

Guide for adult learners

Options for adults wishing to complete or continue their education



What are the educational options for students over 18 years of age?

If you are 18 years or older and would like to complete or continue your education, there are a number of pathways you may wish to consider. The best option for you will depend upon your study and career goals. By identifying these goals and your motives for undertaking further study, you can find the most suitable pathway for your situation.

It may not be necessary for you to return to high school in order to achieve your desired result. Utilising the flexible learning styles and condensed programs available to adult students will ensure you can select the quickest and easiest path to accomplish your goals.

Is returning to school the right pathway?

If you are wishing to complete your standard secondary studies, you may wish to consider studying through TAFE Queensland or one of the Queensland schools of distance education.

TAFE Queensland Online

By studying with TAFE Queensland, you can achieve a Year 10, or Years 11 and 12, equivalent qualification in an encouraging and relaxed adult education setting.

Through [TAFE Queensland Online](#) you can enrol at any time of the year, study at your own pace, anywhere and any time that is convenient for you, and pay as you go. Call 13 72 48 for more information.

Your previous education, training, work experience and life experiences may help you gain credit towards your course.

Distance Education

Through the Queensland schools of distance education, you can complete your senior studies from home. Fee free distance education is available to adult learners who live at least 16 kilometres from a [mature age state school](#), or where the enrolment at a mature age state school has been refused by the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training. Contact the [schools of distance education](#) to find out more about home based learning.

Preparing for Tertiary Study

It is not always necessary to complete schooling up to Year 12 in order to access tertiary education. There are several alternate pathways for adults who are returning to study.

University Bridging Courses

By undertaking a university bridging course, you can develop the confidence, knowledge and skills necessary for tertiary entrance. Many bridging courses offer flexible learning styles and enrolment by distance, helping you to find the best option for you.

Contact your preferred university for information about available bridging courses. For contact details and campus information, visit the list of Queensland universities at www.education.qld.gov.au/students/higher-education.

TAFE Queensland

TAFE Queensland offers a Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation, which aims to provide people aged over 18 years with the knowledge and skills required for successful tertiary study.

Visit the TAFE Queensland website www.tafeqld.edu.au or call 1300 30 8233 for more information.

QTAC Alternative Entry

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) provides an option for alternative entry to tertiary study for some people who have not completed Year 12 or do not have formal academic qualifications. To check your eligibility, visit the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au or call 1300 467 822.

Can I go back to school?

A mature age applicant may only enrol at a prescribed mature age state school or a school of distance education. The list of prescribed mature age state schools and information on who is an eligible mature age applicant can be found at www.education.qld.gov.au/students/adultlearners/matureagestudents.html.

To apply for enrolment as a mature age student, you should first discuss the rules and conditions of your enrolment with the Principal of the mature age state school you wish to attend. If you have previously been excluded from that school, you may not be eligible to apply.

If you are an eligible mature age applicant, your enrolment at a mature age state school is subject to:

- a criminal history check;
- how many years of enrolment you have already had in a school; and
- the subject availability and capacity¹ of the mature age school.

The criminal history checks are very thorough, and may take eight weeks or longer to complete.

Contact List

TAFE Queensland

Study with the largest, most experienced provider of vocational education and training in Queensland.

Phone: 1300 30 8233

Website: www.tafeqld.edu.au

TAFE Queensland Online

Undertake self-paced courses online or by distance.

Phone: 137 248

Email: brisbane@tafe.qld.edu.au

Website: www.openlearning.tafe.qld.gov.au

Distance Education

Distance education services are provided by seven state schools of distance education.

Website: www.education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/distance

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre

You may be eligible to apply for alternative entry to tertiary study.

Phone: 1300 467 822

Website: www.qtac.edu.au

¹ A School Enrolment Management Plan is implemented in a state school which is nearing its student enrolment capacity in order to maximise the use of facilities provided for in-catchment students, and restricts the enrolment of out-of-catchment students. See the [School Enrolment Management Plans](#) procedure for more information.