SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Overview

UQ advances SDG 11 across teaching, research, outreach and operations to enrich cities and communities in Queensland and globally.

In teaching, UQ offers specialised programs such as the Bachelor of Music and Master of Urban Development and Design. UQ's Institute of Modern Languages fosters lifelong learning by offering short language courses to the public.

UQ's research initiatives span urban biodiversity, sustainable transport, housing equity and climate resilience. Interdisciplinary projects like 'Designing Better Tropical Bus Stop Shelters' foster innovation across government and industry, while developing solutions for urban equity and resilience. Collaborations with international institutions support projects ranging from flood management policy in Uganda to climate-resilient infrastructure in Papua New Guinea.

Outreach and community engagement are central to UQ's mission. The University provides free public access to its heritage buildings, libraries, museums and green spaces, hosting diverse cultural events for public audiences. UQ also seeks to create meaningful impact with local authorities on sustainable, inclusive planning and development via research, student projects and community initiatives.

Operationally, UQ promotes sustainable commuting, pedestrian-friendly campuses and flexible work. The University's Design Standards mandate sustainability in all new builds.

Progress made in 2025 towards SDG 11 is reported here with reference to the following domains and enablers from UQ's Strategic Plan 2022-2025:

- learning and student experience
- research and innovation
- enriching our communities
- our global profile
- our people.

Related SDGs

- SDG 1 No poverty
- SDG 2 Zero hunger
- SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- SDG 13 Climate action
- SDG 14 Life below water
- SDG 15 Life on land.

Learning and student experience

UQ aspires to prepare students to contribute towards the sustainability of cities and communities, both locally and globally. An array of courses equips students with both specialised and multidisciplinary skills and knowledge through curricula, professional development opportunities and other experiences that foster leadership, entrepreneurship and civic duty. In addition to programs and coursework, UQ fosters a sense of belonging and community for all learners through the art and heritage of its vibrant campuses and varied residential options.

Courses and units relating to sustainable cities and communities

UQ offers programs in the broad disciplinary areas of design and development, engineering, environmental management, archaeology and history, communication and the arts. These programs employ innovative teaching and learning methods. Examples in 2025 include Master of Architecture students undertaking the course Advanced Architectural Design: Institutions and Ideology (ARCH7002) being challenged to consider how architects engage with ideas of authenticity, authorship and originality through the 'Museum of the Fake' exhibition, which showcased their work.

In 2025, UQ offered undergraduate degrees in Bachelor of Urban Planning, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Design, Bachelor Social Science, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music. Within these programs, students can elect majors and focus areas that provide a deeper understanding of topics contributing to sustainable community and city planning and management. For example, the Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours) offers courses such as Conservation Planning & Management (ENVM3220) and Development Practice & Social Impact (ANTH3019). Similarly, Bachelor of Social Science students can choose majors in Development, Environment and Society or Health and Social Policy, while the Bachelor of Arts offers majors in History, Archaeology, Art history, Drama, Sociology and Writing.

Postgraduate options offer further specialisation, such as through the Master of Environmental Management, Master of Urban Development and Design and Master of Writing, Editing and Publishing.

Student engagement with industry and community

UQ's Bachelor of Urban Planning provides students with hands-on experience through real-world planning projects in collaboration with local councils and planning bodies across Queensland. In addition to enhancing students' skills in sustainable development and community engagement, this program contributes valuable academic input to local planning initiatives, fostering stronger ties between UQ, planning authorities and regional communities. 2025 initiatives include:

- an overnight field trip where students engaged with stakeholders, such as Traditional Owners, local residents and the Queensland Government, about the real 'planning challenges' that are being experienced on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), located in Moreton Bay, South East Queensland. Working in teams, students canvassed the role of planning in community and economic resilience, and identified and assessed a suitable concept for investment on the island.

- a 2-day development intensive at the UQ City campus, where students engaged with leaders in the planning and development sectors through workshops, guided walks and site visits to a selection of Brisbane's signature infrastructure and commercial projects.
- a consultant team project where students prepared a Health Strategy for the City of Brisbane, considering issues of health, community wellbeing and climate resilience. Through this project, they developed an applied understanding of how to draft, communicate and defend a citywide strategy, in addition to investigating opportunities for government and private sector funding and engagement.

