

Latest News from The University of Queensland October 2021

Top Stories

Celebrating UQ's champions of inclusive teaching and learning

Champions of inclusive education have been celebrated at this year's [University of Queensland Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#).

Australian Government awards millions for UQ research

Important research projects addressing challenges from skin cancer to traffic injuries at The University of Queensland have been awarded more than \$50 million from the Australian Government. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has announced grants for five Centres for Research Excellence (CRE), two Partnership Projects and 29 Investigator Grants in its latest round of funding. More details can be found [here](#).

Flipping the gut microbiome–autism link on its head

A new Australian collaborative Autism CRC study, led by Mater Research and The University of Queensland, has [challenged the growing popular belief that the gut microbiome drives autism](#).

2022 Best Global Universities Rankings

UQ ranked 36th in the [US News 2022 News Best Global Rankings](#).

Student Achievements and Teaching and Learning

- UQ alumnus Tahlia Smith will be heading to Oxford after being named [Queensland's 2022 Rhodes Scholar](#).
- UQ medical student, Zhen-Yi Andy Ouhas, has been awarded a prestigious fellowship to [research the debilitating nervous system disorder, Parkinson's Disease](#).
- UQ journalism student Sarah Richards is helping to [shape media landscape](#) by changing the way that people with disabilities are represented.
- Visionary educator Professor Paul Harpur wants universities to be [disability champions](#).
- Innovative UQ lecturer Stuart Middleton is using [TikTok teaching to engage students](#) and help them understand key messages about business management in less than 60 seconds.
- As a teenager [Jemima Hutton never dreamed that she would go to university](#), let alone study medicine but she is defying dyslexia to thrive and is sharing her advice with others.
- Australian Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic representatives were among [34 UQ student-athletes recognised for their sporting achievements](#) at the annual UQ Blues Awards Dinner.
- Three School of Economics students and a University of Exeter student were part of the winning [Borderless competition](#) team for Semester 2, 2021. Borderless connects students from international universities to collaborate digitally and address some of the global problems economists face today.
- Senior lecturer Dr Hassan Khosravi is gaining international attention for his [innovative efforts to change tertiary level teaching and learning with the help of artificial intelligence](#).
- The Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law facilitated an [interactive workshop](#) during Teaching and Learning Week on "Practices and strategies that enhance inclusive learning experiences". Presenters from across the Faculty discussed a range of themes, from neurodiverse learners to inclusive assessment design.

- Law students Rory Brown, Alex Zagami and Caitlin Holmes won the grand final of the 2021 [National Administrative Appeals Tribunal Moot competition](#). Alex was also awarded Best Speaker of the competition.
- Four UQ students took home \$10,000 after competing against 100 of their peers to win the 2021 UQ Law School and King & Wood Mallesons [#TransformLaw KWM Prize](#). The winning team designed an AI sentiment analysis tool to assist with mediation in family law.

Research, Discover and Partnered Innovation

Grants and Funding

- UQ researchers will lead the creation of a national blueprint for screening melanoma - one of Australia's most common and deadly cancers. The Centre for Health Services Research, will head the research team after being awarded a [\\$5 million Synergy Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\)](#).
- Two Business School researchers were part of research teams that received [NHMRC Ideas Grants](#):
 - Associate Professor Sarah Jane Kelly and collaborators will use an \$1,048,251 grant to research "Understanding and Treating Videogame Addiction in Young People". The team will be led by Professor Daniel Johnson, QUT.
 - Dr Russell Richards and team will use an \$1,284,891 grant to explore "A One Health/System Dynamics approach to reducing Clostridioides difficile infection". The team will be led by Professor Thomas Riley, UWA.
- UQ's Associate Professor Dan Watterson has been [awarded a \\$1.25 million CSL Centenary Fellowship to research accelerated pandemic treatments](#).
- [Improving health and economic costs after road traffic injuries](#) is the focus of a new UQ-led Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) awarded \$2.5 million by the National Health and Medical Research Council.
- A UQ team has received an \$880,852 grant from the Academy of Korean Studies in South Korea for a project titled "Developing UQ as a Central Hub for nurturing the next generation of Korean Studies education, research and regional cooperation for Queensland and the Northern Territory, Australia".
- CBEH Director Stephen Birch is part of a research team that received a Medical Research Future Fund Incubator Grant, worth \$704,685, to investigate "Developing cultural sensitivity and capability through communication training for mental health professionals". The administering organisation is the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

Discoveries

- A new Australian collaborative Autism CRC study, led by Mater Research and UQ, has [challenged the growing popular belief that the gut microbiome drives autism](#).
- New [data reveals just 51 per cent of Australians plan to travel overseas](#) now that international borders are open.
- There's been a [significant breakthrough in the development of a vaccine to prevent hookworm infection](#) – a parasite which causes serious disease in tens of millions of people globally.
- Getting shy children to 'face their fears' and coaching parents in exposure therapy is the [focus of a new UQ study](#).
- A [pathway helping the breast cancer protein BRCA1 repair damaged DNA has been identified](#) by researchers in a study that will inform future targeted therapies.

