

Year in summary

January

- UQ becomes first university in Australia to participate directly in the wholesale energy market
- Refurbished Mayne Medical building opens at UQ Herston
- UQ sends out 3,071 study offers, bringing the total number to nearly 8,700
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) asks UQ to develop a vaccine against COVID-19 using its molecular clamp technology

February

- UQ researchers link improved parenting with better social outcomes
- UQ researchers meet proof-of-concept milestone for the development of vaccine for COVID-19
- UQ tops nation in 2019 Australian Awards for University Teaching
- UQ researchers discover that metal compounds could hold key to next generation of antibiotics
- UQ researchers develop a new class of 'quantum dots' for solar power generation
- UQ participates in Austrade mission to India
- UQ receives 40 Destination Australia scholarships to study at UQ Gatton

March

- Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) becomes available to UQ students
- UQ is ranked Australia's top university for Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Studies and Sports-Related subjects in QS World University Rankings by Subject
- UQ/UWA consortium receives \$30 million to help mining communities rebuild after closure
- Teaching moves to online delivery due to COVID-19, and all staff are required to work from home wherever possible
- UQ receives \$17 million from government and private sources to fast track the development of a COVID-19 vaccine
- UQ researchers discover new Australasian animal species on Christmas Island

- UQ study reveals that carbon capture and storage could be option for Queensland
- UQ Gatton's grounds upgrades are completed
- Queensland Government gives planning approval for Yalingbila Bibula whale watching shelter and research centre on Stradbroke Island
- UQ Art Museum launches new 2020 creative program, *Union*

April

- QAAFI researchers boost sorghum's protein count for cheaper feedlot
- UQ's Triple P launches a special COVID-19 online parenting resource to help parents cope more effectively
- A UQ-developed online driver training course is shown to reduce speeding and improve driving ability
- UQ partners with Dutch biosecurity company Viroclinics Xplore to conduct crucial pre-clinical COVID-19 vaccine trials
- UQ partners with Metro South Hospital and Health Service to fast-track nursing students to enter workforce sooner
- UQLife Virtual Village begins
- IMB researchers design a novel tarantula venom mini-protein that can potentially relieve severe pain without addiction
- *UQ Marketplace* established to match staff skills with core business needs during COVID-19
- UQ scientists detect key identifying signatures of coronavirus in sewage for early warning of its spread
- UQ engineering students are set the task of quickly designing locally made ventilators
- UQ holds virtual Careers Fair
- Working with the Doherty Institute, UQ scientists show that COVID-19 vaccine has the ability to raise high levels of antibodies that can neutralise the virus
- UQ Student Emergency Support Fund is established for students affected by the pandemic, including Indigenous grants

May

- UQ develops online tool called Groups2Connect to enable people to stay in touch with loved ones
- School of Music begins live-streamed music concerts at lunchtime
- UQ Theatre Festival is delivered online
- Reconciliation Week is delivered online
- UQ joins with international researchers to develop 'Safe Blues' social distancing app
- UQ researchers develop mental health management guidelines for medical workers
- UQ Book Club (online) launches, with UQP as an exclusive partner
- UQ researchers determine saliva testing useful to diagnose coronavirus infection
- UQ receives \$12.8 million in ARC funding for Linkage grants for 26 research projects, plus \$24.1 million in partner organisation contributions, the largest investment for any Australian university
- UQ Alumni Friends formally incorporated into the University

June

- UQ and CEPI announce a major partnership with CSL to manufacture and distribute the UQ COVID-19 vaccine
- Warwick Solar Farm completes connection to Queensland electricity grid
- UQ celebrates Men's Health Week
- ARWU Global Ranking of Academic Subjects ranks 4 UQ subjects in world's top 10, the most in Australia
- Professorial Chair in Microwave and Photonic Engineering and Applied Electromagnetics is founded at UQ
- UQ moves up to 46th place in QS World University Rankings