Student cultural life

UQ aims to nurture an inclusive and vibrant student community and to provide enriching educational experiences. In 2025, a variety of opportunities were offered across UQ's campuses, which facilitated student participation in the University's rich cultural life through the arts and heritage by:

- offering more than 220 affiliated Clubs and Societies through the UQ Union, enabling students to learn new skills and strengths, attend events and expand their peer network.
- presenting a range of events, programs and initiatives through UQ Life across all campuses and online platforms to help students engage and connect with others, enhance their UQ experience and feel part of the UQ Community.
- hosting regular events and learning opportunities through the UQ Art Museum, which welcomed thousands of student classes throughout 2025 from disciplines including gender studies, archaeology, biomedical sciences and political science, while the Art on Campus program continued to feature over 400 artworks across UQ's public and academic spaces, transforming daily learning areas into interactive visual landscapes.
- providing students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of musical and theatre ensembles, some of which require an audition, including:
  - Underground Theatre Company: UQ's resident student theatre company that supports emerging actors, crew and creatives to produce high-quality pieces of theatre
  - Queensland University Musical Society (QUMS): a non-auditioned choir open to all members of the public regardless of age or musical ability that performs music of all genres and eras in a wide range of venues across Brisbane
  - UQ Musicians Society: an inclusive community open to hobbyists and music students alike regardless of their technical ability that coordinates engaging musical activities to bring people together through a shared passion for performance
  - UQ Music Production Society: a student-run creative hub open to any music lover regardless of their technical or instrumental ability that fosters a vibrant social network through community extended play collaborations, casual jam sessions and local nightlife events

- UQ Opera Society: a performance and professional development community open to all classical singers, musicians and enthusiasts regardless of background that fosters a shared passion for opera and classical music
- School of Music's UQ Symphony Orchestra, UQ Wind Symphony and UQ Chorale: specialist ensembles comprised mainly of students from the Bachelor of Music (Honours) program, but also including student performances from other schools in the University.

Sustainable living options for students

As part of The Queensland Commitment, UQ is dedicated to improving accommodation for students by implementing strategies that ensure availability and affordability and cater to the diverse needs of those requiring housing support. In 2025, UQ progressed construction on a second student residence complex, Margaret Valadian Place, located in Walcott Street on the St Lucia campus. With 1,020 beds, it is on track to open for Semester 2, 2027 and will increase the total number of student residential places at St Lucia to 2,500. UQ also offered competitively priced accommodation to students, as well as information and services about accessing affordable housing, such as:

- UQ Res, a student living community that offers competitively priced long and short stay accommodation at St Lucia and Gatton campuses, including Kev Carmody House that has 610 state-of-the-art student accommodation rooms for rent, apartments at 48 Walcott Street, the Halls of Residence at Gatton, UQ Res Homes that prioritises students from regional Queensland, interstate, overseas or those facing difficulty, the Gatton Motel that offers 14 rooms and the Gatton Cottage for visiting academics and international students completing an internship.
- UQ Rentals, an online resource for students and staff to help them find accommodation, including through UQ Residential Colleges, purpose-built student living and private rentals. The platform connects prospective tenants with a wide variety of providers, including private landlords, real estate agencies and commercial accommodation, which have vacant properties and rooms close to campuses at St Lucia, Herston and Gatton.
- online information and resources on the cost of living in Brisbane, including a comparison of affordability of student housing options.
- UQ Residential Scholarships Scheme that offers financial support for students who have experienced financial hardship, to help cover accommodation costs at a UQ approved provider.

Research and innovation

UQ contributes to SDG 11 through research that promotes inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. This is achieved by translating academic research into real-world innovations across urban planning, affordable housing, climate-resilient transport, sustainable infrastructure and cultural heritage preservation. To maximise local and global impact, UQ leverages a diverse network of strategic partners, including international agencies, national government bodies like Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), state entities such as the Queensland Department of Transport

and Main Roads (TMR) and local councils and community organisations including Brisbane City Council, Julalikari Council and the Wilya Janta Housing Collaboration.

Throughout 2025, major milestones were driven by pioneering regional and international initiatives that transformed community resilience. Key advancements included delivering Papua New Guinea's first Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guide to embed low-emission design into Pacific procurement, co-designing climate-responsive transport prototypes for regional Queensland and deploying robotic bio-composite fabrication technologies in remote areas. UQ further strengthened urban equity by tackling Indigenous health hardware challenges in Tennant Creek, evaluating flood mitigation impacts in South East Asia and bringing global public housing liveability models into Australian policy dialogues to deliver sustainable, cross-sector solutions for the built environment.

