THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

UQ Law LEAD Scholarship

Application guide 2024

What is the LEAD Scholarship?

The Leadership, Excellence and Diversity (LEAD) Scholarship supports students who have experienced educational, social and/or financial disadvantage. In 2024 there are up to 10 scholarships on offer for deserving students who aspire to commence, or continue, an undergraduate law program at UQ.

The scholarship includes:

$8000 per year
for up to five years to help with living and study expenses.

Dedicated academic mentors
Regular check-ins with your two-person mentor team throughout your journey,

Community and social support
Events and activities with more than 50 other LEAD scholars, as well as support from the **Law life & wellbeing** Coordinator.

Non-residential college membership
Optional non-residential memberships at a UQ college in first-year, providing an additional support network and access to practical benefits, such as tutoring and meals.

PRO TIP: If you have any questions throughout your application, including doubts about your eligibility or how to prepare a strong application email **Dony Rodriguez –** our Law life & wellbeing Coordinator – at **lawlife@uq.edu.au** to discuss your individual circumstances.

How to apply

There are three things you will need to complete in order for your application to be considered:

1. **LEAD Scholarship application** (see detailed steps on page 5)
2. **QTAC application** with UQ Law as first or second preference (see detailed steps on page 5)
3. **Admission scheme application/s** (see page 3 for more information).

Plus, there are some additional things (like providing supporting documentation) you can do to give yourself the best chance of being selected. Examples of other documents to include are listed on page 6.

Application key dates

July 2023: QTAC applications open
31 July 2023: LEAD Scholarship applications open
5 November 2023: LEAD Scholarship applications close
Late November 2023: LEAD Scholarship interviews (Round 1)*
Late January 2024: LEAD Scholarship interviews (Round 2)*
Late January 2024: LEAD Scholarship offers
For QTAC closing and offer dates please refer to the **QTAC website**.
*subject to change.

Don't miss key deadlines

Sign up for our UQ LEAD Scholarship news and updates to ensure your application is as strong as it can be.

Subscribe for updates

Who can apply?

The LEAD Scholarship is designed for students who wish to study law, who can demonstrate significant environmental, social and/or financial disadvantage. Eligibility extends to students who are up to two years out of high school, and who are expecting to commence, or continue, a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at UQ, including dual programs

Eligibility criteria

An applicant is eligible to be considered for the award of a LEAD Scholarship if the applicant:

(a) is or will be a Domestic Student in the year of award;

(b) has completed senior schooling in Australia within two years of application, or will be completing senior schooling in Australia in the year of application;

(c) intends to enrol as a commencing student, or who has already accepted an offer to commence as a student, at The University of Queensland in an Approved Program in the year of the award;

(d) expects to gain admission, or has already gained admission, to an Approved Program in the year of the award on the basis of predicted, or actual, senior results and any applicable adjustment factors, or on the basis of special entry pathways;

(e) has not completed any prior program of tertiary study at bachelor level or higher;

(f) can demonstrate educational, social or financial disadvantage; and

(g) is available to participate in a formal interview with UQ on a date set by the University.

Read the full scholarship rules online

PRO TIP: Not sure if you're eligible? **Apply anyway.** If you have any questions throughout your application, including doubts about your eligibility or how to prepare a strong application, email Dony Rodriguez at lawlife@uq.edu.au to discuss your individual circumstances.

Final decisions for the scholarship are at the discretion of the UQ Law School. If not this one, there may be a number of other scholarships we can recommend for you.

Similarly, if you believe you're eligible but are struggling to pull together the required documentation, email us as soon as possible.

Class of 2022: reflections from recipients of the LEAD Law Scholarship

Hear from LEAD Scholars online

Michaela, LEAD scholar and 2022 Valedictorian

Let's talk ATARs

Requirements to study law at UQ

If you're applying to study a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at UQ in 2024, you need an ATAR score of 97.5* to be eligible to receive an offer. However, if this is not your initial score, there are several options.
*subject to change.

Not sure you'll get the ATAR?

The LEAD Scholarship is open to students who have experienced educational, social and/or financial disadvantages, which can often also impact your ATAR score. As such, there are two schemes you can apply for that could potentially help you gain entry.

UQ Undergraduate Law Admission Scheme (ULAS)

The UQ Undergraduate Law Admission Scheme, or ULAS, is an alternative entry pathway open to Australian citizens and humanitarian visa holders. It supports eligible applicants from disadvantaged and/or culturally diverse backgrounds. To be eligible, you **need to be in Year 12 or have done no more than one year of tertiary education** as well as meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- come from a low-income family
- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person or
- be the first in your immediate family to attend university.

You'll also need to:

- meet the prerequisites for the Bachelor of Laws (Honours) program and
- achieve a minimum ATAR or selection rank of 90.00 (before adjustments)
- apply for QTAC's Educational Access Scheme as well (details below).

