What is Aquatic Practices all about?

Aquatic Practices provides you with opportunities to practically explore, experience and study the role coastal waters and inland waterways have in tourism, recreation, transport and food production. Through these experiences, you’ll build your understanding of what employers and colleagues expect in aquatic workplaces, including the legal and safety issues and codes of practice associated with waterways. You will also develop your understanding of career pathways, jobs and other opportunities available for safely participating in and contributing to aquatic contexts and activities.

What will you learn?

You will engage in learning in four areas of study, and have opportunities to expand on specific areas of aquatic learning through elective topics. The four areas are:

- **Environmental** — which focuses on environmental conditions, ecosystems, conservation and sustainability. You will gain a deep understanding of the aquatic environment, enhancing your success in aquatic activities that you undertake. The elective offered focuses on citizen science.

- **Recreational** — which focuses on ways people engage with the aquatic environment for enjoyment. You will gain the knowledge, understanding and skills to safely enter the aquatic environment. Electives offered focus on developing specialised skills, such as navigation and snorkelling techniques.

- **Commercial** — which focuses on employment opportunities for young people on the sea and in inland waterways, such as shipping, water transport, fishing and ecotourism. Electives offered explore aquaculture, aquariums, boat building and marine engineering.

- **Cultural** — which will enhance your understanding of the cultural significance of the aquatic environment and of maritime activity in Queensland and Australia. You will learn about different attitudes to marine industries and activities by exploring the aquatic culture and practices of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Asian, South Sea Islander and European communities. The elective ‘Historical understandings’ investigates the history of aquatic industries, activities, places, events and technologies.

‘Safety and management practices’ is integrated into each of the areas of study, to build your knowledge, understanding and skills of the principles underpinning safety and management in the aquatic environment. You will examine topics including legislation, rules and regulations, equipment maintenance and operation, and first aid practices.

How will you learn?

In Aquatic Practices, you will learn through practical application of knowledge, understanding and skills in real-world or lifelike aquatic contexts and activities such as snorkelling or constructing aquatic equipment. Through this approach, you will have opportunities to learn in, through and about aquatic workplaces, events and related activities.
How will you be assessed?

Assessment in Aquatic Practices gives you opportunities to develop and demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills in the four areas of study, and in the core focuses for ‘Safety and management practices’. You will give practical demonstrations of aquatic skills, analyse aquatic information, situations and relationships, and apply your learning in aquatic contexts to plan and evaluate aquatic activities and make recommendations to improve future undertakings.

In Aquatic Practices, assessment instruments include:

- projects, e.g. rod building and testing; planning a snorkelling tour itinerary
- investigations, e.g. analysing water quality; researching into historically significant shipwrecks
- extended response to stimulus, e.g. responding to data and statistics on tides and weather; case studies on surfboard design or conservation and management
- examinations, e.g. explaining, interpreting graphs, data or diagrams; making calculations
- performances, e.g. snorkelling, first aid, life saving.

In Year 12, you will be expected to complete four to six assessment instruments, with no more than two instruments from any one type of assessment.

How can parents/carers help?

Your parents/carers may help you by:

- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources
- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities
- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in the industry
- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour
- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

Where can Aquatic Practices take you?

This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) if you receive a sound achievement or higher. To learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QSA website [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/589.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/589.html).

A course of study in Aquatic Practices can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of recreation, tourism, fishing and aquaculture. The subject also provides a basis for participating in and contributing to community associations, events and activities, such as yacht and sailing club races and competitions and boating shows.

More information

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the *Aquatic Practices Subject Area Syllabus 2014*. For more information, please:

- visit the subject page on the QCAA website: [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30487.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30487.html)
- email [senior.syllabuses@qsa.qld.edu.au](mailto:senior.syllabuses@qsa.qld.edu.au).