



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Create change

UQ YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018



MISSION

The UQ Young Achievers Program raises and supports the long-term tertiary education aspiration, career options and community-mindedness of nominated Queensland state high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds by actively engaging and mentoring them throughout their academic journey and beyond.



ENABLING BRIGHT FUTURES

The UQ Young Achievers Program contributes to building a culture of university participation within selected secondary schools and has a positive impact on the families and local communities of the students involved.

An important goal of the program is to help students understand their civic responsibility in a learning environment. For this reason, Young Achievers are required to serve as role models and volunteers within their schools and communities.

Young Achievers are identified by their school principals as OP-eligible students with the potential to succeed at university. Since 2009, more than 900 Young Achievers have participated in the program. Seven cohorts of students have completed secondary school and almost 240 students are now working towards a university qualification.

UQ values the achievements of Young Achievers and the contributions of volunteer mentors in the pursuit of their personal and professional success.

RAISING THE BAR, CHANGING THE GAME

The UQ Young Achievers Program offers a valuable support framework, designed to enable participants to reach their tertiary goals.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS

In 2017, a group of 118 highly motivated Year 10 students from 49 state secondary schools in Brisbane, Ipswich, the Darling Downs, Wide Bay-Burnett and other regions in South West Queensland were selected to join the program. Of these students, 52 per cent were attending a school in a regional or remote area of Queensland, 57 per cent indicated they would be the first in their family to go to university and six per cent identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

In October, we formally welcomed the new Young Achievers and their families, and together celebrated the many achievements of our graduating Year 12 students. These events, which were attended by school principals and guidance officers, were an opportunity to recognise the leadership potential and the many accomplishments of the Young Achievers.



JOSIE AUSTIN
Year 12 – Goondiwindi State High School

The UQ Young Achievers Program has made me realise that a mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions. Thank you for the new life experiences you have given me!

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Each year, Young Achievers attend a residential camp held at a UQ residential college on the St Lucia campus. These experiences present a wonderful opportunity for students to become familiar with the university environment, establish supportive social networks and learn more about the range of post-school study options that will best complement their future career ambitions.

MENTORING

Mentoring is a critical success factor in the program. During the past 12 months, a group of 42 passionate and highly enthusiastic UQ students, many of whom were past Young Achievers, generously volunteered their time to serve as role models for the students in the program. These mentors are a valuable source of information, encouragement and friendship for younger students, staying in touch with them throughout their senior school years and helping them to stay on track to achieve their goals.

The program has attracted growing interest among UQ students, who recognise it as an opportunity to give back to the UQ community while enhancing their leadership, employability and communication skills.

ACCESS AND SUPPORT

Young Achievers are eligible to receive five bonus ranks to assist them in securing a place in their preferred UQ program. In addition, the students receive transition support to help them in making the move from high school to university. Financial assistance offered throughout the program helps to ease the financial stress on families. In their senior years of schooling, Young Achievers receive an annual bursary of \$1000 and students who transition to UQ on completion of Year 12 receive an annual scholarship to the value of \$7000 a year, for up to four years.

SUCCESS AT SCHOOL

The UQ Young Achievers Program aims to support and inspire students during their senior years.

VALUABLE FAMILY SUPPORT

Information evenings held throughout Term 3 in 2017 were greatly valued as an opportunity for families to seek more specific advice about university pathways, application processes, accommodation options and support services at UQ.

The popularity of UQ Open Day continued, with more than 300 people attending the Young Achievers events at St Lucia and Gatton. Open Day is the biggest annual event on UQ's calendar and is often the first time many Young Achiever families have had an opportunity to visit a university campus.

WRIT1999 – EFFECTIVE THINKING AND WRITING

For the first time in 2017, the UQ Young Achievers Program offered a bursary to attend WRIT1999, a summer intensive course offered at UQ St Lucia to students commencing Year 12. The course aims to assist students who demonstrate high academic achievement to improve their critical thinking and writing skills. Young Achievers were invited to participate from selected schools located close to the St Lucia campus, with over 30 students taking up the opportunity to participate.

UNIVERSITY READINESS

The UQ Young Achievers Program continues to partner with UQ Student Services to help support students in their transition to university. Hosting catch-ups and events for Young Achievers at UQ, in association with Student Services, ensures that students are receiving access to the full suite of relevant transition support programs and activities on offer through the University. UQ's faculties are also heavily involved with Young Achiever students during their learning journey.



ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES

In January, 226 Young Achievers participated in their annual residential experience at the St Lucia campus. The students were highly motivated, eager to expand their knowledge and demonstrated a wholehearted commitment to the program.

CREATING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Young Achievers enthusiastically embraced the community-service ethos of the program, volunteering their time to undertake an impressive list of 'Making a Difference' (MAD) Challenges. The students demonstrated a great sense of civic responsibility by supporting projects in important areas such as the environment, community and youth development, education, animal welfare, health, sport and the arts.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

MAD CHALLENGES

The Making a Difference (MAD) Challenges that Young Achievers undertake as part of the program have significant impacts in not only their schools but also their local communities.