Learn more about ULAS

PRO TIP: in 2024, there are up to 20 places for students applying through ULAS, so why not give it a go? To apply, simply tick the box during your LEAD Application.

QTAC's Educational Access Scheme (EAS)

This scheme awards ATAR adjustments under strict conditions. LEAD Scholarship applicants who also complete the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) through QTAC will be given preference. EAS is open to all QTAC applicants, not just current school leavers. QTAC will undertake an independent assessment based on the supporting documents you provide. You can apply for EAS under any of the applicable categories below:

- Home environment and responsibilities (e.g. caring for a seriously ill family member)
- Financial hardship
- School Environment (e.g. regional or remote schooling)
- Personal illness or disability
- English language difficulty

Learn more about EAS

PRO TIP: Discover why ULAS and EAS are so important to your application with the scenario examples on the next page.

"The LEAD Scholarship has afforded me, as the first immediate member of my family to attend university, with the opportunity to pursue a degree in law. The financial aid awarded over a five-year period has allowed me to prioritise my education and still enjoy the benefits of having a job – only without the stresses that are often associated."

Michelle, LEAD scholar graduate

Watch Michelle's video

Why are EAS and ULAS important for my LEAD Scholarship application?

Read through the examples below to better understand why you should apply for EAS and ULAS at the same time you complete your LEAD application.

Example 1:

Rhonda wasn't very confident she would achieve the necessary ATAR score to study law at UQ, but she applied for the LEAD Scholarship anyway.

At the same time, Rhonda also applied for ULAS and completed her EAS application with QTAC under more than one relevant categories.

When her results were released, Rhonda achieved a raw ATAR score of 96, meaning she would normally miss out on an offer to study law at UQ.

Luckily, her EAS application was successful and she was granted 2 ATAR adjustment points.

With her adjusted ATAR of 98, Rhonda was able to receive an offer to study law at UQ, **making her now eligible to be considered for a LEAD Scholarship.**

Example 2:

Liam was applying for a LEAD Scholarship because he came from a background of financial hardship. He was confident he would achieve a high enough ATAR score to gain entry to UQ, but applied for ULAS as a safety measure.

He also completed his EAS application with QTAC under the category of 'financial hardship'.

As anticipated, Liam achieved an ATAR of 99 and received an offer to study law at UQ without needing to rely on ULAS. Since Liam had completed both a ULAS and EAS application however, it meant his **LEAD Scholarship application was stronger**, and the panel was able to shortlist him for the first round of interviews – and later offer him a scholarship.

Example 3:

Jessica didn't think she would receive an ATAR of 98 in order to get into UQ Law. Luckily, she had heard about the ULAS scheme, and knew it could help her gain entry to the program.

When completing her LEAD Scholarship application, she made sure to indicate that she was also applying for ULAS. She ensured her EAS application was also completed via QTAC, and that she had submitted the required documentation.

As it turned out, Jessica received a raw ATAR of 91, however with her EAS adjustment points, her adjusted ATAR score became 96.

Despite still not receiving the 98 points, Jessica's ULAS application was successful, and it meant she was able to receive an offer to study law at UQ through this entry scheme.

Having gained entry into the program, it therefore **made her eligible to be considered for the LEAD scholarship.**

Example 4:

Despite working two jobs to financially support his family, Ryan managed to achieve a distinction average across his first year of study, in his Bachelor of Arts program. This meant he was then eligible to apply for a transfer into the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) dual program.

When Ryan first submitted his QTAC application when completing year 12, he had also applied for EAS.

Now that he was transferring into a dual program with law, he would be eligible for the LEAD Scholarship, and his initial EAS scores would also be taken into account to strengthen his application.

Note: these examples are based on the entry requirements in 2023 and are subject to change in 2024. Offers for the LEAD Scholarship are conditional on an offer of a place in a law program at UQ. EAS and ULAS applications are not essential for the LEAD Scholarship however applicants with a completed EAS application will be given preference.

Don't miss key deadlines

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Submitting your application – key steps

Keep the below checklist handy as you complete your online submission. Steps can be completed in any order, and many processes can be paused and restarted at a later date.

1. Apply for the LEAD Scholarship

- [ ] **Complete the online form to apply for the LEAD Scholarship.**
- [ ] **Provide a personal statement (no more than two pages) that addresses all of the following:**
  - any **educational** disadvantage you have faced. This might be as a result of home environment and responsibilities, personal illness or disability, living in a rural or remote area, or other educational disruption. Note, you do not have to have experienced **educational** disadvantage to be eligible for this scholarship.
  - any **financial** disadvantage you have faced.
  - education and career aspirations.
  - academic, service, leadership, cultural and sporting achievements.
  - any additional information that will help the selection committee get to know you.
- [ ] **Attach relevant documents**

  Don't forget to attach copies of all your available report cards from your senior schooling (e.g. Year 11 & 12).