Sustainable built environments and low carbon solutions

How we achieved this

- From 2023 to 2028, the UQ-led ARC Research Hub to Advance Timber for Australia's Future Built Environment is working to transform Australia's timber and construction sectors by stimulating rapid growth in timber innovation and the uptake of use of timber in buildings. Significant benefits include opportunities for regional development and supporting sectors to transition towards a circular, net-zero economy. Throughout 2025, the Hub advanced this mission through several key strategic initiatives and high-profile milestones by:
  - hosting World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE 2025) in Brisbane in July, which brought together global leaders in sustainable wood construction.
  - showcasing at the Osaka World Expo in October to represent Australia's timber research sector on the global stage at the Australian Pavilion in Japan.
  - engaging decision makers at Queensland Parliament House in October and advocating for timber-based 'flatpack villages' to build a lasting sustainable legacy for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.
  - leading the development and rigorous experimental road-testing of a new national draft standard *Methods of Test for Mechanical Fasteners and Connectors* in collaboration with Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) to establish an updated testing framework aligned with international best practices for timber engineering.
  - fostering critical cross-sector collaboration through targeted research secondments, international fellowships and specialised technical workshops across Queensland universities.
- Conducted in partnership with the Transport Academic Partnership (TAP) and in collaboration with Queensland's Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Translink, the 'Designing Better Tropical Bus Stop Shelters' project explored how design-led research can enhance passenger experience and environmental comfort at bus stops in tropical climates. The study delivered contextually responsive and user-informed design recommendations for intermediate-service-level bus shelters in Townsville and Cairns. Through field observations, passenger interviews and 2 co-design workshops that engaged local stakeholders, council representatives,

community members and designers, the team identified key challenges such as inadequate shade and rain protection, overheating metal materials and limited inclusivity for diverse users. The project outcomes included a set of climate-responsive design recommendations and prototype concepts tailored to Far North Queensland's tropical conditions, emphasising shade optimisation and material selection to demonstrate the potential of interdisciplinary design research as a strategic tool for shaping sustainable, human-centred transport infrastructure.

- Led by Associate Professor Frederico Fialho Teixeira from School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the 'BioBlocks' project investigated remote robotic 3D printing of clay-based algae material to produce blocks with improved structural and environmental performance. Using locally harvested algae and clay to advance construction methods in remote communities, the research utilised a collaborative robot to print clay composites with varying chlorella algae ratios while a 3D scanning study analysed specimen geometry and shrinkage. To lower barriers to participation, the project developed a computational script and accessible augmented reality interface, enabling non-experts to design blocks and control a robotic 3D printer locally. Moving towards a carbon-negative future, this digital fabrication process supports a more sustainable and resilient mode of construction, and its innovative approach was showcased at the ARUP Gallery in London from September to October 2025.
- Translating algae's ecologies into a scaled architectural model, the 'Chromatic Biologies' project embeds natural microalgal pigments into biopolymers to produce durable, UV-resilient panels. The project prototypes the blending of algae-derived colorants with sustainable plastics to create modular tiles for interior and facade assembly, eliminating reliance on petrochemical manufacturing. By reimagining natural pigments as functional agents for carbon sequestration and durability, this innovative work demonstrates how eco-friendly materials can replace toxic alternatives, creating a vibrant and carbon-conscious design language for low-carbon architecture.
- From 29 September to 2 October, UQ hosted the 2025 IEEE PES Australasian Universities Power Engineering Conference (AUPEC), the one of the region's most respected gatherings for researchers, students and industry professionals in power and energy engineering. The conference's them 'Resilient Energy Systems: Strengthening the Future Grid for a Sustainable World' reflects the growing urgency to develop energy networks that are secure, adaptive and sustainable. The Conference spotlighted research, projects and technologies that address these evolving challenges, from grid resilience and renewable integration to AI applications, energy storage and electrified transport systems.

Resilient and equitable communities

How we achieved this

- In 2025, UQ Bachelor of Design students shifted their learning out of the studio and into local residential facilities to actively co-create solutions with aged care communities. By focusing on inclusive design practices that directly engage senior residents, the 'Co-designing Sustainable Solutions with Aged Care Communities' initiative addresses the critical urban planning challenge of supporting ageing

populations within rapidly changing cities. This hands-on, community-centred research approach ensures that future urban designers possess the empirical tools needed to create accessible, supportive and safe spaces that enhance wellbeing and protect vulnerable populations in resilient cities.