The most inspired MAD Challenges came from three Young Achievers whose positive impact benefited students, parents and community members alike.

MAD Challenge for the environment

Shiloh Bursle, Charleville State High School

Shiloh inspired students from Years 6–11 during a hike two hours outside of Charleville. Here they learnt about environmental sustainability, the destruction that invasive species can do to native ecosystems, and the impact they have on the environment – both good and bad. Not only did this have a positive learning outcome, but the students also experienced the outdoors while exercising and having fun with friends.

MAD Challenge at school

Matthew Butler, Calamvale Community College

Matthew produced a science show for students in Years 3–6 with the hope of inspiring them to study science when they enter secondary school. Inspiring younger students by making science fun and interesting was a very rewarding experience. Matthew hopes that these students will choose science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects in the future.

MAD Challenge in the local community

Kate Dowdle, Clifton State High School

Kate organised a fundraising walk with the proceeds going to the Cardiac Investigation Unit at the Toowoomba Hospital. She believed this new unit would appreciate the financial assistance, and she chose this cause for a personal reason, as she too has a heart condition. Kate not only raised funds for much-needed equipment, she also helped the community, which is something that she is truly passionate about.

CONTINUOUS MENTORING

In 2017, the ninth cohort of student mentors included half who were previous program participants themselves. This outlines that past students are continuing to give back to others by sharing their experiences and inspiring those still at school. Additionally, one UQ student has completed two years as a volunteer student mentor and is now undertaking the role of a senior mentor. This type of continued involvement demonstrates the positive impact the program has on the UQ students involved with mentoring Young Achievers.

ZINITA SINGH

Year 12 – Woodridge State High School

As a Young Achiever, I've learnt that giving back to the community is crucial, as you might be making a difference in someone's life. The program has helped me through my years of schooling through the continuous mentor phone calls. The main highlights are the countless opportunities, support and information you receive. Being a Young Achiever has motivated me to do my best, make my dreams come true – and most importantly, to never give up.





BRYCE BERRELL

**Previous Young Achiever mentor and recipient
Bachelor of Arts/Education
Year of Graduation: 2017**

In 2011 UQ provided me with an opportunity of a lifetime - to partake in a program that offers support, mentoring and guidance throughout Years 11 and 12 and my transition to and through university. The Young Achievers Program has shaped who I am today, both personally and professionally.

In late 2014 I became a Young Achievers Program mentor and this was one of the happiest days of my life. I was able to give back to a program that gave me an incredible opportunity. To be a mentor was an amazing experience; it provided me with new skills and a sense of accomplishment.

The opportunities, such as attending special events, presenting at camps and speaking to fellow mentors and donors about my experience, assisted me on my journey. I was able to network, pass on inspiration to others and get involved in the UQ community. I would not be who I am today or where I am today without the program. It changed my life.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS



ON-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES



VALUABLE FAMILY SUPPORT



WRIT1999 EFFECTIVE THINKING AND WRITING



5 BONUS RANKS TO ASSIST WITH ENTRY TO UQ

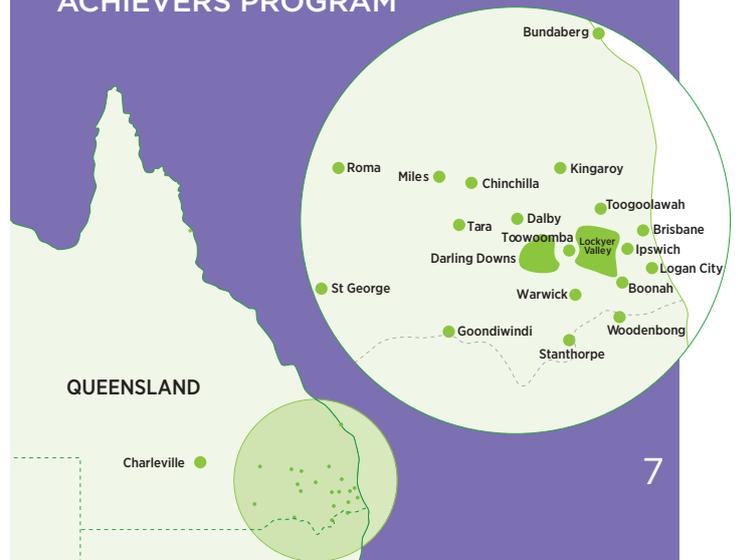


\$1000 YEARS 11 AND 12 ANNUAL BURSARY



42 UQ STUDENT MENTORS

REGIONS THAT BENEFIT FROM THE YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAM



CONTINUING SUCCESS AT UQ

ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS

Many of UQ's residential colleges, in partnership with the University, continued to generously support the program by providing discounted accommodation places for students needing to relocate from their hometown to take up their place at UQ. In 2017, 31 Young Achievers benefited from college grants.

