

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

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### LEARNING

- L1** By 16 January, UQ had made [10,500 offers to applicants](#) for study in 2017. The [Bachelor of Mathematics](#) is becoming popular – 290 offers were made for the program this year compared to 126 last year.
- L2** Six [new programs are on offer](#) at UQ in 2017, including the [Bachelor of Criminology and Criminal Justice \(Honours\)](#) and the [Bachelor of Advanced Humanities \(Honours\)](#).
- L3** The UQ Faculty of Science established a [new school](#) on 1 January. The [School of Earth and Environmental Sciences](#) takes in the former School of Earth Sciences and the former School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management. [Professor Jonathan Aitchison](#) is the new school head.
- L4** UQ has [maintained its position](#) in the [Australian Awards for University Teaching](#), with the 2016 presentation in Canberra in December confirming that UQ has garnered more national teaching awards than any other university since the awards' inception in 1997.
- L5** UQ awarded [8086 degrees in December](#). Graduating students included Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith (who became Australia's [first enlisted Victoria Cross recipient to complete a degree after receiving the honour](#)), a [graduating grandmother](#), a [father who has completed a PhD about online parenting programs](#) and a [medical graduate who recently underwent cancer treatment](#).
- L6** UQ celebrated the graduation of [a record number of female engineers](#) in December. Women comprised 26 per cent of UQ's graduating cohort, compared to the 17 per cent national average.
- L7** The new Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, Professor Andrew Griffiths, [plans to strengthen the faculty's international focus](#).
- L8** Two UQ academics [have been named fellows](#) of the Australian Academy of the Humanities: Professor Alastair Blanshard, UQ's Paul Eliadis Chair of Classics and Ancient History; and Professor John Macarthur, director of UQ's Centre for Architecture, Theory, Criticism and History.
- L9** Seven UQ undergraduates [will study in destinations around the Indo-Pacific region](#) as 2017 [New Colombo Plan](#) Fellows and scholars.
- L10** Two UQ engineering postgraduates [will study at the University of Oxford in 2017](#) on General Sir John Monash Foundation Scholarships.

- L11** UQ Master of Counselling graduate Shehenaz Ismail [is educating the first Bachelor of Psychology students in the Maldives](#), teaching neuropsychology, forensic psychology, cognitive psychology, and counselling psychology at Maldives National University.
- L12** A free UQ online course that has attracted more than 270,000 non-native English speakers globally [has been enhanced](#) to help even more students kick-start their university education. The Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education's [IELTSx: IELTS Academic Test Preparation](#) English course was developed to help students preparing for assessment through the [International English Language Testing System](#).
- L13** Three University of Queensland postgraduate [students have received funding](#) for study and travel, and entry to a leadership program, thanks to a fund celebrating the bicentenary of Westpac Banking Corporation.
- L14** Mining engineers have the highest graduate employability rate among engineers, according to a Graduate Careers Australia study that tracked job placements for 34 years, Professor Peter Knights, UQ's Head of Mining Engineering, [reported in February](#).
- L15** The [new Law Library](#) (part of the [Forgan Smith refurbishment](#)) has reopened to students, who are already using the 24/7 spaces and collections.
- L16** Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch officially opened the UQ Library's [Centre for Digital Scholarship](#).
- L17** Work is under way to enhance outdoor space at the Duhig North Building. The "Duhig Place" upgrade will provide more student seating and spaces to study, relax, and socialise. The project will improve the entrance way to the busy [Social Sciences and Humanities Library](#).
- L18** Work on the [UQ Gatton Library](#) is progressing. This will provide an upgrade and additional student space.

## DISCOVERY

- D1** UQ topped the [Asia 100 ranking](#), a new Thomas Barlow ranking, which seeks to measure the research excellence and capabilities of universities in real time rather than using historical factors.
- D2** Fruit, vegetables and nuts with health-giving benefits will be the focus of a \$10 million Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation research project called Naturally Nutritious. Dr Tim O'Hare – who developed [SuperGold sweet corn](#), which protects against macular eye degeneration – will lead the work.
- D3** UQ [secured \\$1.2 million](#) from the Australian Research Council for mining-related research under the Linkage Projects scheme. Industry partners will make cash and in-kind contributions.

