

# Regional Professional Experience Grant

## Fact Sheet - Semester 2 2023



### The grant

The Regional Professional Experience Grant (grant) provides financial support for eligible preservice teachers (candidates) to teach, live, and explore a **regional community** while completing a professional experience placement (placement) in an eligible [Queensland \(QLD\) state school](#) (state school) in Semester 2 2023.

### Who can apply?

Applications are encouraged from candidates who:

- are currently enrolled at an [Australian university](#) in their:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of an undergraduate (i.e., 4-year Bachelor of Education) [initial teacher education](#) (ITE) program, or
  - 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a postgraduate (i.e., 2-year Master of Teaching) ITE program, and
- hold a valid [QLD Working with Children Blue Card](#) with currency during the placement (interstate candidates will need to [apply for a blue card](#))
- are an Australian Citizen, permanent resident, or person who resides in Australia and has permission, under a Commonwealth Law, to study in Australia.

### Eligible locations/state schools

The minimum consecutive 15-day placement must be undertaken in a [state school](#) that:

- has a transfer rating (TR) of TR2-TR3<sup>1</sup>
- is [2 hours travel](#) (each way) to/from home to the school
- is in a [priority location](#) – Central QLD, Darling Downs-South West, Far North or North QLD. Select schools in the North Coast<sup>2</sup> & Metropolitan South<sup>3</sup> are also eligible.

The eligible state schools are highlighted blue in the maps provided on the [Smart Jobs website](#) (under 'documents').

If the school isn't highlighted in the maps, the [Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant](#)<sup>4</sup> could be considered.

**Apply now! Applications close 8 December 2023**

Smart Jobs: <https://bit.ly/RPEG-2023S2>

[Register here](#) to receive an email when the Semester 1 2024 grants open. The criteria and particulars<sup>5</sup> should be similar as Sem 2 2023.

### Step 1 - Organise the placement

- Determine the state school for the placement. Be intentional with your research – you never know the opportunities that may arise!
- Ensure the state school meets the eligibility criteria above.
- Liaise with the placement office/officer at the university to organise the placement<sup>6</sup>.

### Step 2 - Apply for the grant

1. When the placement is confirmed in writing<sup>7</sup> (i.e., Sonia Online or InPlace) apply for the grant on the [Smart Jobs website](#).
2. Log into Smart Jobs (create an account if needed) and:
  - in the 'upload files' section, upload the documents requested in the RPEG Doc Checklist (provided on the [Smart Jobs website](#) under 'documents')
  - respond to all the questions in the online questionnaire.

Incomplete applications or applications submitted less than 6 weeks before the placement start date may result in a delayed payment including receiving the grant whilst on placement.

Experiencing trouble uploading the documents? Email them to [scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au)

### Step 3 - Grant offers

Candidates will receive an email<sup>8</sup> within 3 weeks of applying for the grant to either: (a) seek further information; or (b) to provide an offer letter, Conditions for Payment (CFP), and a form to complete and return. When received, this will initiate payment of the grant (which can take up to 3 weeks).

### Conditions of payment

Payment of the grant is based on the placement details provided in the online application. A CFP is to [notify the department](#) of any changes to the approved placement particulars (i.e., a re-scheduled, cancelled or terminated placement) which may affect the grant amount paid/repaid.

### Step 4 - Payment of the grant

The grant (paid via EFT) which is based on the duration of the placement, is to assist with placement-related travel expenses including transport, accommodation, meals, and incidentals.

Receipts for placement-related travel expenses should be kept until the placement is completed in case repayment is required.

It's recommended that financial advice be sought (i.e., advisor, ATO or Centrelink) regarding potential implications to income and/or benefits received.

Duration of the placement / Grant amount			
15 days	20 days	25-35 days	40 days+
\$2,250	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$3,400

### Questions?

Contact the Scholarships and Grants team, People Branch (HR), QLD Department of Education by phone at (07) 3055 2969 or by email at [scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au)

**THE FINE PRINT:** <sup>1</sup>The TR can be found through a search on the department's [school's directory](#). Type the school's name in the 'state schools' section and select the school from the options provided. Select 'search' > select 'more details.' The school's details will show under the 'school profile' | <sup>2</sup>North Coast – includes select secondary schools (highlighted blue) and schools that were transferred from Central QLD in Sem 2 2023 (highlighted orange) | <sup>3</sup>Metro South – includes select schools that were transferred from Darling Downs-South West in Sem 2 2023 | <sup>4</sup>The [BTRG](#) is for placements in state schools with a TR4-TR7 | <sup>5</sup>The grant offering and its particulars can be subject to change at any time at the department's discretion | <sup>6</sup>Online and interstate candidates should follow steps 1 above (contacting schools directly if needed) and provide a list of the schools to the placement office/officer at the university to organise the placement | <sup>7</sup>While waiting for the placement confirmation, a conditional offer may be provided which confirms eligibility for the grant. Candidates should email the name of the school, the dates of the placement, current home address to [scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au) | <sup>8</sup>Candidates should regularly check their email's bin/trunk/SPAM/trash folders | July 2023