

STEPS Guide

SKILLS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION
PREPARATORY STUDIES

2026



CQUniversity
AUSTRALIA

TAFE + UNI

Be. WITH CQU

Take your first step

If you're looking for a pathway into university and you'd like to develop your study skills and confidence, then CQUniversity's Skills for Tertiary Education Preparatory Studies (STEPS) course is for you.

WHY CHOOSE CQU

CQUniversity understands that everyone's circumstances are different and we are committed to making study fit with your personal commitments and learning style. We give you the flexibility to study when and where it suits you by offering options to study full or part time, on campus or online, with many courses offering the option of fast tracking your degree by studying during Term 3.

Our strengths in graduate employment rates, student support and overall student experience have seen us awarded five-star ratings in these categories by The Good Universities Guide 2026.

WHY CHOOSE STEPS

STEPS provides you with the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to begin a university degree. You will have the support of an Access Coordinator and a committed team of STEPS staff members who will guide you through the course. You will learn to access CQUniversity's online learning systems and connect with other STEPS students, giving you the opportunity to discuss topics and make new friends.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for STEPS, you must:

- › be aged 18, or older, in the year of enrolment (you can apply at age 17, but must turn 18 within an academic year of enrolment.)
- › be an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident or a holder of a humanitarian visa
- › reside in Australia.

STEPS is designed for students who do not already hold a university degree. If you already hold a university degree, please email steps-admin@cqu.edu.au to discuss your study options.

LOCATIONS

STEPS can be studied online from anywhere in Australia or on campus¹ at:

- › Bundaberg
- › Cairns
- › Gladstone Marina
- › Mackay Ooralea
- › Rockhampton North
- › Townsville
- › Geraldton Universities Centre².

AVAILABILITY

Term 1: On campus and online

Term 2: On campus and online

Term 3: Online only

Refer to the Important Dates section on the next page for University term dates.

DURATION

The course takes between one and six terms to complete, with two terms being the average. Each term is approximately four months in duration. The completion time varies based on your individual circumstances, the time you have available for study, and the entry requirements of your desired undergraduate course.

¹ On-campus availability of some units may depend on the unit and on-campus enrolments. All units are available online.

² The Geraldton Universities Centre supports the on-campus delivery of the CQUniversity STEPS course to students.



Acknowledgement to Australia's First Nations Peoples.

CQUniversity recognises and acknowledges the important role First Nations Peoples make to our communities, and values Australian Indigenous knowledge systems as an integral part of our teachings.

STEPS UNITS

STEPS students are required to complete one core unit and several electives. The electives you take will depend on your individual circumstances and the course you want to study after completing STEPS.

Most students complete between two and five electives.

Core unit:

- › SKIL40025 Preparation Skills for University

Elective units:

- › LNGE40049 Essay Writing for University
- › MATH40237 Fundamental Mathematics for University
- › MATH40228 Intermediate Mathematics for University
- › MATH40252 Technical Mathematics for University
- › COIT40206 Computing Skills for University
- › PHYS40110 Introductory Physics
- › BIOL40108 Introductory Biology
- › CHEM40079 Introductory Chemistry
- › EDED40351 Culture and Learning
- › INDG40015 Indigenous Australians and Education
- › INDG40016 Indigenous Australians and Health

FIRST NATIONS STEPS UNITS

Whether you're a First Nations student or interested in broadening your skills and understanding of First Nations history and culture, our suite of dedicated units can help you achieve your study goals. Plus, you'll develop a variety of skills to make respectful decisions and foster meaningful relationships throughout your learning and career.

Our First Nations STEPS units are available in Term 1 and Term 3, these include:

- › EDED40351 Culture and Learning
- › INDG40015 Indigenous Australians and Education
- › INDG40016 Indigenous Australians and Health.

COMPLEMENT YOUR UNIVERSITY DEGREE

If you are currently enrolled in a CQUniversity coursework degree, you can enrol in individual STEPS units to upskill in any areas of need. To do this, simply submit a STEPS application and book an appointment with a STEPS Access Coordinator. During the appointment, they will review your current or planned course load and collaborate with you to develop a personalised study plan.

