



CQUniversity
AUSTRALIA

2026

STN Quick Guide

START TAFE NOW

Be. WITH CQU

Supporting your success

CQUniversity Australia's Start TAFE Now (STN) program offers you the opportunity to gain real skills and qualifications while still completing high school. You can kickstart your career by starting vocational education and training (VET) through CQU.

As a Start TAFE Now student, you'll have access to CQUniversity's wide range of support services to help you succeed in your studies. While further discussion with your high school may be required regarding funding and support provisions, we are here to assist you every step of the way.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

If you're interested in studying a Start TAFE Now course in 2026, the first step is to explore the study options available to you. Review this guide and discuss your options with your parents/guardians and school VET Coordinator.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

To participate in the Start TAFE Now program students must:

- › complete the online basic key skill builder (BKSB) pre-enrolment Language, Literacy, and Numeracy Test (LLN)
- › be a minimum of 15 years-of-age
- › provide a copy of all previously completed certificate qualifications
- › remain enrolled in and attend a Queensland school throughout the duration of the program
- › identify the Start TAFE Now program in your Senior Education and Training plan (SET)
- › be in Year 10, 11, 12.

Please note:

- › Not all qualifications can be accessed if you are in Year 10 or Year 12.
- › Meeting the program eligibility does not guarantee access to Queensland Government subsidised funding.
- › Funding eligibility is assessed during the application process. Students who are not eligible will be required to pay the full course fee.
- › Year 10 students may not be eligible for funding from 2026.

Some courses may have additional eligibility criteria. For further details, visit cqu.edu.au/stn.

WORK PLACEMENT

Some Start TAFE Now courses require you to complete work placement activities related to your training. These placements are in addition to your normal classroom attendance and will generally be arranged by your school unless advised otherwise. Check the course information on cqu.edu.au prior to applying to ensure you are aware of placement details.

Important: Certain work placements require mandatory checks (e.g., immunisations, a Blue Card, or an Australian Federal Police check) before you can participate.

COURSE FEES AND CHARGES

Depending on what you choose to study, your course may be supported by a government subsidy. For the most up-to-date information, visit cqu.edu.au/stn.

Things to keep in mind:

- › Some courses may have additional costs, such as high-vis clothing or safety boots for trade-based training.
- › If fees apply, you may be eligible to pay in instalments through a payment plan. For more information, email advice@cqu.edu.au.
- › If you are not eligible for subsidised funding, you can enrol as a full-fee paying student.

Coming Soon

The Queensland Government is launching a new Career Ready program in early 2026. To learn more, visit our FAQs at cqu.edu.au/stn and follow the link to the Queensland Government website.



Scan for further details on application dates, eligibility info and more.

LEARN MORE



Proud to be a Queensland Government subsidised training provider

STN Courses

Study group	Course code	Course name	Intake ¹	Availability ²	Duration ³	QCE credits ⁴
BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING						
Bookkeeping	FNS30322	Certificate III in Accounts Administration	Multiple	Online	1.5	7
Business	BSB30120	Certificate III in Business	Multiple	Online	1-2	8
CREATIVE, PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS						
Visual Arts	CUA31120	Certificate III in Visual Arts	Multiple	Online	1.5-2	8
EDUCATION, TEACHING AND CHILDCARE						
Childcare	CHC30121	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care*	Multiple	Online	1	8
	CHC22015	Certificate II in Community Services*	Multiple	Online	1	4
Education Support	CHC30221	Certificate III in School Based Education Support*	Multiple	Online	1	8
NURSING, PARAMEDICINE AND HEALTH						
Fitness	SIS20122	Certificate II in Sport and Recreation	Multiple	Mixed Mode BDB, CNS, MKY, ROK	1-1.5	4
	SIS30321	Certificate III in Fitness	Multiple	Mixed Mode, BDB, CNS, MKY, ROK	1	8
Health Care	HLT23221	Certificate II in Health Support Services*	February	Mixed Mode, CNS, GLT, MKY, ROK, TSV	1	4
SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE						
Animal Care	ACM20121	Certificate II in Animal Care*	February, July	Online	1	4
Horticulture	AHC20422	Certificate II in Horticulture	February, July	Mixed Mode, BDB, EMD, GLT, MKY, ROK	1-1.5	4
SERVICE INDUSTRIES						
Hairdressing	SHB20216	Certificate II in Salon Assistant	Multiple	GLT, MKY, ROK	1	4
Hospitality	SIT20421	Certificate II in Cookery	February	Online, MKY, ROK	1	4
	SIT20322	Certificate II in Hospitality	February	Online, GLT, MKY, ROK	1	4
Tourism	SIT20122	Certificate II in Tourism	Multiple	Online	1	4
TRADES						
Automotive	AUR20720	Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation	February	Mixed Mode, EMD, GLT, ROK	1	4
Construction	CPC10120	Certificate I in Construction	February	ROK	1	3
Electrotechnology	UEE22020	Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start)	February	GLT, ROK	1	4
	10935NAT	Certificate II in Autonomous Technologies	February	Mixed Mode, MKY, ROK	1.5	4
Engineering	MEM20422	Certificate II in Engineering Pathways	Multiple	EMD, GLT, MKY, ROK	1	4

