Well done! You made it!
Tertiary offer key dates: Don’t miss out!
2013 graduates: Where are they now?
Your OP and FP questions answered

SUCCESS IN YEAR 12
AND BEYOND

December 2014

WHAT’S INSIDE
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Launch of the QCE Achievement Awards
Your Senior Education Profile: Fast facts
Your OP and FP questions answered
Tertiary offer key dates: Don’t miss out!
2013 graduates: Where are they now?
Who? You! All students who completed Year 12 in 2014 in Queensland will be contacted to take part in the survey.

What? The Next Step survey will ask you what you are doing after you leave school – this could be studying, working or pursuing other interests.

How? Expect to be contacted by phone or mail. To enable us to contact you, please ensure your details, including your home phone and mobile numbers, are correct in your learning account by logging into www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

When? March to June 2015

Why? Your participation in the Next Step survey will help Queensland schools and further education providers improve their services for future students.

More info at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep
When choosing his senior subjects, Tyler Iwinski calculated that his talents were more suited to a career in fashion design than mechanical engineering, despite having ambitions in both areas.

Tyler says: 'I'm not great at maths so decided that the more creative career path was a better option. 'I already enjoyed art, drama and English, and when I saw what VET subjects were available in Years 11 and 12, fashion had similar appeal.'

Tyler says his school, parents and fellow students were fully supportive of his choice.

In Year 12, he completed a Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design as part of his QCE. It turned out to be the perfect fit for his post-school pathway.

Now enrolled in a Diploma of Fashion Technology at TAFE, Tyler is fine-tuning not only his design skills but his business skills too.

‘As well as designing and making clothes, we need to know the laws regarding clothing and how to run and market a business,’ he says.

At school, Tyler worked part time in a fabric store, which gave him a detailed knowledge of fabrics. This year, he secured a job at a leading clothing store — an ‘awesome opening’ to showcase his fashion flair and retail skills.

Tyler dreams of starting his own label in the future and launching an online shop. You can find out more about Tyler and his designs at www.tylerjamesclothing.com.au. Watch this space!

**Tyler Iwinski, 18**

**Villanova College, Brisbane**


Career goal: To launch his own fashion label
YOUR SENIOR EDUCATION PROFILE: FAST FACTS

All Queensland students receive a Senior Education Profile (SEP) at the end of Year 12. The contents of your SEP depend on your individual circumstances. It may include a Senior Statement, QCE, and/or Tertiary Entrance Statement.

**Senior Statement**

Your Senior Statement is a transcript of your learning account. It shows your results for everything you studied that contributes to the award of a QCE or Tertiary Entrance Statement. This includes your subject results, VET results and your QCS Test result, if you sat the test.

- **Subject results**: Your subject results appear on your Senior Statement. Schools assign levels of achievement and send the results to the QCAA. If you apply to have your OP and FPs reviewed, we will ask your school to look over your results again, but we won’t reassess your work and we can’t change your school’s decisions. If it turns out that an error was made, we will correct it, issue you a new Senior Statement (and Tertiary Entrance Statement if applicable), and refund your application fee.

- **VET results**: Your results from courses studied through VET and other non-school providers will only appear on your Senior Statement if the provider recorded your learning on your behalf before 27 November 2014. If you believe some of your VET results are missing, you should contact your school (if you were enrolled in VET through your school) or the relevant registered training organisation (if you completed a VET qualification through an external provider). You then need to apply to get your results checked. If it turns out that your VET provider didn’t accurately record your results, we will send you a new Senior Statement and refund your application fee. If you now qualify for a QCE, we will post it to you after the situation is resolved.

- **QCS Test result**: Your Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test result (from A to E) is also reported on your Senior Statement. If you apply to have your QCS Test data verified, we will check that we scanned the mark sheets, entered your results and calculated your grade correctly. QCAA won’t re-mark your QCS Test, because it has already been graded by multiple markers.
To get your results or any of the information on your Senior Statement, QCE or Tertiary Entrance Statement checked, you need to fill in the Application for verification or review of information form sent to you with your Senior Education Profile.

Send the completed form with the $46.60 application fee to QCAA at the address below, before 5 pm on Monday 12 January 2015:

- Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
  PO Box 307, Spring Hill, QLD 4004

If an error is found, QCAA will refund your application fee and send you updated documents. We will also let QTAC know of the error.

For more information, read the Application for verification or review of information form or contact the Student Connect hotline on 1800 804 991.

**QCE**

The QCE is Queensland’s senior school qualification. To be awarded a QCE, you need to have completed 20 credits at a set standard, in a set pattern and met the literacy and numeracy requirements.

**Tertiary Entrance Statement**

If you’re OP-eligible, you’ll receive a Tertiary Entrance Statement which shows your OPs and FPs. These rankings are used to determine eligibility for admission to tertiary courses.

