

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages Short Course

Factsheet

Overview

The [Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages Short Course](#) recognises the importance of Australia's First Languages and their unique place in the cultural, educational and historical life of Queensland and Australia. The course supports language maintenance, revival and development while strengthening cultural identity, pride and community connection.

It also provides students the opportunity to explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through communication, storytelling, Country/Place, culture and identity. Learning is grounded in culturally safe practices and respectful engagement with local communities.

Course structure

The short course is designed for a notional time of 55 hours of teaching and learning and contributes 1 credit towards a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Topic 1: Making connections

Students explore kinship, identity, family, community, Country/Place, sea, sky and relationships through language and cultural practices.

Topic 2: Storytelling

Students engage with stories, songs, songlines, oral histories and cultural knowledge to understand the role of storytelling in maintaining language, culture and identity.

Assessment

Students complete two internal assessment projects:

- Exploring connections
- The art of storytelling.

The assessment may include spoken, written, multimodal, digital and/or performance responses.

Through the assessments, students will develop skills and demonstrate their ability to:

- comprehend and interpret language
- create spoken and/or written texts
- understand the relationship between language, culture and identity
- demonstrate understanding of language systems
- use culturally appropriate protocols and ethical behaviour.

Learning outcomes

The course provides opportunities for students to:

- strengthen cultural identity and pride
- engage with Aboriginal languages and knowledges and Torres Strait Islander languages and knowledges
- deepen understanding of Country/Place and community
- support language revival and cultural continuity
- develop communication, inquiry and intercultural understanding skills
- combine 21st century skills with cultural knowledge and language acquisition.

Interested in studying this course?

Schools interested in offering the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages Short Course can work with Elders, local community members, language custodians and the QCAA to support culturally responsive teaching, learning and implementation.

Students and families are encouraged to speak with their school leadership team, guidance officer or senior schooling staff about course availability.

For more information, email the subject Principal Education Officer at AboriginalandTorresStraitIslanderLanguagesShortCourse@qcaa.qld.edu.au.



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