



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Bachelor of Design

First Year Guide 2026



Welcome

Welcome to the School of Architecture, Design and Planning



Head of School
Professor Ali Cheshmehzangi



Program Convenor
Dr Charlotte Kessler



Academic Advisor
Dr Mehrnoosh Mirzaei



School Manager
Olivia Dwyer



Director of Engagement
Associate Professor Stephanie Wyeth



We're here to help.



This is a condensed version of the First Year Guide. For the full guide go to: www.adp.uq.edu.au/study/first-year-student-guide



Senior Technical Officer
Sam Butler



Technical Officer
Sonya Brown

How to enrol

We're so happy you're joining us at UQ!

To enrol in your courses, you'll use a system called **mySI-net**, which is the control centre for student administration at UQ. Among other things, mySI-net lets you:

- enrol in courses
- drop courses
- update personal information

Once you've enrolled, you'll use a system called **My Timetable**. Through My Timetable you can register your preferred class times and swap classes if you need to.

During your time at UQ, you'll always use mySI-net and My Timetable at the beginning of each semester. You can access both from the my.UQ Dashboard, your personalised portal to UQ systems and notifications. Also ensure you check your student email frequently.



IMPORTANT DATES

For the academic calendar, teaching periods, summer semester dates etc. (relevant to both commencing and continuing students), head to: about.uq.edu.au/academic-calendar

Log in to **Starting at UQ** for a step-by-step guide on how to set up your mySI-net profile, enrol in your courses and register your class preferences.

General FAQs? Go to: adp.uq.edu.au/study/first-year-student-guide/frequently-asked-questions-first-year



Keep 'Starting at UQ' open in a separate window as you work through the 'Enrol' section.



Semester 1 CRITICAL DATES

23 February	Classes commence – YES, WE START IN WEEK 1 on Monday 23 February 2026
6 March	Last day to add courses
31 March	Last day to drop courses without financial liability
30 April	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty

UQ BRUCE Architecture Student Society

BRUCE is the Architectural society at UQ. It has been initiating events for architecture and design students while forging connections between year levels at the School of Architecture, Design and Planning for 30+ years. Memberships are on sale now!

linktr.ee/bruce.uq

Visit adp.uq.edu.au/student-societies for more details

Design Institute of Australia (DIA)

The Design Institute of Australia (DIA) is the nation's peak industry body for professional design. They seek to help Australia's professional designers succeed in business and enjoy their working lives, while collectively growing Australia's reputation as a Design Nation.

design.org.au

Follow us on social media

Be part of the UQ Architecture, Design and Planning community, and keep up to date with the latest news and events.

Instagram: [@uqadp](https://www.instagram.com/uqadp)

LinkedIn: [UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uq-school-of-architecture-design-and-planning)



Your first semester in design

Design studio classes offer a great opportunity to ask questions and seek feedback from tutors, lecturers and peers.

Your first semester in design will provide you with the foundational knowledge, technical skills and creative imagination to shape our built environment and design the cities and spaces of tomorrow.

Visit <https://www.eait.uq.edu.au/study-plans/architecture-design-and-planning/design> for detailed study plans. If you have further questions about your study plan, you can request a meeting with an Academic Advisor via adp@uq.edu.au.

ADPS1000 Sustainability for Global Citizenship

This first-year interdisciplinary course equips students with knowledge and skills to engage with sustainability as a holistic and interdisciplinary concept. The course explores the evolution of sustainability, integrating environmental, economic, technological, and socio-cultural dimensions to foster an interconnected approach to global challenges.

Through active learning and cross-cultural inquiry, students will reflect on personal and collective assumptions, developing an appreciation for diverse worldviews and the role of architecture, design, and planning in shaping sustainable futures.

The course prepares students as global citizens to actively participate in a professional community, fostering a sense of responsibility, adaptability, and leadership in addressing sustainability challenges.

Class contact:

- 1 hour lecture per week
- 1 hour tutorial per week

Coordinators:

Dr Ray Maher
r.maher@uq.edu.au

Dr Catherine Keys
c.keys@uq.edu.au

Required materials

Notebook / laptop for note taking

Refer to the current [ADPS1000 Sustainability for Global Citizenship electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials

ADPS1001 Digital Visual Communication

Digital visual communication skills are highly sought after across a variety of professional fields, including the creative sector, the built environment, business, and education. This foundational design course will equip you with the methods and tools required to effectively communicate ideas visually through the creation of digital images and assets.

You will learn to apply fundamental conventions, principles and techniques of graphic design in the digital context, gaining proficiency in leading industry software Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign, including the latest generative AI features..

Class contact:

- 1 hour lecture per week
- 3 hour practical per week

Coordinator:

Associate Lecturer Melanie Maher
melanieanne.maher@uq.edu.au

Required materials

Notebook / laptop for note taking

Refer to the current [ADPS1001 Digital Visual Communication electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials

Your first semester in design

Design studio classes offer a great opportunity to ask questions and seek feedback from tutors, lecturers and peers.

Your first semester in design will provide you with the foundational knowledge, technical skills and creative imagination to shape our built environment and design the cities and spaces of tomorrow.

Visit <https://www.eait.uq.edu.au/study-plans/architecture-design-and-planning/design> for detailed study plans. If you have further questions about your study plan, you can request a meeting with an Academic Advisor via adp@uq.edu.au.

DSGN1500 Design for a Better World

This course introduces design as a discipline including its historical context, the design process, and design methods. Designing aims to improve situations. It typically begins with a problem or challenge. This problem is influenced by various social, economic, cultural, political, and environmental factors.

As designers grapple with the problem, they consider different ways to solve it using a variety of methods. The design process is iterative and enhances designers' capacity for proposing relevant solutions. It involves understanding contextual factors, defining the problem, and determining the means of finding solutions new challenges through imagination and judgment.

