

AUSTRALIA'S *Gold Coast* STUDY GUIDE



EXPERIENCE
GOLD COAST™

AUSTRALIA'S Gold Coast

A STUDY DESTINATION LIKE NO OTHER



Located in Queensland on the east coast of Australia, the Gold Coast is the sixth-largest city in Australia and home to nearly 700,000 people. Known for its welcoming community, spectacular coastline, sunny climate and enviable outdoor lifestyle, the city offers an exceptional place to study, live and build your future.

With over 200 education and training providers, the city offers pathways across schools, English language programs, vocational education, undergraduate and postgraduate study, research, and professional development.

The Gold Coast's education sector is closely connected to growing industries including health, professional services, advanced manufacturing, technology, and knowledge-based industries. These links give students opportunities to gain practical experience, build professional networks, and prepare for successful careers.

Beyond the classroom, students benefit from a welcoming international community, dedicated support services, and an enviable coastal lifestyle. With breathtaking coastline and beaches, events and festivals throughout the year, large cultural precincts, fine dining, sophisticated shopping options, and national parks, the Gold Coast offers the complete study experience in a city designed for learning, connection, and opportunity.

Whether you love live music, sports, culture or food festivals, you'll find it here.

There are many reasons to choose the Gold Coast as a study destination. It offers a study and work/life balance unachievable in most of the world's major cities. International students who study here enjoy a quality education, visa pathways, post-graduate rights, scholarship opportunities, and a diverse and welcoming community.

ACCOMMODATION

Make yourself at home on the Gold Coast in a range of accommodation options to suit all budgets and styles. When choosing your accommodation, consider factors such as location, proximity to place of study, cost, lifestyle, public transport services, and study commitments.

Homestay gives you the opportunity to stay with an Australian family. Alternatively, you could choose a private rental, a residential college or shared accommodation with other students. Your place of study can provide you with assistance finding suitable housing options.

EMPLOYMENT

With a growing economy, a collaborative, innovative ecosystem, strong support networks, and a clear commitment to student success, the Gold Coast offers more than just an outstanding education - it's a place to launch your career, build your network, and shape your future.

The Gold Coast is not only one of Australia's most attractive places to live and study, but also a thriving hub for career development, practical learning, and long-term employability. Students benefit from a wide range of opportunities for casual and part-time work, full-time internships, volunteering, and industry placements.

To support students on their career journey, Experience Gold Coast has a dedicated team delivering a suite of initiatives focused on careers and employability. These programs are designed to enhance job-readiness, provide direct links to local industries, and empower students to enter the workforce with confidence. Initiatives include Careers Alliance for strategic development, Kickstart Professional Development Program which delivers employability workshops, and the Gold Coast Student Jobs platform, which connects students with part-time, casual, and graduate employment across the city.

After studying and completing your qualification, there are many employment prospects on the Gold Coast with an engaged industry committed to offering exceptional graduate outcomes.



OUR EDUCATION & TRAINING providers

The Gold Coast boasts one of the most comprehensive education sectors of any city its size, attracting students from over 70 countries. Home to three world-class universities, five TAFE Queensland campuses, a diverse range of private vocational education and training and ELICOS providers, and some of Australia's top public and private schools, the city offers exceptional learning opportunities at every stage of the educational journey.

With an ambitious vision that encourages innovation and sustainable growth, the Gold Coast is a forward-thinking city that's home to a dynamic combination of startups, research facilities, and leading education institutions.

Griffith University

griffith.edu.au

Griffith University is ranked among the top 2% of universities worldwide and is recognised as a leader in sustainability and innovation. Griffith University has achieved outstanding results in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which measure universities' contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Griffith is ranked #1 in Australia, and equal #2 globally.

With over 45,000 students across five campuses, 200+ degree programs, and a global alumni network spanning 130 nationalities, Griffith is a hub for quality education, research, and academic excellence. Since 2012, it has received more Australian Awards for University Teaching than any other institution.

Griffith is also a key partner in the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct (GCHKP) — a thriving innovation ecosystem that includes the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Gold Coast Private Hospital, and Lumina, a commercial cluster for health and tech industries.

Southern Cross University

scu.edu.au

Southern Cross University is one of the world's Top 100 Young Universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings) and is gaining recognition for its strong graduate outcomes.

Its campus is located right next to the Gold Coast airport with views of iconic Kirra Beach, offering students a unique learning environment.

Known for its personalised academic approach and unique six-week teaching terms, Southern Cross delivers high-quality and contemporary programs both on campus and online across a diverse academic portfolio. The university fosters strong community engagement, connecting student learning with real-world impact and innovative research.

With state-of-the-art health and science laboratories, Southern Cross University is committed to producing graduates who are career-ready, world-ready, and digitally literate. The University also consistently ranks among the Top 10 Australian public universities for graduate employment in the Graduate Outcomes Survey.