Apply for LEAD Scholarship

2. Apply for UQ Law via QTAC

- [ ] **Submit your QTAC application**

  e.g. Put Bachelor of Laws (Honours) or a Bachelor of Law (Honours) dual degree as your first or second preference in order to be eligible.

Apply for QTAC

3. Complete any admission scheme/s applications

- [ ] **Complete your UQ Undergraduate Law Admission Scheme (ULAS) application** *(tick the relevant checkbox at the same time as your LEAD Scholarship submission).*
- [ ] **Complete your QTAC's Educational Access Scheme (EAS) application** *(you can do this at anytime after completing your QTAC application).*

  There are five categories for EAS:

  1. Financial Hardship
  2. Home Environment and Responsibilities
  3. English Language Difficulty
  4. Personal Illness or Disability
  5. Educational Disruption.

PRO TIP: If you are transferring into law from another UQ program and have questions about your EAS eligibility, please contact Dony Rodriguez at **lawlife@uq.edu.au** as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

Depending on your circumstance and the category you apply for, the supporting documentation required will differ. Please refer to the QTAC EAS cover sheets for guidance. We encourage you to provide as much supporting documentation as possible, as this will assist us when assessing your application for LEAD.

Note: if you are unable to complete the EAS application, please contact lawlife@uq.edu.au as soon as possible.

Apply for ULAS

Apply for EAS

Disclaimer: EAS and ULAS applications are not prerequisites for the LEAD Scholarship however applicants with a completed EAS application will be given preference.

Application tips

- Start early! Get your scholarship application underway as early as possible as there are quite a few items you will need to start organising, and each one can take some time to complete.
- **Get in contact** if you need help or assistance, we have a dedicated LEAD Scholarship coordinator who can answer your questions about your application.
- Tell your story – we want to get to know you as an individual, so don't be afraid to be yourself.

Supporting documentation

Not sure what to provide as supporting documentation for your application? Review our recommended examples below.

Financial hardship

✓ Current Centrelink income statement, statutory declaration, tax income assessments.

Medical hardship

✓ Letter of support from your doctor (on organisational letterhead with original signature), current Learning Access Plan.

Leadership, cultural, sporting, community service, and extra-curricular achievements

✓ Letter of support (on organisational letterhead with original signature), certificate of participation confirming your achievement/enrolment.

✗ Screenshots of emails will not be accepted.

Academic achievement

✓ Certificates of academic achievements, school report cards, or other relevant documents.

✗ Photos of trophies or medals will not be accepted.

Referee statement (optional)

✓ Reference letter (on organisational letterhead with original signature).

✗ Informal, unsigned letters, or those written by family members will not be accepted.

PRO TIP: If you have any trouble collating your supporting documents, email **Dony Rodriguez** at lawlife@uq.edu.au as soon as possible to discuss your individual circumstances.

"Receiving this scholarship has very much inspired me to give back. I just know how good of a feeling it is to have someone believe in you. To give that feeling back to someone else who deserves it would be amazing."

Connor, LEAD scholar

Read Connor's story

I've applied. What next?

Once the application period has closed, we will begin to review all applications and shortlist candidates for our two rounds of interviews. Our first round of interviews will take place in late November 2023.
Our second round of interviews will take place in mid-January 2024.

Preparing for your interview

Interviews can be daunting, but this is your best chance to show us who you are and why you're the right person for the scholarship.

Practise talking about yourself out loud

One of the most common interview questions is "tell us about yourself", so it's worth thinking about the best way to respond, as well as articulating why you want to study law, and why at UQ. Practising in front of a mirror (as awkward as that may be) is a very valuable way to improve the quality of your answers and delivery. Remember to prepare some questions for the interview too! If you're doing an interview remotely, by videoconference, ensure you practise using the software, and **review these tips**.

Plan your trip

Universities are big places, and buildings can sometimes be hard to find. Ensure you **plan your journey to the St Lucia campus** beforehand, leaving extra time to park (if driving) and get to the building after you arrive. You can also download UQ's handy **UQ Maps app** as an extra guide if you need.

Personal presentation

Pay attention to your personal presentation, as first impressions count. Dress neatly in smart clothes, ensure your hair is brushed etc.

Be yourself

We want to get to know the real you, so just be yourself and let your personality shine through.

Breathe!

When we get nervous we often forget to breathe properly. Take a few deep breaths before you arrive and if you get nervous, remember it's okay to pause and take a breath.

"I would recommend the University of Queensland to Indigenous students because of the connections and support that it can bring. If you are looking for academic, financial, leadership, or community support, UQ has so much to offer, both within the Business Economics and Law faculty and through the university Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit."

Juliet Biemann, a Kuku Yalanji woman, LEAD Scholar.

For more information, please contact

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