- The tropical root vegetable, taro, is under threat from rising sea levels but wild Australian plants being cultivated by UQ may help [boost food security in the Pacific](#).
- [Bacteria found in children's upper respiratory systems could help fight chronic middle ear infections](#), the leading cause of preventable hearing loss and deafness in Indigenous communities.
- Studying tiny 'live' models of the human brain has helped researchers understand its ageing and find a key to [potential treatments for Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases](#).
- [Drug use remains a serious issue in Queensland](#) according to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and a National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program wastewater report.
- UQ researchers have found the [SARS-CoV-2 virus does not infect blood vessels](#), despite the high risk of blood clots to COVID-19 patients.
- Fossil footprints found in an Ipswich coal mine have long been thought to be that of a large 'raptor-like' predatory dinosaur, but scientists have [found they were instead left by a timid long-necked herbivore](#).
- Cell fitness has been identified as a way of [predicting health outcomes in COVID patients](#).
- People with [higher genetic risk of clinical depression](#) are more likely to have physical symptoms such as chronic pain, fatigue and migraine.
- A research collaboration between UQ and King Faisal University has found big genetic differences between male and female jojoba plants, a discovery which could [boost jojoba production and shed light on how plants adapt to environmental stress](#).
- A commonly available pesticide has been [associated with an increased risk of chronic kidney disease \(CKD\)](#) in a UQ study.
- A longitudinal study of Queensland families has found [women on lower incomes are more likely to suffer with pre and post-natal depression](#).
- Cases of major depressive and anxiety disorders have [increased by more than 25 per cent worldwide](#), according to a world-first study of the impact of COVID-19 on mental health.
- A UQ researcher has spent decades compiling a first-of-its-kind [database of the butterfly species of the Torres Strait Islands](#), boosting biosecurity and conservation measures in the region.

Partnered Innovation

- A global team of researchers, led by UQ's Dr Jingwei Hou, Professor Lianzhou Wang and Professor Vicki Chen, have [unlocked the technology to produce next-generation composite glass for lighting LEDs and smartphone, television and computer screens](#).
- A massive international research effort has led to [development of a genetic model for the 'ultimate' chickpea](#), with the potential to lift crop yields by up to 12 per cent.
- [Mining engineering education will enter a new era](#) with an agreement signed between UQ and Mitsubishi Development (MDP).
- An [urgent increase in policy support and investment would be needed for carbon capture and storage \(CCS\)](#) to achieve the scale needed to meet global decarbonisation goals, according to UQ and Princeton University researchers.
- A [calculator to help people understand their risk factors for COVID-19 infection and vaccination has been launched](#) by the Immunisation Coalition in collaboration with Australian researchers. The co-lead researchers are UQ virologist Dr Kirsty Short, CoRiCal instigator from Flinders University Associate Professor John Litt and GP Dr Andrew Baird.

Achievements and Awards

- Law School Professor Andreas Schloenhardt's [book](#), *International cooperation in criminal matters involving the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as the legal basis*, was published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- School of Economics Professor KK Tang was selected as one of 12 finalists for the global 2021 [edX Prize for Innovation in Online Teaching](#) for his Macroeconomics Professional Certificate. Professor Tang's course was selected from more than 2600 entries.
- In a [special report](#) from *The Australian*, UQ was named 'Top research institution in the field' for Business, Economics and Management, and the Business School's Professor Brent Ritchie was named 'Top researcher in the field' for Tourism and Hospitality. The report also named Australia's [Top 40 lifetime achievers in research](#), including Professor Sara Dolnicar (AIBE) in the field of Tourism and Hospitality, and Professor Neal Ashkanasy (Business School) in the field of Human Resources and Organisations.