- Part of the A$5 million multi-institutional STARFISH research program, the 'Good Living, Good Health' project explores how community initiatives and improved housing conditions can reduce chronic Strep A infections, which may develop into Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease. These infections are common in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where crowding and limited access to basic health infrastructure increase risk. The UQ research team partnered with Julalikari Council in Tennant Creek to pilot a household-level initiative to install durable washing machines in community living areas centres and several overcrowded homes. This practical intervention improved access to 'health hardware', which refers to the basic facilities enabling hygiene and disease prevention. The pilot study utilised a 12-month data collection period to assess the initiative's efficacy in reducing skin infections and improving housing and health outcomes through community-led design and research.
- Funded through the NHMRC 2024 Targeted Call for Research Grant, the 'Coming Home, Making Home, Valuing Home' project evaluates community-designed housing prototypes developed by the Wilya Janta Housing Collaboration in Tennant Creek to build a health and wellbeing evidence base for Aboriginal cultural and climate-appropriate homes. Led by Professor Paul Memmott from UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning, alongside Associate Professor Veronica Matthews from the University of Sydney and community partners, the research examined how climate-responsive and culturally grounded housing can improve health outcomes for residents facing poor thermal performance and high energy insecurity. Driven by community leaders with support from an interdisciplinary consortium, the project assessed the delivery process and lived outcomes of prototype dwellings while conducting a 5-year comparative cost-benefit analysis against existing Northern Territory housing models. This participatory design initiative generates scalable evidence for community-led housing reform, demonstrating how culture, environment, health and housing performance intersect to cost-effectively build sustainable and resilient living environments.

Cultural heritage preservation

How we achieved this

- The Queensland Atlas of Religion shares stories of Queensland's faith communities, past and present, to explore aspects of religious practice in Australia. This is the first time that a place-based approach has been employed for the scholarly study of Queensland's religious pluralism and diversity, emphasising the patterns of historical accommodation and inclusion needed to inform religious toleration and cross-community understanding. Funded by an ARC Linkage Grant, the project was undertaken by researchers from the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry in partnership with the State Library of Queensland. Whilst the project funding came to an end in 2024, throughout 2025 the Queensland Atlas of Religion continued to be

updated with new entries and media content to record and inform on the rich diversity of religion and religious practices in Queensland's past and present.

- The Language Data Commons of Australia (LDaCA) project receives investment from the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), which is funded by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). Led by UQ in collaboration with partner institutions, the project makes nationally significant language data available for academic and non-academic use and provides a model for ensuring continued access with appropriate community control. With Australia being one of the world's most linguistically diverse nations, this project is preserving intangible cultural heritage by securing at-risk collections while improving access to under-utilised collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, Australian Englishes and regional languages of the Pacific. Throughout 2025, the project advanced these capabilities by implementing the new Protocols for Implementing Long-term Archival Repositories Services (PILARS) technical architecture and deploying the Image Dataset Explorer tool to optimise national language data analysis. It also strengthened Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data governance through the launch of the 'Arne ingkerreke apurtelhe-ileme' project, securing culturally appropriate, community-controlled archival engagement. Furthermore, LDaCA established the strategic groundwork for integrating artificial intelligence with massive language datasets to ensure a secure and innovative digital research ecosystem.
- In 2025, UQ contributed to the preservation of storytelling and Australia's literary ecosystem through AustLit, a national information resource and authoritative database of Australian literature and storytelling led by the University in collaboration with academic, library, education and research organisations. During 2025 AustLit continued to expand its comprehensive collection and provide resources for researchers, teachers and students with new projects such as 'Re-mapping Darwin/Larrakia Country', 'Irishness in Aust. Lit' and 'Australian Fantasy Fiction & Japan'. In addition, AustLit continued to maintain BlackWords, a vast database of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writing and Storytelling.

Enriching our communities

UQ seeks to demonstrate its power as a force for social good in communities everywhere and embeds best-practice approaches in community outreach and engagement. This includes nourishing intellectual vitality through inclusive access to debates and public lectures, cultural events and UQ's museums, libraries, significant buildings and green spaces. UQ also seeks to include sustainable practices in its campus operations, improve environmental sustainability performance of its infrastructure and maintain several sites of conservation importance throughout South East Queensland for the benefit of UQ and the broader community.