- D4** Dr Wallace Taylor OAM, a researcher who has devoted more than 50 years to improving the socio-economics of rural and regional communities, [received UQ's 2016 Gatton Gold Medal](#) in December.
- D5** A UQ-led study has found that adopting [daylight saving time in South-East Queensland could help koala conservation](#). Associate Professor Robbie Wilson said it would decrease car collisions with koalas by eight per cent on weekdays and 11 per cent on weekends.
- D6** A UQ team has discovered an [environmentally sustainable alternative to chemicals and pesticides](#). Research leader Professor Neena Mitter said BioClay could be a game-changer for crop protection.
- D7** Major floods occurred in the Lockyer Valley in 500AD, in the 1300s, 1700s, 1890s and 1970s, [new research shows](#). Associate Professor Jacky Croke said the study aimed to help understand, predict and manage extreme flood events in South-East Queensland.
- D8** Feral cats cover more than 99.8 per cent of Australia, [new research shows](#). UQ's Dr Sarah Legge said the nation's feral cat population fluctuated between 2.1 million up to 6.3 million when widespread rain resulted in plenty of available prey.
- D9** A UQ team is among the [first in neuroscience](#) to see the brain's tiniest molecules in action. Professor Fred Meunier's laboratory at the [Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research](#) developed the breakthrough technique in super-resolution microscopy.
- D10** UQ scientists [have solved a riddle](#) that has puzzled beach-goers and collectors – why are conch shell colours and patterns so diverse? The researchers investigated the complex gene networks that control the secretions of chemicals and proteins in molluscs to create shells.
- D11** The spread of introduced bird species around the world has mirrored the rise of global power and wealth, [according to a new study](#) that has mapped the movement of alien bird species.
- D12** Leonie the leopard shark is [the first shark recorded to change from sexual to asexual reproduction](#). The research could help save the species.
- D13** UQ researchers have discovered a molecular trigger for inflammation that [could lead to new treatments](#) for rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and neurodegenerative diseases.
- D14** New research about what type of exercise best helps cancer survivors overcome fatigue has won School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences PhD student Kirsten Adlard [a Clinical Oncology Society of Australia award](#).

- D15** An [international study led by UQ researchers](#) seeks to understand how white and tiger shark populations have changed over time. The researchers say a better understanding of shark populations and distributions will help with the species' conservation and management.
- D16** A UQ [study has identified](#) Springfield, Ipswich and Boonah as some of south-east Queensland's most intense areas of thunderstorm activity.
- D17** The [discovery of a regenerative stem cell](#) active in human blood vessels could help patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- D18** DIY accidents will be the focus of [a UQ and QUT study](#) into power tool injuries and prevention strategies.
- D19** [Queensland Brain Institute](#) researchers [have found a link](#) between Vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy and increased autism traits.
- D20** A new UQ study [has discovered](#) that giant manta rays are deep-sea predators, in research that is likely to be critical to efforts to protect the species.
- D21** UQ's Telerehabilitation Clinic has been credited with [helping a man in Japan to regain his speech](#) after surgery to remove a malignant brain tumour.
- D22** Patients at risk of life-threatening infections following chemotherapy could benefit from [a new cell-based treatment](#) developed from UQ research.
- D23** A [UQ discovery](#) could help reduce heart disease and boost nutrition security globally. The discovery could lead to ways of boosting the cholesterol-fighting properties of cereals including wheat.
- D24** A UQ researcher is trialling [a 12-minute exercise plan](#) that aims to fight type 2 diabetes.
- D25** A [UQ-led study involving researchers from three continents](#) has found habitat destruction still far outstrips habitat protection across many parts of the planet.
- D26** [A world-first study](#) has found medical hypnosis decreased pain, anxiety, and stress for children with serious burns.
- D27** An open access Water Atlas [has gone online](#), giving the general public a 3D view of groundwater data from eastern Australia's Surat Basin.
- D28** UQ research [is giving answers](#) to more than 1500 Australians with a rare and debilitating genetic disorder that caused their brains to develop unusually.