Bond University

bond.edu.au

Founded in 1989, Bond University is Australia's leading independent, not-for-profit university where 100% of tuition fees are reinvested into the student experience. With a strong emphasis on entrepreneurship, leadership, and innovation, these values are embedded into every subject, encouraging students to create real-world impact.

Boasting Australia's best student-to-teacher ratio of 11:1, Bond University delivers a highly personalised learning experience. In the 2024 Student Experience Survey, Bond

ranked number one in Australia for overall educational experience across more undergraduate study areas than any other university, including Architecture, Business and Management, Communications, Humanities, Culture and Social Sciences, and Science and Mathematics.

Bond's sandstone campus is home to state-of-the-art facilities servicing its students across disciplines including law, business, health, and the arts. The University's accelerated trimester calendar allows students to complete degrees faster, enter the workforce sooner, and gain a competitive edge.

TAFE Queensland Gold Coast

tafeqld.edu.au

TAFE Queensland is the largest provider of vocational education and training on the Gold Coast. TAFE offers nationally recognised qualifications from Certificates and Diplomas through to bachelor's degrees in areas such as business, health, hospitality, engineering, education, IT, and creative industries.

With a robust university pathway system, supported by formal agreements with Gold Coast universities, students can seamlessly transition from vocational study into higher education, opening doors to advanced study.



For international students, TAFE Queensland offers a unique opportunity to combine practical, hands-on experience with academic progression, making it a strategic first step in a long-term education and career journey in Australia. With multiple locations across the Gold Coast, strong industry networks, and a commitment to inclusive, high-quality education, TAFE Queensland remains at the forefront of vocational learning in one of Australia's fastest-growing and most dynamic cities.

Private Vocational Education and Training Providers

Vocational Education and Training (VET) delivers workplace-specific, industry-relevant skills and knowledge that cover a wide range of careers and industries. The Gold Coast proudly supports numerous reputable private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) offering certificate and diploma qualifications, with many offering pathways from their diploma qualifications to local universities.

English Language Schools

The Gold Coast is home to a range of English language schools offering students a wide variety of modern, high-quality ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students). The schools range from university-affiliated English language institutes to private English language schools.

Schools

Some of Australia's finest primary and secondary education facilities are located on the Gold Coast. There are more than 90 state schools, faith-based schools and private institutions, which offer learning options to take students through every stage of their development.

Professional Development Courses

Professional development courses provide flexible learning opportunities for individuals looking to enhance their skills, build knowledge or support career progression. Delivered by a range of reputable education and training providers, courses are available across diverse industries and can be completed online, face-to-face or through blended learning.





WHY STUDY ON THE *Gold Coast?*

1. Study what you want, your way

Every student's journey is different. On the Gold Coast, you'll find the flexibility and choice to create an education pathway that matches your interests, ambitions and preferred way of learning. Choose from three world-class universities, five TAFE Queensland campuses, leading vocational education and training providers, English language schools, and respected public and private schools. Whether you are looking for a university degree, practical industry-focused training, English language studies, or school education, you'll find high-quality study options across the Gold Coast to suit your goals. With flexible pathways between qualifications, you can build practical skills, progress into higher education, or pursue research opportunities. Whatever you want to study, the Gold Coast gives you the freedom to learn your way and build a future that's uniquely yours.

2. Live Australia's best student lifestyle

Few destinations combine world-class education with an exceptional lifestyle like the Gold Coast. Here, your student experience extends well beyond the classroom. Start your day by the beach, meet friends at a local cafe, attend a major sporting or cultural event, or spend the weekend exploring the hinterland. With 57 kilometres of beaches, 100,000 hectares of World Heritage-listed rainforest, and more than 160 experiences within a 30-minute radius, adventure is always within reach. From international sporting events and live music to arts, culture, festivals and a vibrant dining scene, there is always something happening. Combined with a warm climate and relaxed outdoor lifestyle makes it easy to stay active, make new connections, and enjoy an outstanding balance between study, work and life.

3. Build your future in Australia's fastest growing city

The Gold Coast is one of Australia's fastest growing economies, with more than 25% economic growth since 2020 and an economy now worth over \$55 billion. This strong growth is creating opportunities across the city's thriving industries, including healthcare, education, technology, tourism, construction and the creative industries.

International students may be eligible to work while they study, subject to visa conditions, gaining valuable local experience through part-time work, internships, industry placements, volunteering and professional networking. This means studying in a dynamic city where you can build industry connections, develop practical skills and prepare for your future career. As a co-host city of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Gold Coast is entering an exciting period of investment, innovation, and global recognition. New infrastructure, major events and growing industries are creating opportunities that will benefit students and graduates for years to come.

4. Post-study work visa

International students who study and complete an eligible qualification on the Gold Coast may qualify for an additional year of post-study work rights compared with graduates in cities such as Sydney or Melbourne. This allows eligible graduates to stay and work in Australia for 18 months to 4 years, depending on the level of their qualification. The additional time gives eligible graduates more opportunities to gain valuable Australian work experience, build professional networks and launch their careers.