Community learning

Throughout 2025, UQ provided an array of opportunities and services to the local community that facilitated lifelong learning and knowledge sharing, with key contributions from:

- programs and resources delivered by the UQ Alumni and Community Engagement team that build affinity, connection and partnership to extend the value of the UQ experience and strengthen community, featuring:
  - UQx free online courses in a variety of subjects that can be audited for free or verified with a certificate for a small fee
  - free podcasts including the Queensland Brain Institute's Grey Matter and Liveris Academy podcasts
  - free recordings of events, webinars and interviews including UQ Talks and the Young Alumni Event Series
  - free events open to alumni and community including the BrisScience event 'Bringing Quantum to Life' and the Townsville Alumni and Community event at the Queensland Museum Tropics
  - UQ Neighbours program connecting UQ with local communities to strengthen mutual engagement through:
    - information about UQ spaces such as the Avalon theatre, UQ Lakes and Amphitheatre
    - UQ Arts, with information on campus museums, performances and cultural events
    - UQ sporting clubs, sport facilities and events such as the St Lucia Park Run
    - services such as the UQ Vets Small Animal Hospital and advanced farriery at Gatton.
- libraries, which welcome visitors from the community and secondary schools to use library spaces and onsite collections during staffed hours. Visitors can use library computers to create, print, copy and scan documents. Visitors can also view items from special collections. Most library-subscribed online resources are licensed for use by UQ students and staff only, however visitors can access some online resources including selected databases and eBooks on Library computers. Open access resources, including digitised cultural heritage collections from Fryer Library, can be accessed by anyone online on UQ eSpace, the University's institutional repository. The UQ Library also provides guidance on accessing other open educational resources. Community Membership costs A$25 per year, which allows members to borrow books. In 2025, the UQ Library hosted the annual Fryer Lecture, which celebrates Australian literature and the library's important role in collecting and preserving our literary heritage.
- Institute of Modern Languages (IML), which offers one of Australia's most comprehensive language learning programs, supporting personal, academic and professional development. It provides opportunities for learners of all ages and proficiency levels to develop practical language skills while fostering intercultural understanding. Open to the wider community, the Institute delivered courses in more than 35 languages in 2025. These were taught by a team of more than 300 qualified language teachers who are native speakers or have native-level proficiency. Languages offered ranged from widely studied languages such as Japanese, Spanish,

French, Chinese, German and Italian to less commonly taught languages including Tetum, Latin, Croatian, Turkish and Swahili.

- UQ Press (UQP), which is one of Australia's leading publishing houses, known for publishing literary works, poetry and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories. In 2025, UQP published more than 35 literary works, including award-winning literature such as Siang Lu's *Ghost Cities* (Miles Franklin Literary Award) and Peter Carnavas's *Leo and Ralph* (2025 Australian Book Industry Awards Small Publishers' Children's Book of the Year).
- UQ Art Museum Cultural Mediation Program, which is a visitor engagement practice where art museum and gallery staff journey alongside the visitor in an act of mutual exchange. At the centre of the practice is the concept of the two-way art-centric conversation that enables visitors to experience a richer engagement with art and supports gallery staff to work with audiences to unpack and interrogate visual art forms and ideas. In 2025, Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art with support from Creative Australia commissioned UQ Art Museum to deliver cultural mediation training for over 150 staff across their visitor services, engagement, curatorial and education teams through face-to-face and online delivery models. This training explicitly supported the exhibition of Archie Moore's 'kith and kin' at Gallery of Modern Art from September 2025 to October 2026, empowering staff to more deeply connect with audiences through Moore's artwork.
- Planning for Net Positive Cities (PLANET) half-day professional short course, which developed collaboratively by UQ, the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) and Arup, and delivered in June 2025. Facilitated by Professor Ali Cheshmehzangi and Stephanie Wyeth from UQ's School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the program explored urban systems that regenerate rather than merely sustain. Designed for emerging and established planners, the course provided an overview of leading theories and tools for embedding climate-positive, socially inclusive and circular design principles in contemporary planning practice. Through case studies, theory sessions and workshops analysing real-world examples of place-based transition strategies, participants developed the capability to identify, assess and implement net positive outcomes across strategic plans, infrastructure projects and policy frameworks to empower planners to lead climate-resilient transformation.