- D29** UQ Centre for Clinical Research scientists have [found a non-invasive brain stimulation technique](#) that could improve cognitive control for people with conditions such as schizophrenia and autism.
- D30** Negative stereotypes about injecting drug-users may be hampering their recovery, according to [the results of a study](#) led by School of Psychology researcher Dr Courtney von Hippel.
- D31** American actors in films that portrays American culture are most likely to win Oscars, [according to a study](#) led by School of Psychology researcher Dr Nik Steffens.
- D32** An effective and economical post-exposure Ebola treatment [has been developed](#) by an international team led by UQ School of Chemistry and Molecular Bioscience's Professor Alexander Khromykh and QIMR Berghofer's Professor Andreas Suhrbier.
- D33** An international team of researchers led by UQ School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences physiotherapy lecturer Dr Anna Hatton is [trailing specially designed shoe insoles](#) aimed at improving the mobility of people with multiple sclerosis.
- D34** A UQ-led international study [published in January](#) says encroaching human activities are destroying more than 100 Natural World Heritage sites.
- D35** A study led by School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences researcher Professor Bostjan Kobe [has highlighted minute details](#) of how a plant's immune system leads to its ability to resist disease.
- D36** Phase one of the [UQ eSpace](#) redevelopment is complete. The new infrastructure will support high availability and reliability, and growth capacity for the next decade.
- D37** UQ eSpace was [again ranked highly in the annual Ranking Web of Repositories](#), which ranks the world's top institutional repositories.
- D38** More than 5000 [Fryer Library](#) items have been digitised and made discoverable in [UQ eSpace](#).
- D39** Associate Director of the Library's Scholarly Communication and Repository Services Dr Amberlyn Thomas received the [2016 Council of Australian University Librarians Achievement Award](#), for outstanding contributions in the areas of research and sharing knowledge and data.
- D40** Dr Karen Lam delivered the 2016 Fryer Lecture in Australian Literature on her biography [Thea Astley, Inventing Her Own Weather \(UQP\)](#). The book propelled Dr Lam to become [joint winner of the 2016 Prime Minister's Literary Awards non-fiction prize](#).

## ENGAGEMENT

- E1** The Group of Eight – Australia’s group of leading research-intensive universities – has [appointed UQ Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj as its Chair](#) for 2017.
- E2** Eminent members of the UQ community were [recognised in the Australia Day 2017 Honours List](#). They included Professor Max Lu AO, Professor Peter Gray AO, Adjunct Professor Liz Kenny AO, alumnus and former Queensland Premier Anna Bligh AC and an alumnus and [generous donor to UQ](#), William “Bill” Bowness OAM. Others were:
- **Ms Roberta “Bobbie” Brazil AO**
  - **Professor Ray Frost AO**
  - **Emeritus Professor Bill Lovegrove AO**
  - **Ms Anne O’Donovan AO**
  - **Dr Christopher Roberts AO**
  - **Mr David Barbagallo AM**
  - **Associate Professor Brett Emmerson AM**
  - **Mr Ian Klug AM**
  - **Dr Peter Parodi AM (deceased)**
  - **Mr Allan Pidgeon AM**
  - **Dr Larry Smith AM (deceased)**
  - **Emeritus Professor Robert Stimson AM**
  - **Honorary Professor Catherine Turner AM**
  - **Professor Neal Ashkanasy OAM**
  - **Dr James Bardsley OAM**
  - **Mr Bryan Besly OAM**
  - **Miss Emilee Cherry OAM**
  - **Mrs Gwenyth Cutler OAM**
  - **Professor Hugh Dickson OAM**
  - **Mr John Ferguson OAM**
  - **Mr John Hardy OAM**
  - **Mrs Deidre Hargreaves OAM**
  - **Mr Anthony Hickey OAM**
  - **Mr Ian Jarratt OAM**
  - **Mr John Johnstone OAM**
  - **Mr Jack Lunn OAM**
  - **Mr Bill McCutcheon OAM**
  - **Honorary Professor Ian Meyers OAM**
  - **Ms Cecily Pearson OAM**
  - **Dr Les Thompson OAM**
  - **Mr Adrian Unger OAM**
  - **Dr Keith Zabell OAM**
  - **Mr Randall Cox PSM**
  - **Dr Philip Moody PSM**

