Melody Dobrinin  
UQ Advantage Award recipient  
December 2013





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Global and Cultural Engagement



Research and Entrepreneurship



Social Responsibility and Leadership

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Office of Undergraduate Education  
[www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate](http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate)

# UQ ADVANTAGE AWARD

Learn more about yourself and  
experience other cultures

[www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/  
advantage-award](http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/advantage-award)

## YOUR QUESTIONS...

**FIND OUT MORE**

<http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/advantage-award/>