COSTS

STEPS is FREE of tuition fees; however, there are minimal costs associated with textbooks, stationery, photocopying and printing.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

STEPS is a Centrelink-approved course. You may be eligible for various forms of financial support while undertaking the course. For more information, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/education.

As a STEPS graduate you can apply for scholarships to assist with the financial cost of study. For more information about scholarships visit cqu.edu.au/scholarships.

STUDY AFTER STEPS

Upon successful completion of STEPS, you can apply for entry to a CQUniversity higher education diploma or degree course through the CQUniversity direct entry process (for those courses where direct entry is available). Alternatively, you can apply through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) or other state-based university admission centres for courses at CQUniversity or other institutions.

HOW TO APPLY

Get started with a simple application process.

1. Visit cqu.edu.au/steps and click apply now to complete your application.
2. Our STEPS Access Coordinator will schedule an appointment with you to develop a study plan and support you as you work toward achieving your goals.

Our team is here to help you every step of the way, from when you enquire through to completing the course. For more information or guidance, please see the Contact Us details on the back of this guide.



Important dates

2026 UNIVERSITY TERM DATES

Term 1: Monday 9 March – Friday 5 June

Term 2: Monday 13 July – Friday 9 October

Term 3: Monday 9 November 2026
– Friday 12 February 2027

2026 STEPS INFORMATION SESSIONS

Wednesday 4 February

Wednesday 6 May

Wednesday 10 June

Wednesday 7 October

2026 STEPS APPLICATIONS DUE DATES

Term 1: Monday 23 February

Term 2: Monday 29 June

Term 3: Monday 26 October



Scan to stay updated
throughout the STEPS
application process.

REGISTER NOW

‘STEPS was a great starting point for me as a mature student. There is a lot of support at the University and the Indigenous Support team have a lot to offer from assistance with books to tutoring.’

Tara Hansen | STEPS and Bachelor of Laws

Dedicated support for First Nations students

If you're a First Nations student, CQUniversity's STEPS course offers more than a pathway to university study. We're also here to make you feel welcome, safe, supported and culturally connected.

Join thousands of First Nations students who have changed their lives and helped their communities by studying or training with us.

DEDICATED SUPPORT

As an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student, you will be supported by a STEPS Access Coordinator and by our Indigenous Student Advising Specialists who can provide you with information on resources including computers, printing, study rooms, scholarships, referrals and various other services available throughout your studies.

DARE TO BE DEADLY

The Dare to be Deadly (D2BD) program is designed to support CQUniversity Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by providing access to tailored tools and services that help prepare you for academic success.

FREE TUTORING

You can benefit from the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Program, which provides free tutorial assistance to First Nations students both in STEPS and any other degree. For more information about free tutoring please email ias@cqu.edu.au or current students can visit [MyCQU](#).

CULTURAL ADVOCACY

The Indigenous Student Service SPOT team provide cultural advocacy for all First Nations students to ensure a culturally-safe and culturally-appropriate learning environment.

If you have questions about studying, it can help to talk with one of our friendly Indigenous Student Advising Specialists.

Yarn with us

indigenous@cqu.edu.au
07 4930 9250



STEPS Guide 2026

RELEASED JANUARY 2026

Contact us

cqu.edu.au/steps
steps-admin@cqu.edu.au

DOMESTIC STUDENTS

13 27 86 (within Australia)
+61 7 4930 9000 (outside Australia)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

+61 3 9616 0606

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

cqu.edu.au/connect

CQUniversity Australia is committed to operating sustainably to reduce our adverse impact on the environment.

We printed this brochure on paper that is fully recyclable and made of a blend with 30% recycled content, and the remaining pulp coming from PEFC™ certified sustainably managed sources. The pulp is elemental chlorine free and the paper is manufactured by an ISO 14001 certified mill.



Published by CQUniversity Australia, December 2025.
The information in this publication was correct at the time of printing, however is subject to change.
Check the CQUniversity website for current information.

All CQUniversity course guides and brochures can be found on our website.

CRICOS:00219C | TEQSA:PRV12073 | RTO:40939 | PUB_BK_2702_STEPS



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