Entrepreneurship and Engagement

- [Global Engagement](#) helped two UQ researchers, Professor Peta Ashworth - UQ's Chair in Sustainable Energy - and Dr Cle-Anne Gabriel - Senior Lecturer in Strategy, in their contributions to Australia-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce publication: [Rethink, Reset 2021: The Road to Net Zero](#).
- Three UQ alumni have raised \$2.6 million in a seed round for their [construction contracting tech start-up, ProcurePro](#).
- UQ Bachelor of Business Management alumnus and co-founder and CEO of Jacaranda Finance Daniel Wessels [donated a lead gift of \\$25,000 to kickstart the ilab Accelerator Fund](#) on UQ Giving Day. Founded in 2013, when Daniel was 24, Jacaranda is now an executive showcase for the 'blue ocean' strategy. Or, in Daniel's words: "A lesson for any entrepreneur on the benefits of value innovation".
- A UQ start-up company, [developing a potential new treatment for obesity-related liver disease](#), has secured a seed investment of \$1.3 million from IP Group, a UK-based intellectual property business.
- A shoe insole using [bionic technology to help people with nerve damage maintain their balance](#) has been designed by UQ researchers.
- The Centre of Research Excellence in Stillbirth in the Mater Research Institute-UQ [aims to reduce the number of stillbirths by 20 per cent over the next four years](#).
- Law School researcher Dr Joseph Lelliott drafted a [report](#) on "The Concept of 'Harbouring' in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol" for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Appointments

- Three UQ Business School academics have been elected as Fellows of the [Academy of Social Sciences in Australia](#).
- Professor Martie-Louise Verreyne was appointed as the BEL Faculty's Associate Dean (Research), commencing in the role on 2 November.

Other Items of Interest

- UQP partnered with the UQ Art Museum to host the [2021 UQP Quentin Bryce Award celebration](#) which saw UQ's Shastra Deo in conversation with the 2021 recipient Sarah Walker (*The First Time I Thought I Was Dying*) and Dame Quentin Bryce.
- A [rare first edition of John Polidori's The Vampyre from 1819 has been found](#) in the Fryer Library.
- UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship recipient Jacinta Carroll won her fifth-consecutive Open Women's Jump title at the [2021 IWWF World Waterski Championships](#) in Florida, USA.

- UQ Sports Achievement Scholarship holder and Brisbane Broncos forward, Pat Carrigan, was named in the [2021 NRL Academic Team of the Year](#).
- Bachelors of Commerce / Arts student Aidan Munford [signed with the Brisbane Roar](#) for the 2021/22 A-League season.
- The Business School's Practice and Process Studies research hub launched Professor Jorgen Sandberg and Professor Mats Alvesson's book, *Re-imagining the Research Process: Conventional and Alternative Metaphors*, at a [hybrid event](#).
- The Business School and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile hosted their [joint research symposium](#) "Doing Consumption Differently: Theorising Consumer Culture V". The symposium was the fifth in the annual Theorising Consumer Culture series in Santiago, Chile, and was held online for the first time. Participants heard from academic keynote speakers, faculty mentors and an industry panel.
- Academic Dean and Head of School of Economics Professor Daniel Zizzo hosted the School's launch of the new [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Economics Postgraduate Support Endowment](#). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economics alumni gave accounts about why Indigenous voices should be heard at all levels in the field of economics, and how scholarship support changes lives and creates change for generations to follow.
- The Business School hosted an [Indigenous Business Month event](#) to showcase Indigenous entrepreneurs and their contributions to the Queensland and national economy. Panellists included Deputy Chair of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council Cameron Costello and several Indigenous experts and business owners.
- The Law School hosted the 2021 [Richard Cooper Memorial Lecture](#), which is a joint initiative of the School and the Federal Court of Australia. This year's lecture on native title law was presented by The Honourable John Alfred Dowsett AM QC.

Vale

- **Mr Max Olding AM, passed away 17 November 2021.** Mr Olding was one of Australia's most distinguished musicians, most dedicated teachers, and most humane, humble, gentle and generous souls. He was part of the UQ School of Music's piano teaching team for about a decade, (as a casual). Mr Olding was a UQ graduate of a Master of Music in 1987 and received a UQ Honorary Doctor of Music in 2011.
- **Mr Nelson Wainaina Gaithuma, passed away November 2021.** Mr Gaithuma was an enrolled student in the Bachelor of Business Management program.
- **Dr Liz Barber, passed away 30 October 2021.** Dr Barber was a Lecturer in the School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine. She was also a UQ alumna, having completed her PhD with the School of Public Health.
- **Mr Bryn Adsett, passed away November 2021.** Mr Adsett was an enrolled student in the MD program. A talented student, Bryn topped UQ medicine in year 1 (2020) and was awarded the John Wienholt Memorial Prize.