Access to heritage and culture

UQ's campuses hold rich local heritage, which the University endeavours to share through accessible buildings and outdoor spaces. UQ also fosters an environment that offers diverse cultural and artistic experiences to the local community. In 2025, UQ hosted more than 1,235 events, celebrations, exhibitions and performances at its locations across Queensland, delivering through:

- public access to heritage buildings, with the University continuing to offer free public access to many of its significant buildings and campus spaces, enabling visitors to experience heritage-listed buildings such as the St Lucia Great Court Complex, Customs House, the Herston campus, the Gatton campus and 308 Queen St in Brisbane city.

- museums, inviting members of the public to visit its 4 museums on the St Lucia campus free of charge including:
  - Anthropology Museum, caring for the cultural heritage of Australian Aboriginal and Pacific peoples through the largest university collection of ethnographic material in Australia, alongside smaller collections from South East Asia and East Africa.
  - Physics Museum, housing a comprehensive collection of instruments, books and memorabilia dating back to the University's origins, with self-guided smartphone audio tours and QR code-enabled displays exploring historical computing technologies, crystallography, microscopes and electric master clocks.
  - RD Milns Antiquities Museum, housing Queensland's premier collection of classical Mediterranean relics and artefacts that represent the profound impact of ancient Mediterranean cultures upon the literature, art, politics and society of the modern world.
  - UQ Art Museum, comprising one of Queensland's most significant public art collections with works by Australian artists from the colonial era to the present, and the Nat Yuen Collection of Chinese antiquities.

    In 2025, the museum extended its reach through major seasonal exhibitions, campus displays and active community-wide engagements.

    A major milestone was the flagship exhibition 'These Entanglements: Ecology After Nature', which brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, activists and scientists to explore deep connections between biology, human co-existence and post-natural environments. On 3 May 2025, in collaboration with the museum, UQ's emerging student composers and musicians performed live musical works responding to this premise, offering fresh perspectives on humanity's complex relationship with the natural world.

    In addition, the museum advanced its cultural equity framework by deepening the Ocean Pathways initiative, a prestigious national research partnership with the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW) to co-appoint Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curatorial practitioners. The museum's public precinct also featured Yuriyal Bridgeman's monumental, story-sharing installation, 'SUNA (Middle Ground)'.

    Other 2025 initiatives included:

    - the premiere of Rachel O'Reilly's collaborative research film NORTHERN WATERS, tracking mining impacts and gas extraction politics
    - featured ecological masterworks like Megan Cope's 'Whispers (poles)' made on Quandamooka Country
    - the continuation of the long-running Kinnane Endowment Fund through the appointment of its 2025 Research, Education and Programming Intern.
- public performances, cultivating a vibrant artistic environment by delivering more than 30 public concert series and theatrical productions in 2025 across various ensembles, societies and groups, highlighted by:
  - the Festival of Outback Opera, a partnership between the UQ School of Music and Opera Queensland, which brings world-class music experiences to regional

communities in Winton and Longreach. In 2025, the festival delivered 18 performances, involved participation from 20 students, reached 1,684 community members and travelled 1,595km between regional venues.

- 'Orchestral Visions: Rituals of the Street' at the GHD Auditorium, St Lucia Campus in May, performed by the UQ Symphony Orchestra and conducted by internationally renowned clarinettist, composer and conductor Paul Dean to explore music shaped by public life moving from the elegance of the Classical salon to the pulse of dance halls, city streets and village squares.
- 'Cathedral Resonance', part of UQ's St John's Cathedral Choral Series in September, featuring 'SignWaves', a collective of flautists from UQ bringing a diverse range of flute repertoire of varying ensemble sizes from solo flute to flute choir.
- UQ Opera Gala in November, a signature seasonal finale presented as part of the GHD Auditorium Concert Series, bringing together the UQ Symphony Orchestra and UQ Singers for a collaborative public performance of classical operatic masterworks.
- School of Music Lunchtime Concert Series, delivering weekly free public concerts held at the Nickson Room and St John's Cathedral to provide local Brisbane communities with regular access to chamber and choral music.

Preserving and sharing Indigenous cultural heritage

In 2025, UQ was involved in 2 exhibitions that contributed towards the maintenance and sharing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and knowledge.

