

Regional Professional Experience Grant Fact Sheet – Semester 2 2024

If you're a preservice teacher looking for a unique and life-changing adventure when you graduate, teaching in a regional community in Queensland (QLD) could be for you! State schools in these communities offer a range of employment and lifestyle opportunities you won't find in the south east.



The grant

The Regional Professional Experience Grant (grant) provides financial support for eligible preservice teachers (PST) to complete a professional experience placement (placement) in an eligible QLD [state school](#) (state school) in Semester 2 2024.

The grant provides an excellent short-term opportunity to see if teaching and living in a regional community is for you!

Grant benefits

The grant is provided for the duration of a placement and is to assist with placement-related travel expenses ^[1] including: transport, accommodation, meals and incidentals.

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

^[2] Current employees of the department will have their grant taxed as per the [ATO requirements](#).

Eligibility criteria

Applications are encouraged from PST's who are currently enrolled at an Australian university (Uni) and:

- are in their 3rd/4th year of an undergraduate OR 1st/2nd year of a postgraduate [initial teacher education](#) (ITE) program;
- hold a [QLD Working for Children Blue Card](#) with currency during the placement; and
- are a person who resides in Australia and has permission, under a Commonwealth Law, to study in Australia.

Preservice teachers who are on a permission-to-teach (PTT) may be eligible for the grant if the eligibility criteria are met.

Eligible priority locations/state schools

In addition, the minimum 15-day consecutive placement must be undertaken in a state school that has a transfer rating (TR) between TR2-3 and is located:

- at least [2 hours of travel](#) (each way) from the PSTs current residence to the state school for the placement; and
- within a priority location: Central QLD, Darling Downs-South West, Far North QLD, North QLD and select state schools within the North Coast and Metropolitan South.

The eligible state schools are located towards the east coast and are highlighted blue or orange in the maps that are provided at under 'documents' on the [Smart Jobs website](#).

If the state school is located more inland from the east coast, the [Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant](#) (TR4-TR7) could be considered.

Private and independent schools are not eligible for the grant.

How to apply

Step 1. Organise the placement

- Select a state school for the placement ensuring it meets the eligibility criteria.
- Organise the placement with the Uni.

Step 2. Apply for the grant

When the placement is confirmed (i.e., Sonia Online or InPlace), apply online for the grant via the Smart Jobs website.

Log into [Smart Jobs](#) (create an account if needed) and:

- in the 'upload resume and other documents' section, upload the documents listed in the RPEG Doc Checklist (under 'documents' on the Smart Jobs website); and
- respond to all the questions in the online questionnaire.

Incomplete applications or applications submitted less than 6 weeks before the placement start date ^[3] may result in a delayed payment (if eligible) including receiving the grant while on placement.

^[3] Refer to Q9 of the FAQs (page 2) for conditional offers.

Experiencing trouble uploading the documents? Email them to scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au

Selection process

Preservice teachers will receive an email ^[4] within 3 weeks of applying for the grant to either seek further information or to provide an offer letter, Conditions for Payment (CFP), and a personal details advice (PDA) form to complete and return.

^[4] Regularly check the email's bin/junk/spam/trash folders!

Payment of the grant

Payment is initiated upon receipt of the PDA form and will be made by EFT or with the fortnightly pay (departmental employees) and can take up to 3 weeks.

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

^[1] Receipts for placement-related travel expenses should be kept until the placement is completed.

Conditions for 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.



Useful links

Australian Taxation Office (ATO) bit.ly/PExGrantATOEmpTax
Australian University/Initial Teacher Education program bit.ly/AUAccreditedITEPrograms
Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant (BTRG) bit.ly/QLDDoEBTRG
Choose your Teaching Adventure booklet bit.ly/DoETR7-TR4schools
NRMA Trip Planner mynr.ma/3yGQICZ
QLD state schools bit.ly/QLDStateSchools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location information• State Delivered Kindergartens• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
Schools Directory bit.ly/QLDSchoolsDirectory
Semester 1 2025 – Alert bit.ly/DoESchAlert
Working for Children Check <ul style="list-style-type: none">• QLD - bit.ly/QLDBlueCard• Interstate candidates - bit.ly/InterstateBlueCard

Additional information

- Q1. How long are the grants open for?
A. The grants are available through-out Semester 2 2024 (8 July 2024 – 13 December 2024). All documents must be submitted by the closing date.
- Q2. I received the grant in [x]. Can I apply for the grant again?
A. Yes. Previous recipients of the grant can apply again, however, all PSTs receive one grant per semester.
- Q3. When will the grants open for Semester 1 2025?
A. [Register here](#) to receive an email when the grants open later in the year ^[5].

^[5] The grant offering, eligibility, particulars and conditions is offered at the department's discretion.

Applications close 13 December 2024

Apply via the QR code 



Enquiries

Contact the Scholarships and Grants team (S&G team), Employment Incentives and Pathways, Engagement and Talent Acquisition, Human Resources Branch, Department of Education by email at scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au or by phone (07) 3055 2969.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q4. How do I find a map of the eligible state schools?
A. Maps of the eligible state schools are provided under 'documents' on the [Smart Jobs website](#). Eligible state schools will be highlighted in blue or orange.
- Q5. The school I wish to undertake my placement is not highlighted on the maps on Smart Jobs. Does this mean I'm not eligible for the grant?
A. If the school isn't highlighted in the maps and it's located inland from the east coast, it may be a rural or remote state school (that has a transfer rating of TR4-7) that may be eligible for the [Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant](#). Private and independent schools are not on the maps and [aren't eligible for the grant](#). Applications will be deemed 'ineligible'.
- Q6. The commute from my home to the placement school is 1 hour and 30 minutes but with traffic/roadworks etc, it can take over 2 hours as per Google Maps. Am I eligible for the grant?
A. The [NRMA Trip Planner](#) is used to determine eligibility for the grant as this planner is based on kilometres not real time like Google maps which can change significantly throughout the day. Please use the NRMA trip planner to determine your eligibility.
- Q7. I'm currently studying a ITE program in early childhood and I need to complete a placement in a kindergarten. Can I apply?
A. If your placement is in a private kindergarten (i.e., long day care centre or pre-school), you aren't eligible to apply for this grant, however, if you complete a placement in a state school that has a [State Delivered Kindergarten program](#) that is within a priority location, you may be eligible for the grant providing you meet the other eligibility criteria. If you're unsure, email the [S&G team](#). Alternative financial support may be available via early childhood education and care training and capability building [website](#).
- Q8. I wish to undertake a placement in an identified Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community. Is there a list of schools?
A. A list of the state schools and their locations can be accessed on the [TQ website](#).
- Q9. My Uni doesn't confirm the placement until close to the placement start date. I would like to apply for the grant. What can I do?
A. You can request a conditional offer which confirms your eligibility for the grant when a complete application is provided including the confirmed placement. In the [email to the S&G team](#), note the start and end dates of the placement, the address of your current residence, and the state school/s in which you will/are looking to complete your placement. The S&G team will check your eligibility and respond within 3 business days.