¹ Intake is the time of year you can start a course.

² On-campus availability, shown in the above table by the relevant city abbreviations, means you can attend in-person learning such as lectures, tutorials and practical experiences at a CQUniversity campus.

BDB Bundaberg **GLT** Gladstone **TSV** Townsville
CNS Cairns **MKY** Mackay
EMD Emerald **ROK** Rockhampton

Online availability means studying primarily online, with support through campuses and study centres. Some courses may include residential schools or work placements.

Mixed Mode availability combines online learning with location-specific activities like residential schools or work-integrated learning.

³ Duration is the minimum time in years required to complete a course.

⁴ By completing a Start TAFE Now course you can receive credit (points) towards your Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The number listed here indicates the maximum QCE points that can be attained.

* Work placement is required for this course.
Please visit cqu.edu.au/stn for more information.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

CQUniversity offers a variety of apprenticeship and traineeship courses, combining structured training with paid employment. These programs are available full time, part time, or through a school-based structure, allowing you to gain a trade or skill while earning a nationally accredited qualification. Traineeships typically last 1–2 years, while apprenticeships usually take 3–4 years to complete and qualify as a tradesperson.

SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIP OR TRAINEESHIP

Start your career before leaving school with a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. Available to students in Year 10, 11, or 12, this option lets you combine work, study, and training while getting paid. Discuss with your school's VET Coordinator to understand how this fits with your timetable. It may contribute to your ATAR score and add credits to your QCE credits.

For more details, visit cqu.edu.au/apprenticeships.

WHO CAN UNDERTAKE A SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIP?

To be eligible, students must:

- › be at least 15 years old and in Years 10, 11 or 12 at a registered Queensland high school
- › have school support and parental/guardian consent if under 18. Certain courses, like Electrotechnology, may have specific entry requirements. For more information, visit qld.gov.au/education/apprenticeships.

‘Just jump in and do it. The more you learn the more you know, knowledge is powerful and that is what we are all doing here, growing and learning to make a change to ourselves and our community.’

Taleisha Torney | Horticulture student



How to apply

At CQUniversity, we're here to help you every step of the way. If you're interested in studying a Start TAFE Now course in 2026, once you've explored your course options and confirmed your eligibility, simply follow these steps to complete and submit your application:

Step 1. Gather your documents

Before you begin, make sure you have:

- › your USI (Unique Student Identifier)
 - apply at usi.gov.au/students/get-a-usi
- › your LUI (Learner Unique Identifier)
 - provided by your school
- › A signed Start TAFE Now Authorisation Form
 - download it from cqu.edu.au/stn.

Step 2. Submit your application

- › Visit your chosen course page via cqu.edu.au/stn.
- › Click How to Apply and follow the steps.
- › Choose Start TAFE Now as your application type.
- › Log in or register for a student ID.
- › Upload your signed Authorisation Form (double check it's complete and accurate).
- › Make sure your parent/guardian and school contact details on the Authorisation Form match what you entered in your online application.

Step 3. Get ready to enrol

After applying, you'll receive a confirmation email with your next steps, including:

- › a link to complete the BKSb test (a quick skills check)
- › any additional enrolment tasks specific to your course.

Your enrolment won't be finalised until all steps are completed, so be sure to check your inbox.

APPLICATION DATES

Each course has its own intake dates and deadlines. Visit cqu.edu.au/stn and scroll down to check key dates and get your application in early.

QUESTIONS?

We're here to help. Email us at stn@cqu.edu.au or head to cqu.edu.au/stn to learn more about the Start TAFE Now program.



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Contact us

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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.



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.

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