5. Feel supported from day one

Choosing where to study is about more than finding the right course. It is about finding a place where you feel supported, connected and confident from the moment you arrive. Gold Coast education providers offer comprehensive academic, wellbeing and accommodation support throughout the student journey, from arrival and orientation through to graduation and beyond. These services are complemented by the Gold Coast Student Hub, a free, welcoming support centre for domestic and international students. Located in Southport, the Hub provides career and accommodation advice, wellbeing support, legal and community referrals, workshops, networking events, study spaces and opportunities to engage with other students. Together, the city's education providers and Experience Gold Coast create a connected support network that helps students settle into life on the Gold Coast, make meaningful connections, and get the most from their study experience.

6. Join a welcoming global community

The Gold Coast brings the world together. Students from over 70 countries choose to study here, creating a diverse, inclusive and globally connected community. Beyond the classroom, you'll have opportunities to build lifelong friendships and connect with people around the world through student events, leadership programs, sport, volunteering and cultural activities. It is a place where different perspectives are valued, new experiences are shared and lasting connections are made. Consistently ranked among the world's top 100 student cities in the QS Best Student Cities Rankings, the Gold Coast combines quality education and career opportunities with the warmth and lifestyle of a welcoming coastal community.

7. Choose a city invested in your success

The Gold Coast is committed to helping you succeed, both during your studies and beyond graduation. Scholarships and grants offered by universities, TAFE Queensland and private education providers can help make quality education more accessible. Beyond the classroom, students can take part in leadership programs, career development initiatives, professional networking events and industry experiences that build confidence and real-world skills. City-wide initiatives provide opportunities to connect with employers, contribute to the community and celebrate student achievements. Together, these experiences help you graduate with more than a qualification. You'll gain practical skills, professional connections, greater confidence and lifelong memories. By investing in education, innovation, and the student experience, the Gold Coast is creating a city where students can achieve their ambitions and build successful futures.

Student TRANSPORT

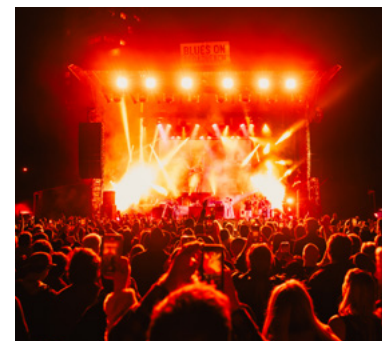
Getting around the Gold Coast as a student is easy thanks to the city's integrated public transport network, which includes buses, trams, and trains that connect major suburbs, campuses, and attractions.

All public transport fares across Queensland are just 50 cents, providing students with an affordable way to travel.

The G:link light rail (tram) runs from Helensvale to Burleigh Heads and passes through key locations like Surfers Paradise, offering a reliable way to travel along the coast. Cycling is also popular on the Gold Coast and made easier by the city's flat landscape and great climate.

The Gold Coast is serviced by two major airports.

Brisbane Airport is about an hour's drive north of Surfers Paradise, and the Gold Coast Airport is conveniently located 40 minutes south of Surfers Paradise. Both airports offer domestic and international services.



AUSTRALIA'S *Favourite* CLASSROOM



Student EXPERIENCE

Gold Coast Student Hub

The Gold Coast Student Hub is a free, inclusive space designed by students, for students.

Located in Southport, the Hub is the central support centre for all Gold Coast students, offering everything from career and accommodation advice to health, wellbeing and legal support.

Whether you're looking to build friendships, get help finding work, or just need a quiet place to study with free Wi-Fi and coffee, the Hub is your one-stop destination. With regular workshops, events, and community activities, it's also a great way to connect and make the most of your time on the Gold Coast.

Explore the event calendar for upcoming events.



Connect with us

   @studentexperience.gc @experiencegoldcoast

Gold Coast Careers Festival

Hosted by Experience Gold Coast, the Gold Coast Careers Festival is one of Queensland's largest careers expos, connecting students with leading education providers, employers and industry experts.

Mayor's Student Ambassador Program

This flagship leadership program gives selected students the opportunity to represent the Gold Coast and contribute to the city's international student experience. Ambassadors gain access to professional development, civic and industry events, volunteering opportunities and valuable connections with government, education and business leaders. The program helps students build confidence, leadership skills, professional networks and a strong sense of belonging, while giving them a platform to share their culture, promote the Gold Coast and help shape initiatives for the wider student community.

Student Excellence Awards

The Gold Coast Student Excellence Awards celebrate outstanding students and their positive contributions to the Gold Coast community. Each year, students are recognised across several categories, including entrepreneurship and innovation, community and peer support, diversity, sports and wellness, creative arts, and environmental leadership. The Gold Coast education community comes together annually for a Gala Awards Night to celebrate these achievements and announce the winners in each category.

experiencegoldcoast.com