If you apply to have your OP or FPs reviewed, we will check the data and talk to your school. If we make any changes, we will send you a new Tertiary Entrance Statement and refund your application fee.

We cannot change your OP due to individual circumstances such as illness. If you believe you experienced difficult circumstances that adversely impacted on your senior studies, contact QTAC on 1300 467 822 to find out about their Educational Access Scheme.
Congratulations to the three Year 12 students who won an iPad Air by logging into their learning account on the Student Connect website between 1 June and 31 August 2014.

The winners are:

- Ryan Watson — Palm Beach Currumbin State High School
- Blake Barber — Canterbury College, Waterford
- Brooke Darby — St Mary’s College, Ipswich

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR QCE

Your QCE recognises and celebrates your senior schooling achievements. It shows employers and training providers that you have worked consistently and to a high standard.

Be proud of your QCE. Mention it in your resume and show it off alongside your Senior Statement and — if you received an OP — your Tertiary Entrance Statement in a portfolio of achievements.

Use the subjects you studied and the results you achieved to market yourself in cover letters for job applications and in job interviews.

The QCE is an internationally recognised qualification. This means that employers and education institutions around the world accept the QCE as evidence that you have successfully completed your senior schooling.

Many universities overseas, including universities in the United States, Europe and South-East Asia, require the QCE as a prerequisite to admission.

Know your OPtions

Received your OP? Great!

Find out where it can take you with our one-on-one information sessions.

At Nathan and Gold Coast campuses

20 – 22 December

Prefer to chat online or over the phone?

Our study advisors will be available to answer your questions from 20 to 22 December.

For more information, visit griffith.edu.au/options

Know more. Do more.
A love of the sea and science inspired Sarah Sutcliffe to chart a course towards a career in marine biology.

Having always lived near the ocean, Sarah spent every school holiday on the water. For a while, she and her sister were even home schooled by her parents while they all sailed around Australia.

Sarah says: ‘That experience definitely confirmed my love for sea life and desire to become a marine biologist.’

This year, Sarah started a Bachelor of Science with an Advanced Marine Biology major at James Cook University. Later she plans to do a PhD in Marine Biology while travelling the world and getting more diving experience. Social sciences and international relations also interest her.

‘Science and humanities aren’t mutually exclusive fields,’ Sarah says. ‘Tackling big issues such as overpopulation, climate change and associated matters like resource management and environmental conservation require people with skills in both areas.

‘I want to do research related to those problems, then apply my knowledge through science communication and policymaking. I am not yet exactly sure how to make that work, but will do my best to find a way!’

Sarah Sutcliffe, 18
The Cathedral School of St Anne and St James, Townsville

Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, English, Legal Studies, Maths B, Physics

Career goal: To become a marine biologist
If you missed out on a QCE this year, don’t worry. You can keep working towards one for up to seven years after you complete Year 12.

To earn credits towards your QCE after you’ve left school and/or meet the completed Core requirement, you can choose from a range of VET Certificate II–IV qualifications offered by TAFE Queensland and other providers.

You can meet the literacy and numeracy requirements by:

- completing the QCAA-approved short courses in literacy and numeracy offered by Charters Towers School of Distance Education. For more information, visit https://chartowesde.eq.edu.au
- completing a Certificate I in Literacy, Certificate I in Numeracy or Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocation Pathways (which covers both the literacy and numeracy requirements) at a Registered Training Organisation. Visit www.training.gov.au for details
- sitting the QCS Test in September as a private-entry candidate and achieving at least a C on the test.

Get the credit
Remember to give your new learning provider your Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) when you enrol, so they can bank the credits you earn into your learning account on the Student Connect website.

Once you’ve met the requirements for a QCE, the QCAA will send your QCE and a Statement of Results to you in the following July or December.

Want to know more?
For help planning your QCE pathway email studentconnect@qcaa.qld.edu.au.
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

After missing out on a QCE at the end of 2013, former Centenary State High School student Tracey Yip was determined to keep working towards one while pursuing her business studies.

In July this year — just six months after finishing school — Tracey’s commitment paid off when she was awarded a QCE in QCAA’s mid-year certification round.

She says: ‘I was upset when I didn’t receive my QCE at the end of Year 12 and wanted to do something about it.’

Tracey chose to attend TAFE, and recently completed a Certificate IV in Business, which provided the credits she needed for a QCE. Now she has set her sights on achieving a Diploma of Business.

‘Studying at TAFE has helped me to get ready for university and gain confidence,’ Tracey says.

‘Once I’ve finished here I will have a Certificate IV and a diploma, which means after university I will have more than a degree to offer employers.’

Tracey hopes her business qualifications will help her to create an exciting and glamorous career.