- As part of its tour to regional and remote Queensland centres, the 'Kirrenderri, Heart of the Channel Country' exhibition was displayed at the Yarrawarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Corindi Beach from 2 August to 28 September 2025. Curated by UQ's Anthropology Museum and Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation, the exhibition presents a visually striking and narrative-rich resource of knowledge, chronicling the stories and perspectives from the past of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living on Channel Country via rarely seen artefacts, historic and contemporary photographs, letters and maps. The exhibition was highly commended at the 2024 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards and continues its tour throughout Australia into 2026.
- The UQ Anthropology museum hosted the free public exhibition 'Stories through time: Living Cultures, Enduring Connections' from 3 March to 14 November 2025. The exhibition celebrated the collaborative relationships forged between Indigenous and non-Indigenous producers and scholars across Australia and the Pacific, presenting some of the key collections that have been part of the museum's custodianship and with which makers, storytellers and knowledge holders have connected to express their material culture since the 1950s.

Together, these exhibitions reached audiences in Brisbane and New South Wales, highlighting the vital role of community-led storytelling in strengthening cultural continuity and identity, and demonstrating the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture.

Campus access and sustainability

UQ recognises its responsibility to care for the lands on which it operates, creating a welcoming space for students, staff and the local community. Many of UQ's campuses and green spaces are free and open to the public, and UQ has sustainable transportation and building practices for the benefit of all who attend, as demonstrated by:

- free public access to green spaces including:
  - St Lucia Lakes, eco-walk and Amphitheatre
  - St Lucia campus grounds including the Great Court
  - St Lucia barbecue and picnic areas
  - 2 Bush Tucker Gardens at St Lucia campus
  - UQ Sustainability Walk at St Lucia campus
  - UQ recreation precinct playground, a state-of-the-art, all-abilities and nature-based public play space located along Sir William MacGregor Drive at St Lucia campus
  - Gatton Environmental Park
  - Boyce Gardens at Gatton campus (open to the public daily from 9 am to 4 pm)
  - community gardens at the St Lucia and Gatton campuses provide spaces for students, staff and local community members to grow their own produce, share food together, learn new skills and meet friends.
- sustainable travel options provided and promoted by UQ, including:
  - connecting to public transport services at the St Lucia, Herston and Gatton locations, such as the new Brisbane Metro at UQ Lakes Bus Station, which was launched in 2025.
  - offering micromobility transport resources and facilities, such as dedicated bicycle paths, end-of-trip shower, change room, locker spaces, secure and open-air bicycle parking, bike maintenance and repair stations. Electronic micromobility devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters are also available at the St Lucia campus through 3rd party operators like Lime and Neuron.
  - a fleet of vehicles, which includes electric vehicles, for staff to hire.
  - electric vehicle charging station for both staff and the public, alongside staff-only charging stations within dedicated parking zones.
  - an intercampus bus service running between St Lucia and Gatton, and St Lucia and Long Pocket campuses.
  - pedestrian priority options, such as safe walking paths, pedestrian crossings and wayfinding services, which can be navigated via the UQ Maps app and UQ virtual tours.
  - specially designed and constructed infrastructure to curate enjoyable walking experiences, such as the John Oxley River Walk, the UQ Sustainability Walk and the Gatton Environmental Park.

Sustainable building on campus

UQ seeks to improve the sustainability performance of its buildings and infrastructure through the following initiatives and frameworks:

- sustainable building standards. As stated in the UQ Design Standards, sustainability must be a consideration for every aspect of a project and sustainability principles must be applied in ways that allow the benefits to be measured prior to project commencement. UQ's Design Standards detail mandatory minimum sustainable building standards across a range of measures including, but not limited to, architectural, landscape, civil, hydraulic, mechanical, electrical, fire, acoustics, IT, wayfinding and labs. These are made available to all parties involved in the design and construction process and are published on the University staff website.
- Campuses on Countries. The UQ Campuses on Countries Design Framework acknowledges Traditional Owners, including their custodianship of lands on and around UQ's campuses that range across Queensland. The Framework provides a set of principles to guide those designing the built and landscape environments at UQ in recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and connections to UQ, enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values and spaces to be incorporated in UQ's physical environments.

Our global profile

UQ seeks to enrich communities not just in Queensland but also around the world. It does this by leveraging its research for global development and capacity building, achieving sustainable outcomes for diverse cities, their people and infrastructure.