- E3** Former St Johns College warden (2014-16) Reverend James Rigney died on 23 January. He was a gifted academic and won scholarships to study at the University of Sydney, the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, resulting in two doctorates, two undergraduate degrees and a masters degree. Colleagues remember him as a kind, wise and gentle man, quietly intelligent, engagingly humorous, and always generous with his time. His time at St John's saw strong student admissions, positive changes in college culture and a renewed relationship with the administration of the other colleges through his work as President of the Queensland Chapter of University Colleges Australia. A service was held at St Leo's College.
- E4** A celebrity chef and UQ alumnus served up a fusion of science, education and gastronomy when *Food Lab by Ben Milbourne* [was launched](#) at Brisbane's Customs House in January. UQ is a production partner in the series.
- E5** Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey AC and Mrs Kaye de Jersey [hosted a cocktail function at Government House](#) in November to acknowledge the financial contributions of [TC Beirne School of Law](#) alumni and Queensland's legal fraternity towards the \$20 million target for the Forgan Smith building renovation. About \$7 million has been raised so far.
- E6** Alumnus Andrew Liveris AO [will chair the American Manufacturing Council](#), a 25-member private sector group that will advise the US Secretary of Commerce on manufacturing and employment.
- E7** The School of Economics [has appointed two full-time postdoctoral researchers](#) to the Port of Brisbane project.
- E8** More than a year after the Gorkha earthquake killed nearly 9000 people in Nepal, [two UQ students visiting the region](#) found destroyed classrooms and a health clinic replaced with a tent.
- E9** UQ Hockey Club hosted Yale University's Women's Field Hockey team in an [exhibition match at the UQ Synthetic Fields](#) as part of Yale's five-match Australian Tour.
- E10** UQ students, including members of Australia's Rio 2016 gold medal-winning women's rugby sevens squad, will form a [UQ team in the inaugural national women's rugby competition](#), AON Women's Uni Sevens Series.
- E11** 2016 Sports Achievement Scholarship recipient and Queensland Firebirds captain Gabi Simpson featured in the Australian Diamonds team that retained the [Netball Quad Series](#) title over New Zealand, South Africa and England.
- E12** Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Sciences/ Business Management student and Queensland cricketer Mitchell Swepson has been selected in [Australia's 16-man Test Match squad to tour India](#).
- E13** UQ Australian Football Club representatives Emma Zielke (captain), Breanna Koenen, Sharni Webb and Megan Hunt represented Brisbane Lions in its [maiden AFL Women's match against Melbourne Demons](#).

- E14** UQ Sport Academy athletics squad member Christine Wearne represented [Team Australia](#) at the inaugural [Nitro Athletics](#) event in Melbourne, which featured eight-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt.
- E15** Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education student and Rio 2016 Rugby Sevens gold medallist Emilee Cherry won [Australian University Sport's 'Most Outstanding Performance'](#) honour at the 2016 AUS Awards.
- E16** Rio 2016 Olympian and UQAC member Cedric Dubler and UQ Sport Academy athlete Christine Wearne have been selected to represent [Team Australia at February's Nitro Athletics](#) event in Melbourne.
- E17** UQ Hockey Club's Rebecca Greiner won a bronze medal with Australia at December's [Junior Hockey World Cup in Chile](#).
- E18** Rio 2016 20km Walk bronze medallist Dane Bird-Smith was named [Runner Tribe's 2016 Australian Male Athlete of the Year](#).
- E19** Fifteen-year-old Rio 2016 Paralympic bronze medallist and UQ Swim Club member Katja Dedekind was crowned [Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association's 2016 Junior Female Athlete of the Year](#).
- E20** UQ Boat Club members Caitlin Cronin and Kate Rowan have accepted invitations to train full-time at the [Women's National Training Centre](#) in Sydney.
- E21** The three student winners of the 2016 Library Excellence Award and the 2016 Fryer Library Fellow, Dr Roger Osborne, [were celebrated at an awards and acquisitions event](#) in the Fryer Library in December. Guests and donors viewed new acquisitions that were made possible through donations.
- E22** The [UQL Cyberschool](#) team received the [Queensland School Library Association Citation](#), a biennial award recognising an outstanding contribution to teacher-librarianship.

