

## Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

### What is the QCE?

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's senior schooling certificate. It has replaced the Senior Certificate and was awarded for the first time in 2008. The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) awards a QCE to eligible students when they complete the senior phase of learning, usually at the end of Year 12.

To be awarded a QCE, students need to demonstrate a significant amount of learning, to a set standard and in a set pattern, while meeting basic literacy and numeracy requirements.

The QCE provides clear benefits to senior students. It recognises a broad range of learning options and offers flexibility in what is learnt, as well as where and when learning occurs.

This broad range of learning includes senior school subjects, vocational education and training, workplace learning recognised by the QSA and university subjects undertaken while at school.

### What courses of study does it recognise?

Courses of study approved for the QCE are organised into four categories: Core, Preparatory, Enrichment and Advanced.

To be eligible for a QCE, students must achieve at least 20 credits of learning. A minimum of 12 credits must come from completed Core courses of study and at least one of these credits must come from Core studies completed at school. The remaining 8 credits can come from a combination of core, preparatory, enrichment or advanced courses of study.

- **Core courses** of study are the types of courses usually undertaken by students during the senior phase of learning. To be awarded a QCE a minimum of 12 credits must come from completed Core courses of study. At least 1 credit must come from Core studies while enrolled at a school.
- **Preparatory courses** of study are generally used as "stepping stones" to further study or training, with each course contributing varying credit towards a QCE. A maximum of 4 credits from Preparatory courses can count towards the QCE.
- **Enrichment courses** provide learners with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge at a higher level. These courses are generally, although not exclusively, offered by organisations other than those offering Core or Preparatory courses of study. A maximum of 8 credits from Enrichment courses can count towards the QCE.
- **Advanced courses** of study go beyond the scope and depth of what is considered senior secondary schooling but must be undertaken by someone who is enrolled at a school to contribute towards the award of a QCE. A maximum of 8 credits from Advanced courses can contribute towards the QCE.

### How do students plan their courses of study towards a QCE?

QCE planning starts in Year 10, when students develop a Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.

The SET Plan helps students structure their learning around their abilities, interests and ambitions. It is agreed between the student, their parents or carers and the school, and maps out what, where and how a student will study during their senior phase of learning.

The SET Plan should be finalised by the end of Year 10.

Schools and students should regularly review the SET Plan to monitor progress and it can be updated at any time if necessary.

## How does the registering and monitoring process work?

Queensland law requires all schools to register their students with the QSA in the year they complete Year 10, or turn 16, whichever comes first.

When a student is registered, an individual web-based student learning account is opened for them.

Schools and other learning providers report students' enrolments and results to the QSA, who then records this information in the individual student learning accounts. Each account is password protected and can be accessed by the student.

Thus the student learning account records what, where and when a student learns, and the final results once they are achieved.

All learning and results recorded in a student's learning account will also be recorded on their Senior Statement. Every student who completes Year 12 receives a Senior Statement.

## When is a QCE awarded?

Students are awarded a QCE when they fulfil the necessary requirements — usually at the end of Year 12.

However, not all students achieve a QCE when they complete Year 12 and in these cases, their learning account will remain open for up to nine years, regardless of their age.

After Year 12, any QCE-related learning and activities can still be recorded in the learning account and when the person achieves 20 credits, the QSA will award the QCE in July or December of that year.