‘I definitely want to be my own boss. Ultimately, I want to combine my love of business and fashion — start a blog about fashion/styling, work internationally in the fashion industry as a stylist and travel the world.’

Tracey Yip, 18
Centenary State High School

Subjects: Accounting, Business Organisation and Management, Chemistry, English, Maths B, Physics
Career goal: To start her own business

There are always different pathways to get where you want to be. All that matters is that you pursue your dreams and goals.

DO SOMETHING YOU LOVE

Find out why 94% of ACU students get a job within four months of graduating.*

life-less-ordinary.org

ANTHONY SAMS
BACHELOR OF COMMERCE/BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Education & Arts | Health Sciences | Law & Business | Theology & Philosophy

*Graduate Destination Survey 2013
YOUR OP AND FP QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Got a question about your Overall Position (OP) or Field Positions (FPs)? Here are answers to some commonly asked questions.

**Which subjects were used to calculate my OP?**

OP calculations take into account the results of your best 20 semester units of credit for your Authority subjects, which will usually be your best five Authority subjects. These were determined after your Subject Achievement Indicators (SAIs) were scaled, so they might not be the subjects you expect.

**Were some subjects worth more than others?**

No. All QCAA subjects are treated equally in OP calculations. A student can achieve a good OP with any combination of Authority subjects.

**I studied Maths B, so why didn’t I get a Field Position (FP) in Field D?**

No one subject on its own makes you eligible for a particular FP. To be eligible for an FP in a particular field you need to study a combination of subjects that give you 60 weighted semester units in that field. Maths B gives you only 20 weighted semester units towards FP D.

**I got a Certificate III/IV. Why didn’t I get a better OP?**

VET certificates don’t contribute to the calculation of your OP. If you are OP-eligible and you complete a Certificate III or IV, it will not be combined with your OP or boost your OP. You will receive an OP based on your Authority subjects and a separate QTAC Selection Rank for your VET qualification. This rank is assigned by QTAC and may be considered in addition to your OP.
Not all students awarded a Very High Achievement (VHA) have performed at the same standard. Some students may be ranked at the top of the VHA range, while others may be doing just well enough to get a VHA. OPs are calculated from SAIs, not levels of achievement.

I was school dux. Why didn’t I get the highest OP at my school?

While being named dux at your school is a significant achievement, it doesn’t indicate your position in a statewide rank order (like your OP does). Rather, it is an indication of the way that your school sees your achievements in relation to other students at your school.

I got five SAIs of 400. Why didn’t I get an OP 1?

An SAI of 400 indicates that you are the highest achieving student in a particular subject at your school. You may not be the best student overall in the school, nor among the top students in Queensland.

My school predicted I would get an OP 2 but I only got an OP 4. Why?

Your school doesn’t have access to the precise information needed to calculate your OP. Calculating OPs is a complex process, and includes Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test results and the results you get for each subject. Although it’s important to have a realistic idea what OP you might receive so you can make decisions about tertiary entrance, OPs cannot be predicted precisely ahead of time.

For more information about OPs and FPAs, visit www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

NO OP? USE YOUR QTAC SELECTION RANK

If you didn’t get an OP, you may still be able to study at university or TAFE in Queensland in 2015 if you qualify for a QTAC Selection Rank and meet the course entry requirements.

QTAC Selection Ranks are calculated from schedules developed by QCAA and QTAC. The schedules provide ranks that are based on the best possible information about how well a student did compared with all other OP and OP-ineligible students.

You can find out your QTAC Selection Rank from 29 December 2014 via QTAC’s Current Applicant online service (if you are a QTAC applicant) or by calling QTAC on 1300 467 822 (if you are not a QTAC applicant). Visit www.qtac.edu.au for more information.

Note: A QTAC Selection Rank may not be recognised in other states of Australia or overseas. Check with the relevant admissions office before applying.
Apprentice plumber Ryan Littleton says his career direction is all thanks to his uncle. ‘I had no idea what I wanted to do after school until I did work experience in Year 10 with my uncle who’s a plumber,’ Ryan says. ‘I really liked it. So I thought I’d give it a try.’

Ryan combined Maths A and English Communication with VET subjects in Year 12 to achieve his QCE. He completed a Certificate II in Process Plant Operations, Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology and Certificate III in Retail Operations.

Since graduating from Dalby State High School in 2013, Ryan has started a Certificate III in Plumbing at TAFE Queensland. He now works as a plumbing apprentice in Dalby at Western Downs Regional Council through the Apprenticeship Company and travels to Toowoomba twice a year to do his TAFE training.

Ryan’s clearly enjoying his post-school pathway. He says: ‘It’s awesome. I like all of it. The work is really varied and interesting and the people I work with are great.’

Last month, Ryan’s positive attitude and strong work ethic were officially recognised when he was awarded the Ron Douglas Memorial Award for most promising apprentice at TAFE.