## VALE

The University was saddened by the deaths of UQ community members, including:

**Mrs Hazel Anderson**, UQ Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work alumna, died 6 December 2016

**Ms Clare Atkinson**, UQ Music alumna, died 22 June 2016

**Dr Shauna Barnes**, UQ Medicine alumna, died 28 January 2017

**Dr Mark Bestmann**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 3 February 2016

**Mrs Christine Black**, UQ Health & Rehabilitation Sciences alumna, died 26 December 2016

**Dr Brian Bolton**, UQ Veterinary Science alumnus, died 30 October 2016

**Sister Mary Brewer**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 6 January 2017

**Dr David Clarkson**, UQ Veterinary Science alumnus, died 7 December 2016

**Ms Deirdre Coghlan**, UQ Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work alumna, died 1 December 2016

**Dr Jim Coleman**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 5 January 2017

**Mr John Collingwood**, UQ Faculty of Science alumnus, died 20 October 2016



**Mr Russell Collins**, UQ Agriculture & Food Sciences alumnus, died 07 December 2016  
**Dr Glenys Conrade**, UQ Psychology alumna, died 26 December 2016  
**Mrs Gwendolyn Cooke**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 27 September 2016  
**Dr Desmond Cooke**, UQ Dentistry alumnus, died 22 September 2016  
**Mrs Yvonne Cossins**, UQ Faculty of Science alumna, died 07 December 2016  
**Mr Denis Cowan**, UQ Psychology alumnus, died 16 November 2016  
**Ms Lenore Cowley**, UQ Education alumna, died 13 December 2016  
**Dr June Crawford**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 09 December 2016  
**Dr Elizabeth Creagh**, UQ Medicine alumna, died 12 December 2016  
**Mrs Daphne Dobson**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 31 January 2017  
**Mr Craig Dougall**, UQ Business alumnus, died 06 January 2017  
**Mr Allan Dowdle**, UQ Education alumnus, died 20 July 2016  
**Mr John Flemming**, UQ Mathematics & Physics alumnus, died 12 December 2016  
**Mrs Robyn Fort**, died 10 November 2016  
**Mr David Gibson OAM**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumnus, died 01 December 2016  
**Emeritus Professor Timothy Glover**, died 29 January 2017  
**Dr Allan Halladay**, died 25 January 2017  
**Mrs Marylyn Handy**, UQ Education alumna, died 12 November 2016  
**Ms Joan Hannan**, UQ Business alumna, died 17 April 2016  
**Mr Michael Harris**, died 01 August 2016  
**Dr Keith Higlett**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 19 November 2016  
**Ms Margaret Hollingsworth**, died 30 December 2016  
**Mr Jack Hollingworth OAM**, UQ Law; Business alumnus, died 26 January 2017  
**Ms Anita Holzer**, UQ Health & Rehabilitation Sciences alumna, died 20 January 2017  
**Mr David Horton**, UQ Faculty of Science alumnus, died 29 November 2016  
**Dr Kevin King**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 28 November 2016  
**Mr John Lynch**, UQ Music alumnus, died 29 August 2016  
**Sister Joan MacGinley**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 13 November 2016  
**Mr James Matheson**, UQ Agriculture & Food Sciences alumnus, died 10 January 2017  
**Mr Neville Murr**, UQ Business; Economics alumnus, died 19 November 2016  
**Mr William Murray**, UQ Faculty of Science alumnus, died 15 November 2016  
**Dr Christine Orazio**, UQ Medicine alumna, died 26 January 2017  
**Mrs Meryl Papas OAM**, died 28 December 2016  
**Mr David Passier**, died 21 November 2016  
**Mrs Francie Pitts**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 4 December 2016  
**Mr Barry Reardon**, UQ Economics alumnus, died 10 December 2016  
**Emeritus Professor Anne Street AM**, died 28 December 2016  
**Mrs Marguerite Stringer**, UQ Faculty of HASS alumna, died 20 November 2016  
**Dr William Sugars**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 23 January 2017  
**Professor Ralph Swan**, UQ Veterinary Science alumnus, died 14 October 2016  
**Ms Carol Swendson**, UQ Business alumna, died 29 December 2016  
**Mr Robert Sword**, UQ Pharmacy alumnus, died 15 January 2017  
**Dr Mansel Thomas**, UQ Medicine alumnus, died 20 December 2016  
**Ms Christine Williams**, UQ Historical and Philosophical Inquiry alumna, died 15 December 2016  
**Emeritus Professor Graeme Wilson**, died 14 December 2016