How we achieved this

- Through the Australia–PNG Economic and Social Infrastructure Program (ESIP), UQ is leading the development of the country's first Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guide. Led by researchers from the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, this lifecycle framework embeds adaptation and low-emission design principles across every stage of the infrastructure lifecycle. Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and delivered through DT Global under the ESIP partnership, the project aligns climate-risk assessment, design standards and procurement practices by translating cutting-edge research into practical guidance for governments, planners and engineers. The Guide has been developed through multi-country workshops and extensive consultations with Pacific ministries to ensure its local relevance, and in 2025, the UQ team travelled to Port Moresby to lead stakeholder workshops with representatives from DFAT, the PNG Government and regional partners to test the framework in real-world contexts. Ultimately, this Guide provides the foundation for procurement guidelines and training modules for government agencies, strengthening institutional capacity to make climate-informed investment decisions and ensuring that every future investment contributes to a safer, more sustainable region.
- UQ International Development unit designed and delivered the Australia Awards Short Course between August 2024 and January 2025, managed by Australia Awards Indonesia. The program was delivered to 24 Indonesian infrastructure specialists, aiming to build a coalition committed to planning and implementing quality

infrastructure projects through high-quality finance. Drawing on expertise from Australian infrastructure practitioners, government representatives and industry specialists, the short course explored effective planning, financing and investment readiness, while integrating Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and climate considerations. The program combined workshops in Jakarta with a 2-week visit in Brisbane and Sydney, featuring site visits to major projects like Cross River Rail and Sydney Metro. Participants developed and implemented the course learning to real-world policy and practice challenges, producing policy-focused analysis and recommendations relating to Indonesia's infrastructure financing and regulatory environment.

- Led by Associate Professor Sonia Roitman from the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the 'Flood management policies in Kampala' project examined how flood management policies are designed and implemented in Kampala, Uganda, where increasingly frequent flooding exposes deep inequalities between low-income and high-income residents. Using qualitative interviews and focus group discussions, the research explored the perspectives of key stakeholders, from government officials to community organisations, to understand the barriers to effective policy implementation. The findings show that although Kampala has comprehensive flood management policies, enforcement and resourcing remain limited and uneven, leaving low-income residents and vulnerable communities highly exposed without adequate support. The project identifies the need for inclusive urban planning, improved institutional coordination and stronger community engagement to mitigate the growing risks of urban flooding and align policy effectiveness with the SDGs.
- Led by Associate Professor Sonia Roitman and Associate Professor Ron Johnstone from UQ's School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the 'Flood mitigation in Semarang, Indonesia' project analysed the economic, social, physical, environmental and health impacts of flood infrastructure in Semarang City, where regular flooding has worsened due to climate change and continuous urban growth. Investigating 47 infrastructure projects designed over the past 20 years, including canal normalisation, polder systems, pumps, gates, sluices, seawalls and dams, the team selected 4 representative case studies for detailed analysis. Findings reveal that while flood management has become more efficient, some projects have created unintended negative impacts on the livelihoods, health and social conditions of nearby communities. To address these shortcomings, the team co-designed policy recommendations with stakeholders and affected residents to promote inclusive, sustainable flood management, demonstrating that infrastructure efficiency cannot be measured solely by technical performance but must include social, economic, health, physical and environmental dimensions.
- Led by Associate Professor Sonia Roitman from UQ's School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the 'Urban planning and climate change response in urban locations in Samoa' project investigated climate and environmental governance in Apia, Samoa's capital, as Pacific Island nations continue to urbanise. Using qualitative methods, the project captured perspectives from government agencies, NGOs and residents to understand environmental concerns and governance in Apia's growing urban areas. Findings highlight that while climate change is a growing concern, issues such as waste management, land-use change and urban sprawl often exceed those related to

climate change and are currently more immediate priorities for Samoa's planners and communities. The project's outcomes build an evidence base for policy development and urban resilience planning, providing actionable insights to inform government policy and strengthen collaborative responses to urban sustainability in the Pacific.

Our people

UQ aims to promote a positive work-life balance. The University engages in sustainable practices for staff and students, including flexible working arrangements.

Sustainable work practices

UQ accommodates flexible work for staff, including remote working, upon request from the employee and by mutual agreement. Flexible work is any approved variation to the standard daily or weekly work pattern within a workplace. UQ provides several flexible work options for staff subject to the provisions of UQ's Enterprise Agreement (2021-2026) and the *Fair Work Act* including:

- working from home (remote working)
- flexible working hours
- 9-day fortnight
- 19-day month
- voluntary banked time
- flexi-time
- purchased leave
- part-time work
- job sharing.