July

- UQ ranked Australia's top research institution in 2020 CWTS Leiden Rankings
- Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announces the start of human trials on 120 people for the UQ-developed COVID-19 vaccine
- Warwick Solar Farm officially opens, making UQ the first university in the world to offset 100 per cent of electricity use with its own renewable energy
- Student Success Program for new and returning international students is delivered to prepare students for Semester 2
- With July graduation ceremonies postponed, UQ hosts its first online celebration of graduates
- Welcome Weeks (including Orientation) are held on campus and online
- UQ develops its first streamlined *Articulation Framework 2020–2024*
- **Professor Peter Høj AC** retires as UQ Vice-Chancellor and President

August

- **Professor Deborah Terry AO** commences as UQ Vice-Chancellor and President
- UQ holds its first fully online Open Day, attracting more than 6,000 future students from 109 countries
- DEMOS (Sandstone) exhibition is held at UQ Art Museum
- Semester 2 commences, delayed by one week
- UQLife's *From the couch* weekly webseries is launched
- UQ and CSIRO researchers begin testing Australian sewage to check for presence of COVID-19 fragments
- UQ researchers develop a 'flavour wheel' to classify wagyu beef
- UQ NAIDOC Festival is held online and on-campus with the theme of *Always was, always will be*
- UQ Sustainability Week is held online and on-campus, featuring craft activities, film screenings, online tours and other information sessions
- 'ModWest' teaching facility opens at St Lucia campus
- UQ researchers discover how bacteria share antibiotic-resistance genes, enabling new solutions for eradicating 'superbugs'
- UQ launches its first global alumni program, *ChangeMakers*

September

- Human trials of COVID-19 vaccine are extended to people aged 55+ following successful pre-clinical trials on hamsters in the Netherlands
- UQ researchers discover method for personalising cancer treatments
- **Emma Schimke** wins UQ's 3MT Final
- UQ biotech startup company Inflazome is acquired by Roche for A\$617 million
- IBM announces the opening of IBM@UQ Centre of Excellence at St Lucia
- UQ delivers inaugural UQ-CUHK Health Engineering Symposium and Ethics webinar

October

- UQ researchers develop low-tech, mobile 'dipstick' for fast extraction and analysis of genetic material for COVID-19 testing
- UQ celebrates Safe Work Month with a range of online events, including activities for Mental Health Week
- UQ hosts second Giving Day
- The BLOOM Festival is held online and on-campus to celebrate the UQ community in jacaranda season
- Play Week is held at all 3 campuses
- Mental Health Week is held on-campus and online, including official launch of UQ Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention
- US Department of Defense provides \$1.4 million for UQ to research back pain
- Prime Minister Scott Morrison visits UQ St Lucia
- UQ researchers use common cold virus to beat skin cancer
- QBI researchers work on crossing the blood-brain barrier to arrest the development of Alzheimer's disease
- NHMRC funds new Centre for Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame based at St Lucia

November

- *Teaching and learning reimagined* virtual event is held, replacing the usual Teaching and Learning Week
- The Merle Pledge is launched to improve women's representation in public and professional forums
- UQ receives 3 of ARC's 9 Discovery Indigenous awards, worth \$4.1 million, and 21 of 200 Discovery Early Career Researcher awards, worth \$9.1 million
- Minister for Health Greg Hunt visits UQ St Lucia
- UQ hosts Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, at St Lucia
- NAIDOC Week festivities are held at UQ
- UQ/Siemens Industry 4.0 Energy TestLab opens
- UQ announces partnership with CQUniversity and Central Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital Services to provide a rural-based medical degree
- UQ joins Age-Friendly University Global Network
- UQ launches the Core Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Learning module for UQ staff
- UQ hosts week-long Graduates Hub in the Great Court with music and chill-out zone

December

- UQ acknowledges the December 2020 cohort with an Online Celebration of Graduates event
- UQ Chancellor **Peter N Varghese AO** is reappointed for another 5-year term
- UQ offers Refugee and Humanitarian Scholarships for students from refugee or asylum backgrounds
- UQ's COVID-19 vaccine team announces that Phase 2/3 clinical trials will not proceed
- UQ researchers develop new technique to demonstrate the time reversal of optical waves
- UQ Ventures ilab Accelerator program awards 12 startups with \$10,000 each to help launch their early-stage ventures
- UQ's *Summer in Queensland* program for international students commences
- UQ's first comprehensive philanthropic campaign, *Not If, When* – the Campaign to Create Change, comes to a close, having raised \$607 million altogether.