

Swap the trade tools for the classroom

The Trade to Teach Internship Program (T2T Program) is a Queensland Department of Education initiative that provides eligible people with a trade qualification a pathway into teaching.

The T2T Program supports participants financially and professionally to complete an undergraduate teaching degree (specialising in Industrial Technology and Design or Hospitality/Food and Fashion) at a partner university, commencing full-time study in early 2026.

From 2026, the T2T Program will include two streams: 1) Industrial Design and Technology and 2) Hospitality/Food and Fashion.

The 2026 intake will also focus on addressing the need for teachers in the department's priority regions of Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Central Queensland and Darling Downs South West.

What does the support look like?

Year 1 (2026)

- a \$20,000 (taxed¹) **scholarship** payment – to assist with course related expenses (the scholarship is paid in four instalments across the first year of full-time study).

Years 2, 3, and 4 (2027-2029)

- paid **internship** employment with a part-time teaching load:
 - a paid internship (full-time wage) in a Queensland state school (based on departmental need) with a fortnightly salary starting at \$2,842² (before tax and other deductions³)
 - a reduced teaching load (50%) to allow for study and course work
 - [teacher benefits](#) (e.g. school holidays, non-contact time)
 - access to [rural and remote benefits](#) and financial incentives if the internship is in a rural and remote state school (transfer rating of 4-7)
 - mentoring and access to a 'community of practice' to share experiences.

¹ All payments are taxed and may affect the recipient's annual income and/or benefits received, and will impact the take home pay in the fortnight which it is paid (this includes additional contributions to tax e.g. HECS/HELP). It is recommended that recipients obtain financial advice from a financial advisor, [Services Australia](#) and/or the [Australian Taxation Office](#) for any implications this may have on current and future earnings/taxable income/ benefits received.

² Fortnightly salary as per Band 1, Step 1 of the [Teachers' Salary Schedule](#) and any applicable allowances.

³ Deductions every fortnight include tax and compulsory superannuation. Other deductions could include HECS-HELP.

After completion of T2T Program (2030)

- an offer of full-time, **permanent employment**
 - permanent employment (subject to meeting program conditions) as an ITD or Hospitality/Food and Fashion teacher in a Queensland state school (teaching secondary) in a priority location or [priority region of Queensland](#). Priority regions include Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Central Queensland or Darling Downs South West.
 - [full-time beginning teacher benefits](#)
 - access to [rural and remote benefits](#) and financial incentives if employed in a state school in a rural and remote location (a school with a transfer rating of 4-7).

What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible for the 2026 T2T Program, applicants must:

- ITD stream (carpenters, plumbers, plasterers, electricians, joiners, fitters and turners or similar trades)
 - hold a relevant and recognised trade qualification (Certificate III or higher) and have minimum three years industry experience, post apprenticeship
- Hospitality/Food and Fashion stream (chefs, hospitality professionals, fashion designers/dressmakers)
 - hold a recognised qualification achieved through apprenticeship (i.e. Certificate III or higher in Commercial Cookery) and have a minimum three years industry experience (post apprenticeship), or
 - hold a related qualification (i.e. Certificate III or higher in Hospitality, Certificate III or higher in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles) and have minimum three years industry experience, post qualification.
- be eligible to enrol in the undergraduate teaching degree Bachelor of Education (secondary) to commence 2026 at one of the T2T Program's partner universities. This includes meeting minimum entry requirements for the degree.
- be an Australian citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia.

What is the application process?

The application link for the T2T Program will be published on the [T2T webpage](#) between 25 August and 21 September. A panel will assess the eligible applications based on:

- a response to an online questionnaire
- a resume and reference/statements of service detailing relevant qualifications and time in industry

- a maximum 2-page response to selection criteria
- response to questions provided via a video interview.

Preference will be given to those applicants who are willing to undertake an internship and permanent placement in a state school located in a [priority region of Queensland](#): Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Central Queensland or Darling Downs South West.

How to enrol in the teaching degree

At the same time as applying for the T2T Program, applicants are to enrol in a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) at one of the partnering universities:

- ITD stream - [Central Queensland University](#) (CQU) or [University of Southern Queensland](#) (UniSQ). You must choose to specialise in:
 - Industrial Technology and Design at CQU; or
 - Design: Industry (ITD) Pathway at UniSQ.
- Hospitality/Food and Fashion stream - [Central Queensland University](#) (CQU) – You must choose to specialise in:
 - Home Economics and Hospitality at CQU.

Successful applicants for the T2T Program will receive a conditional offer of a place in the T2T Program, until such time that enrolment in the degree is confirmed with the T2T Program team. Applicants must meet degree entry requirements and may be eligible for recognition of prior learning (RPL) offered by the university based on trade qualifications and industry experience.

What support is available to prepare for study?

T2T participants are strongly encouraged to enrol and complete free courses to prepare for tertiary study in the year prior to commencing study. The partner universities offer the following:

- UniSQ – [UniSQ Ready](#)
 - Block 5, 2025: Applications close 25 August 2025, or
 - Block 6, 2025: Applications close 20 October 2025.
- CQU – [Skills for Tertiary Education Preparatory Studies \(STEPS\)](#)
 - Applications close 20 October 2025.

What do participants need to do as part of the program?

T2T Program participants need to:

- enrol and commit to full-time study at one of the partner universities
- maintain a 'pass' result each trimester/term in Year 1 (2026) of the scholarship year, and all remaining years of study

- successfully complete the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) by the end of 2029 (in a maximum of four years from Trimester/Term 1 2026)
- complete the application to obtain a Permission to Teach with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) for the internship years
- accept a conditional offer of temporary employment as an intern teacher (half teaching load) in a Queensland state school/s teaching Industrial Technology and Design (ITD) or Hospitality/Food and Fashion for up to three years (at a location based on departmental need)
- accept an offer of permanent employment in a state school in a high priority region/location, as determined by the department
- maintain employment as a teacher in a Queensland state school in the Industrial Technology and Design (ITD) or Hospitality/Food and Fashion subject area for a 3 to 4-year minimum⁴ period after successful completion of the T2T Program and undergraduate teaching degree.

What support is available to relocate?

If T2T participants are required to relocate more than 50 minutes (one way) from their current home location for the internship or permanent employment, moving expenses may be available. Access to subsidised housing may be available also, based on location and availability.

What will be the starting salary as a teacher?

The current beginning teacher salary is \$84,078 gross per annum (Band 2, Step 1 [salary scale](#)). However, on successful completion of the T2T Program and commencing as a registered teacher, T2T participants can apply to increase their starting salary based on recent and relevant industry experience and time as a T2T Program intern. This is assessed by the Department of Education on a case-by-case basis.

How do I find out more?

For further information visit the [Trade to Teach webpage](#) or email the T2T Program team at TradetoTeach@qed.qld.gov.au

⁴ Minimum service commitment: TR1-TR6 schools – four years; TR7 schools – three years