



## Frequently Asked Questions

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13. I'm not sure if I chose a diploma / degree combined program (dual award) when I applied through QTAC. Where can I check to find out if I am a dual award student?
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15. Is there a list of all TAFE Queensland Brisbane university pathways?
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17. I already have a pretty good OP but I didn't do the Year 12 science and maths subjects that I need to get into courses like engineering at some universities. Does TAFE Queensland Brisbane run any senior school subjects that I could do online in my own time, like Maths B or C or Physics?

**FAQs accurate as at 14 January 2015.** For more information, speak to Alicia Toohey 3244 6264 or 0400 788 650 [alicia.toohey@tafe.qld.edu.au](mailto:alicia.toohey@tafe.qld.edu.au) (until 20 February 2015); Craig Poole [craig.poole@tafe.qld.edu.au](mailto:craig.poole@tafe.qld.edu.au) 3244 6008; TAFE student counsellors

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## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### 1. I didn't get into the university course I wanted. Can I study a university "bridging" course at TAFE Queensland Brisbane starting in January?

By studying a diploma or advanced diploma at TAFE Queensland Brisbane, you can improve your QTAC selection rank and, at the same time, gain academic credit towards a university bachelor degree (if the diploma and the degree are in the same study area e.g. Diploma of Business & Bachelor of Business). Also, the diploma or advanced diploma is a great industry recognised qualification in its own right which will allow you to start working in your career while you undertake university studies e.g. Diploma of Nursing graduates can work as enrolled nurses while they study a Bachelor of Nursing to become a registered nurse.

### 2. How does this "bridging" course actually work?

You enrol now at TAFE Queensland Brisbane to do a diploma in 2015, e.g. the Diploma of Business incorporating the Certificate IV in Small Business Management. Then later on this year, in September, you apply through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) for the university course that you want to study. If you get accepted into the course, you apply to the university for academic credit for the study you did at TAFE. In most cases, if the university course is in the same study area, you will get about 1 year off the degree, thereby reducing both the time and cost to complete the degree.

### 3. Do I have to study in the same discipline when I get to university or can I study something else?

You can change your mind and study whatever you want at university provided you meet the entry requirements such as having the required QTAC Selection Rank (this is like an OP score). Some university courses also require you to have passed Year 12 English, a Year 12 science subject, and / or Year 12 Maths B (or any of their equivalents).

### 4. What OP will I get for having studied a diploma?

You will get a QTAC selection rank of 82 which is equivalent to an OP 9. Some diplomas have graded assessment and if you get good results like credits and distinctions, you could get an even higher and better rank. If you apply for a QUT or Griffith course you will get a rank of 87 (OP 8 equivalent).

### 5. What OP will I get for a completed advanced diploma?

You will get a QTAC selection rank of 91 which is equivalent to an OP 6. Some advanced diplomas have graded assessment and if you get good results like credits and distinctions, you could get an even higher and better rank. If you apply for a QUT or Griffith course you will get a rank of 93 (OP 5 equivalent).

### 6. What OP will I get for a completed Certificate IV?

You will get a QTAC selection rank of 74 which is equivalent to an OP 12.

### 7. What OP will I get for a completed Certificate III?

You will get a QTAC selection rank of 72 which is equivalent to an OP 15.

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**8. I've heard that TAFE Queensland Brisbane has special connections with QUT and Griffith University.**

Pathways to university from TAFE Queensland Brisbane courses have existed for more than 15 years. Universities value the capability and commitment that diploma and advanced diploma graduates bring to their degree studies. That's why TAFE graduates get such good QTAC selection ranks. In fact QUT and Griffith University give diploma and advanced diploma graduates bonus rank points, so if you apply to get into a QUT or GU degree after studying a diploma at TAFE you will a rank of 87 (OP8 equivalent). And if you have studied an advanced diploma, you will get a rank of 93 (OP5 equivalent).

**9. Can I apply directly to university when I finish my TAFE diploma or advanced diploma? Do I have to apply through QTAC?**

For the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), you MUST apply through QTAC. This is QUT policy.

For The University of Queensland (UQ), you MUST apply through QTAC. This is UQ policy.

For many courses at Griffith University (GU), TAFE graduates can apply directly to that university anytime up to mid-February (or mid-July for a semester 2 start). Simply email [tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au](mailto:tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au) to enquire about this option. There are no QTAC application costs for direct entry.

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ), which has campuses in Springfield and Toowoomba as well as highly regarded online courses that can be studied from anywhere in the world, also accepts applications for direct entry into many of its courses. This option for direct entry application is only available to TAFE graduates and is in recognition of the high quality of learning and vocational experiences that TAFE students complete. To enquire about this application option, email [blacker@usq.edu.au](mailto:blacker@usq.edu.au).