While Ryan is focused on achieving his goals, he’s also keeping his options open. He says: ‘I want to finish my apprenticeship, work for someone for a few years and then see where I go.’

Ryan Littleton, 17
Dalby State High School


Career goal: To become a plumber

“If you want to do something, don’t hold back. Knuckle down and try your hardest.”
TERTIARY OFFER KEY DATES: DON’T MISS OUT!

Now you know your Year 12 results, give yourself the best chance of getting into the course of your choice.

- Visit www.qtac.edu.au to find out what’s changed since the QTAC Guide to Tertiary Courses was published.
- Let QTAC know if you have changed your residential address or your email address.
- Change or add to your course preferences using QTAC’s Current Applicant online service before 7 January 2015 to be eligible for the 15 January 2015 offer round.
- Check the Current Applicant online service on 15 January 2015 to find out if you have received a tertiary study offer. If you have received an offer, make sure you respond via the Current Applicant online service by the nominated date or you may lose your right to that and further offers.

Not offered a place?

Check course cut-offs and, if required, contact QTAC to find out why you’ve missed out on a place. Also check the institution course vacancy lists on the QTAC website for possible further offers into courses. You can then change your course preferences and update your application in time for the 5 February 2015 offer round.

IT’S YOUR TIME TO MAKE GREAT HAPPEN

STUDY WITH QUEENSLAND’S LARGEST AND MOST EXPERIENCED PROVIDER

- Over 500 courses
- More than 360 pathways to university
- Study at 50 locations across Queensland, online or in the workplace
- 165,000 students study at TAFE each year – more than any Queensland university
- 89% of students go onto work or further study

ENROL TODAY tafeqld.edu.au
Still unsure about your career pathway? Don’t worry. Not everyone knows what they want to do by the time they finish Year 12. The following websites may help you explore your further education and training options.

- Ace Day Jobs (www.abc.net.au/acedayjobs)
- Apprenticeships Info (www.apprenticeshipsinfo.qld.gov.au)
- Job Outlook (www.joboutlook.gov.au)
- myfuture (www.myfuture.edu.au)
- MyUniversity (www.myuniversity.gov.au)
- Queensland Skills Gateway (www.skillsgateway.training.qld.gov.au)
- Skills One TV (www.skillsone.com.au)
- TAFE Queensland (www.tafe.qld.edu.au)

Make the most of your OP – whether it’s lower or higher than expected – at Real Decisions. This event is your best chance to gain clear, practical advice from QUT staff from every faculty, and weigh up your options before you finalise your preferences.

QUT Real Decisions, Tuesday 23 December, 9am-1pm at QUT Gardens Point (city) campus.

Find out more at qut.edu.au

Study fee-free
Want a helping hand to get your career moving?

As a Year 12 graduate, you can study fee-free if you commence a high priority course within one year of finishing Year 12.

There is a wide range of courses to choose from, as well as training if you enter an eligible apprenticeship or traineeship.

Find out more at training.qld.gov.au/skillsgateway

Make the most of your OP – whether it’s lower or higher than expected – at Real Decisions. This event is your best chance to gain clear, practical advice from QUT staff from every faculty, and weigh up your options before you finalise your preferences.

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Find out more at qut.edu.au
To take a gap year or not to take a gap year? It’s a dilemma faced by many school leavers. Ultimately, it’s a decision you have to make yourself, says former Nambour Christian College student Ellaine Evans, who took a year off between finishing high school and starting university in 2014.

But Ellaine advises anyone taking a gap year to use the time wisely.

‘It’s important to find a job, a hobby, volunteer work or other community engagement to keep you grounded and occupied. It’s too easy to do nothing but play games and watch TV.

‘I sometimes struggled to motivate myself, but having strong creative impulses and being a volunteer on an artistic project gave me something constructive to focus on.’

Ellaine is now working towards a Bachelor of Creative Industries at the University of the Sunshine Coast, majoring in creative writing and serious game design. It’s a perfect match for someone who is passionate about both storytelling and gaming.

Ellaine says: ‘I’ve always wanted to be involved in the creative industries, and have flirted between a few different ideas. Knowing that few authors or artists make enough money to make it a full-time job, I started looking for related careers that I might find engaging as a day job.’

While Ellaine knows her future is in the creative industries, she says her career dreams are still ‘rather open-ended’.

‘I’d be happy as a manuscript editor, a game writer, an author, or possibly an artist. Maybe I’ll end up dabbling in all of those areas!”

Ellaine Evans, 18
Nambour Christian College

Career goal: To work in the gaming industry
With 18 new programs commencing in 2015, you can shine at USC. There’s everything from criminology to psychology, animal ecology to health science, languages to health and community care management.

If you’re ready, find out what’s next. Visit usc.edu.au/shine

Rise, and shine.