2017 also saw the Young Achievers Program collaborate with Atira Student Living to help students achieve their education dreams. Six fully funded residential accommodation grants were created as part of the partnership. The grants were launched with the aim of helping students overcome some of the challenges involved in transitioning from high school to university. The partnership between UQ and Atira Student Living will continue to provide great opportunities for deserving Young Achiever students during their first year of study.

BOWNESS FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Two UQ Young Achievers, Zac Knight (Stanthorpe State High School) and Jeremy-Keith Bott (Wilsonton State High School), were selected for the prestigious Bowness Family Foundation award based on their outstanding academic achievement, demonstrated service leadership and commitment to upholding the values of the program.

TOP UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS THAT YOUNG ACHIEVERS ARE STUDYING AT UQ

Arts	Health Sciences
Commerce	Physiotherapy
Engineering	Science



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

100 STUDENTS COMPLETED YEAR 12 IN 2017

↓
96 applied to a tertiary institution



↓
93 accepted an offer from a tertiary institution

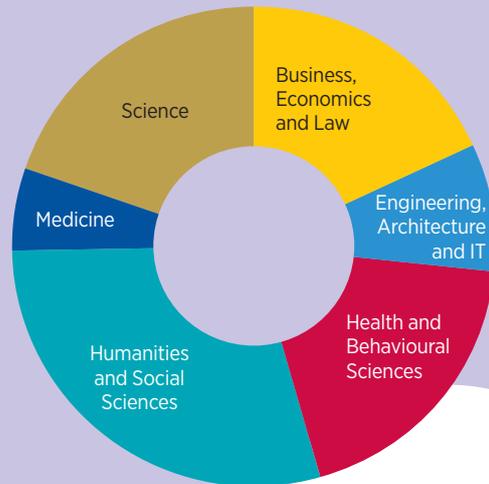
↓
80 accepted an offer to study at UQ



YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAM STUDENTS WHO COMMENCED AT UQ IN 2017

87% completed first year **4.3** average GPA

YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAM STUDENT ENROLMENTS BY FACULTY IN 2018



\$7000

annual scholarship for Young Achiever students at UQ



QUINNIE WARIN

UQ Young Achiever mentor and recipient
Second-year Bachelor of Arts/Social Science student at UQ

Through the Young Achievers Program, I was able to cement the idea of continuing my education from high school to university. Before I was accepted into the program, university seemed like a distant dream that would only be achievable once I was older and more mature. By attending the two residential camps, as well as constant communication with my mentors, I was inspired to believe that university wasn't just a big dream. I will be eternally grateful for being a Young Achiever as it has shaped and helped anchor me to know what I want in not only university, but in life.



SALLY ALLEN

UQ Young Achiever mentor and recipient
Second-year Bachelor of Science student at UQ

Since becoming a Young Achiever, I have been able to meet and share experiences with passionate people from such diverse backgrounds. I have learnt that it really is possible to make a difference just by being community-minded and committed to lending a hand. The program gave me the confidence to shoot for my dreams.

SUCCESS BEYOND UNIVERSITY

TOP POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS THAT YOUNG ACHIEVERS ARE STUDYING AT UQ

- Counselling
- Dietetics Studies
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Science
- Speech Pathology



35
graduates in 2017

70+
graduates since 2009



CLINT CALDICOTT

Currently completing Bachelor of Science (Honours) Bachelor of Science (Geological Sciences) graduate (2017)

The Young Achievers Program provided me with a head start to university. I learnt about university life and when the time came to move to UQ I felt comfortable making the transition. Having mentors and also being a mentor myself has helped support my interests and goals, which in turn has helped my university and career aspirations turn into a reality.

Throughout my studies at UQ I have been working towards a career in geology, in which I graduated in 2017. I am continuing my journey in this field by completing an Honours research project on sedimentology.

In the Young Achievers Program, you form a UQ family who support you and help you along your university journey. The program inspires students to achieve their best, to be community-orientated and to be part of a larger global community.



TIMOTHY SENG

Currently working as an accountant in Chinchilla Bachelor of Commerce graduate (2014)

The Young Achievers Program helped not only me but others to reach out and achieve their dream of going to university.

I was also fortunate enough to join the mentor program, which provided me with the confidence and leadership skills to transfer into the workforce.

The program changed my life and it was honestly the most rewarding and fulfilling experience that I have had. I have gained employment in my chosen career, which really is a dream come true.





YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES SUCCESS

Students are the driving force behind everything UQ does, and we are committed to providing them with the opportunities to pursue education and succeed.

We aim to continue to attract the best students – regardless of their background and ability to pay for education – and prepare them to become leaders who create change to advance our community.

Scholarships are a lifeline for these students, particularly as they navigate their first year of university in an unfamiliar place, often hours away from the place they call home.

Philanthropic support provides students with opportunities to learn and flourish, through work-integrated learning, undergraduate research and international study.

Together, we can empower and support students to reach their potential.

Contact UQ Advancement for more information on how to support this life-changing work.

UQ Advancement
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**NOT IF,
WHEN.**

THE CAMPAIGN TO CREATE CHANGE