**10. I've just got offered a place in a diploma / degree combined program through QTAC. I'm going to study the Diploma of Business this year at TAFE and then apparently I can go directly onto QUT to study the Bachelor of Business. Can you explain how this works exactly?**

By applying through QTAC in late 2014 for a place in a diploma / degree combined program (also called a dual award), you have a guaranteed place in the degree e.g. QUT's Bachelor of Business once you complete the diploma here at TAFE. You do not have to re-apply (nor pay again) for a QTAC application requesting a place in the degree. You can just concentrate on passing the diploma. The university, e.g. QUT, has your contact details that you listed on your QTAC application and will get in touch with you via email sometime throughout the year to advise how you will be able to enrol. The university will ask you to show original or certified copies of your Award i.e. *Diploma* and *Record of Results* as proof that you have passed the diploma course. Then, when you enrol at university next year, the academic credit that has been negotiated on your behalf is automatically put on your university Academic Record so that you only need to study a further 2 years (full-time equivalent).

**11. What if I don't pass all my diploma subjects this year? Will I lose my place at university?**

You still have a guaranteed place in the university degree even if you have to repeat some subjects next year. The university will wait for you to finish your diploma. If you do not finish your diploma or advanced diploma studies in the normal timeframe, you must email the university and let it know when you are likely to graduate from TAFE. QUT has an email address dedicated to dual award students. It is [dualaward@qut.edu.au](mailto:dualaward@qut.edu.au). Griffith's email is [tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au](mailto:tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au) and USQ's is [blacker@usq.edu.au](mailto:blacker@usq.edu.au)

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- 12. I've almost finished my diploma in the diploma / degree combined program I'm enrolled in - e.g. Diploma of Hospitality TAFE Qld Brisbane / Bachelor of International Tourism and Hotel Management Griffith University. But now I'd like to defer starting my degree studies at university for 6 months or 1 year. Is this possible?**

This may be possible but you need to ask the university itself. You should contact the admissions area of the university that you are on a pathway to, and ask about the policy on deferring. University contact details are: Griffith University (GU) [tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au](mailto:tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au) ; University of Southern Queensland (USQ) [blacker@usq.edu.au](mailto:blacker@usq.edu.au) ; Queensland University of Technology (QUT) [dualaward@qut.edu.au](mailto:dualaward@qut.edu.au) . NB If you did not originally apply for a place in a diploma / degree combined program (also called a dual award) through QTAC, then you are not a dual award student. You enrolled in the diploma ONLY and will need to re-apply through QTAC for a place in a QUT degree. Griffith University and USQ may accept direct entry applications.

- 13. I'm not sure if I chose a diploma / degree combined program (dual award) when I applied through QTAC. Where can I check to find out if I am a dual award student?**

The offer that QTAC sent you in January (or June for mid-year starts) will have this information. You can look back at that email correspondence. TAFE Queensland Brisbane was not sent a copy of that email. If you enrolled directly at TAFE Queensland Brisbane, you are not a dual award student.

- 14. Will I have to study the degree I chose in the dual award? Can I change into a different degree?**

You can certainly change your mind and enrol in a different degree – you are not locked into your initial choice. However each university will have different processes for how you make this change. For QUT degrees, you may have to reapply through QTAC for the new degree. Contact [dualaward@qut.edu.au](mailto:dualaward@qut.edu.au) . For Griffith you can email [tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au](mailto:tafe-credit@griffith.edu.au) for advice, and for the University of Southern Queensland you can email [blacker@usq.edu.au](mailto:blacker@usq.edu.au)

- 15. Is there a list of all TAFE Queensland Brisbane university pathways?**

You might have heard that in July 2014 the former Southbank Institute of Technology, Brisbane North Institute of TAFE and Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE amalgamated to form TAFE Queensland Brisbane? This means that the university pathways from the three TAFEs also have to be amalgamated and we are working on creating one centralised list. This list should be available in March / April 2015 and will be published on the website.

- 16. Does TAFE Queensland Brisbane offer a Year 12 alternative course for adults so that I can aim for a really good OP score as well as the senior secondary subjects that some university courses require, like Maths B or C, Physics and English?**

You can study the Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation which is recognised as a Year 12 alternative for people who are 18 years or older in the year they start the course. On completion, it allows you to apply to QTAC for a selection rank as well as gain university entry pre-requisites in Maths, English and Science. The maximum QTAC rank you can get, using the STAT test, is 98 (approximately OP 2). Without the STAT test, the maximum rank is 91 (approximately OP 6).

- 17. I already have a pretty good OP but I didn't do the Year 12 science and maths subjects that I need to get into courses like engineering at some universities. Does TAFE Queensland Brisbane run any senior school subjects that I could do online in my own time, like Maths B or C or Physics?**

You can study Senior English, Science, Maths A, B and C subjects through Unilearn at TAFE Queensland Brisbane. These subjects are done online and are ideal for people who like to study at their own pace to suit their own schedule and commitments.

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