Through practice and a thorough understanding of history and context, designers, in collaboration with diverse stakeholders, become capable of addressing complex issues and creating positive change.

Class contact:

- 1 hour lecture per week
- 2 hour tutorial per week

Coordinator:

Dr Charlotte Kessler
c.kessler@uq.edu.au

Required materials

- Hat and sunscreen
- Water bottle/ food
- Personal Laptop
- Notebook
- A4 visual diary (blank pages, no lines, 50 pages to be used as your workbook)
- Scale ruler
- Tape measure
- Translink GO Card (recommended).
- Eraser; sketching pencils HB, 2B, 4B, 6B
- Any other favourite drawing item
- A few Artline (or similar) black felt tip pens 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, or mix of colours

Refer to the current [ADSGN1500 Design for a Better World electronic course profile](#) for the most up to date list of required materials.

General Elective

Electives, when added to your compulsory courses, make up the total number of units needed to complete your degree. Electives allow you to study topics that interest you. Depending on your program, you may be able to select electives from other faculties. Your program rules specify how many electives you can study and where these can be selected from.

For a list of courses you can study and your program rules, search the [Programs and Courses website](#) for your program. Your course list and program rules are available on the program page.

More information about electives

You can find more information on electives through the [UQ Support Information and Services](#) page

Academic Advice

If you would like more personal assistance with electives, [Academic advice appointments](#) are available upon request for all architecture, design and planning students.

Our [Academic Advisors](#) are able to answer questions on a broad range of topics including course selection and structure, credit for previous studies, academic withdrawal, and exchange and study abroad studies.

Please refer to the [ADP Academic Advice](#) schedule for advisor details and available appointment times.



Studio culture and First Year Learning Studio

The studios and First Year Learning Studio are vibrant and creative spaces for collaboration, project work, study and discussion among peers. UQ's **studio culture** will help you establish the rhythms and processes of design, and gain essential skills needed to succeed in a professional design environment.

What is "studio culture"?

- Establishing a vibrant "studio culture" and facilitating active involvement in design studios is a focus of the UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning. We encourage a studio culture where you **work iteratively and collaboratively** – to learn from interaction with your peers and teaching staff in both contact and non-contact hours.
- Participating in studio culture allows you to **learn the necessary rhythms and processes of design**, through a repetitive cycle of thinking, doing and reflecting. You will be actively guided and trained on how to work in design studios, gaining essential skills that will carry forward through the remainder of your studies and into your professional career as an architect or designer.
- All students will have the opportunity to **work in hand-drawn and digital media** for work-in-progress and final drawings, as well as multiple physical models at varied scales and stages, as foundations to developing design thinking.
- Studio culture at UQ provides students with **key foundational knowledge and modes of operating** in a design environment. It's also a lot of fun!

What can I do in the First Year Learning Studio?

Location: Zelman Cowen Building, Level 2, Room 223.

- Work collaboratively with your peers and learn from teaching staff
- Use the space for both structured activities and self-directed learning / study
- Learn and practice the rhythms and processes of iterative design:
 - **Think:** Observe, listen, see, feel, absorb, evaluate
 - **Do:** Test your observations and creative thoughts through physical doing, measuring, drawing, model-making and creative experimentation
 - **Reflect:** Self-directed and collaborative reflection and discussion on your 'doing'. What is working? What needs more testing?
- Use the computers available
- Use the materials space to assemble your architectural models
- Hang out with your mates IRL!
- Refill your water bottle
- Find out about the latest design events

What is the Collaborative Workshop (COLAB)?

Location: Zelman Cowen Building, Ground Level.

- All Architecture, Design and Planning students have access to the [Collaborative Workshop \(COLAB\)](#), which provides facilities and equipment for model making and 1:1 scale prototyping. Students are welcome to explore the equipment and materials available. To use the specialised equipment, you are required to undertake relevant online training and attend induction sessions. These can be accessed through UQ Blackboard > COLAB.

How should I manage my time?

- Read dates carefully as not all classes are weekly
- Put together weekly and semester schedule
- Attend all required design studios, lectures, tutorials and field trips
- When possible, embrace opportunities for optional fieldwork
- Start each course by understanding how the course is structured, the requirements, learning resources and when the assessments are due. Course profiles: [my.UQ](#)
- BE ACTIVE! Attend all lectures, studios and tutorials; checkout Facebook groups for your courses; participate in learning activities; practice problems; revise and review your work; and if in doubt, ask!
- Utilise all of the learning resources available to you, such as:
 - Course tutors and studio assists
 - [Learning workshops: https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/workshops](https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support/workshops)





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE



"The uni has been incredibly trusting, letting a student drive the design process, from working with manufacturers to coordinating with marketing, it's been a tangible project from start to finish.

It's a playful typology that tries to speak to the history of the Zelman Cowen Building behind it - which is the home of the School of Architecture, Design and Planning & co-habited by Music - but also gives people a peek into the internals of a house."

Hai Long Wang Pole

Second-year Student

UQ 2025 Open Day School of Architecture, Design and Planning

Installation Designer

Need help?

Student Central

Prentice Building (42)

p 1300 275 870 (Option 1)

w my.uq.edu.au/contact/student-central

Student Services

w my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/student-support

Student Advocacy and Support

w uqu.com.au/student-advocacy-and-support/

School of Architecture, Design and Planning Reception

Level 3, Zelman Cowen Building (51)

p +61 7 3365 3537

e adp@uq.edu.au

w adp.uq.edu.au

Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology

Hawken Engineering Building (50),
Level 2

p +61 7 3365 4666

e enquiries@eait.uq.edu.au

w eait.uq.edu.au