

Young Achievers Program

2022 Annual Report



YAP 2022 snapshot

\$1.8m 

to students to support their educational aspirations in scholarships, bursaries and accommodation support

63 

schools represented

70% 

students from regional/remote areas

32 

accommodation scholarships provided directly to students

78 

students commenced UQ

Top programs:

- Pharmacy
- Arts
- Nursing
- Education

43 

students graduated with UQ degrees

51 

YAP student mentors



Alexander

Bachelor Psychological Sciences (honours)
1st year

“The UQ Young Achievers Program (YAP) has not only provided me with invaluable tertiary opportunities but insightful perspectives on university life. It is because of this program that tertiary education became a worthwhile possibility for my future.”

YAP understands that university brings a plethora of challenges to the average individual. Their financial support, primarily, helped eliminate the economic barriers that made tertiary education seem impossible. However, this program also helped me realise the best version of myself. The mentor-mentee dynamic quickly became the very essence of what YAP was all about – guidance. Having a mentor allowed me to ensure I never had any unanswered questions, nor felt intimidated by navigating university life all on my own. Our monthly phone calls helped to further fuel my drive and constructed an environment that always felt welcoming and encouraging.

This program understands the difficulties of coming from a disadvantaged background and proved to me that tertiary education can become a valuable option for anyone. Numerous aspects of my life are owed to being a Young Achiever and, since joining, I am able to pursue my passion.

I am forever grateful for the program; YAP is unlike any other scholarship I can imagine.”

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Impactful change for individuals and the community

Welcome to the 2022 Young Achievers Annual Report. We are delighted to present the achievements of our students and share details of how we are supporting the aspirations of young people across Queensland, while removing barriers to higher education.

The Young Achievers Program (YAP) continues to empower students to pursue their academic and career goals by providing comprehensive support to students in their final years of secondary school.

In 2022, we welcomed our 13th cohort of 110 senior secondary students and supported 102 students to enrol in universities, including 78 students who joined us at UQ. We also proudly celebrated the graduation of 43 Young Achievers from UQ in 2022, and most of them have since embarked on their professional careers – working across allied health, teaching, science, business, and commercial roles.

Throughout the Young Achievers Program, we strive to instil in these students the UQ values of truth, excellence, creativity, courage, integrity, and respect and inclusivity. These guiding values have been instrumental in fostering not only our students' academic success, but also their personal growth while participating in the program.

As such, the Young Achievers Program emphasises the importance of personal development from experiences beyond the curriculum, including encouraging our students to engage in activities that build their leadership skills, global citizenship, and an entrepreneurial mindset.

Once again, in 2022, we were able to broaden and deepen the impact of the Young Achievers Program, thanks to the support we received from our generous donor community, as well as a range of our partners. For instance, in 2022, we introduced new accommodation scholarships, strengthened our relationship with the UQ alumni community, and encouraged the development of the students' entrepreneurial and leadership skills through partnerships with UQ Ventures and the Liveris Academy.

The core purpose of The Young Achievers Program, of course, is to enable impactful, positive change in the lives of individuals and their communities – through education.



In pursuit of that purpose, we were also delighted to launch **The Queensland Commitment** in August 2022. Under this major new initiative, we are aiming to work with our partners to overcome the personal, financial, and geographic barriers that often deter Queensland students from aspiring to study at UQ.

We are encouraged by the fact that the Federal Government is also focussed on this important societal issue of improving access to higher education among students from regional and rural areas, disadvantaged backgrounds, and Indigenous communities. Indeed, this issue of equitable access to higher education is a central focus of the **Australian Universities Accord**, the major government review of the sector that's currently underway.

To our many donors and supporters, I'd like to thank you sincerely for so generously giving your time and resources to ensure the success of the Young Achievers Program. Thanks to you, we are confident that we will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of young achievers and their communities for many years to come.

Best wishes
Debbie

Professor Deborah Terry AO
VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which our University stands. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country. We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.



The year in review

In 2022 the Young Achievers Program successfully navigated the challenges created by the COVID pandemic.

This included rescheduling of our camp, many of our university students commencing their studies online, and delivering orientation and transition support virtually. However, despite these challenges, we were able to successfully deliver all key components of our program and our students continued to achieve success.

We welcomed 208 students to our on-campus camp experiences, including 124 from regional and/or remote areas. We were also able to host welcome and celebration events in Brisbane and at six regional locations across the state, with over 540 attendees. Alongside these events we also supported the Vice Chancellor Regional Roadshows, celebrating our students, alumni, communities and partners across Queensland. The commitment of our staff and the determination of our students and their families allowed these activities to take place, resulting in a rewarding experience for all.





Opportunities and partnership

The Young Achievers Program underwent a leadership change in 2022 and is now overseen by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic. This has brought a renewed focus on educational partnerships, student support and success, and collaboration. Students now have access to a wider range of educational and developmental opportunities and support. This includes assistance with their transition to University, increased leadership and mentoring support, and alignment with the broad range of widening participation activities occurring across the University. This alignment will not only strengthen our partnership with communities but also increase educational opportunities and resources for our students.

In 2022, students were able to access the Enhanced Studies Programs, which gave them the opportunity to complete a university course during Year 12, and participate in the **Young ChangeMakers camp experience**. We also established a new partnership with the Liveris Academy, offering dedicated opportunities for Young Achievers Program students to become a Liveris Academy Scholar. This collaboration provides selected students with the chance to expand their professional networks and develop their leadership potential, as well as their innovation and digital transformation skills.

We continued our collaboration with **UQ Ventures** to enhance community service opportunities for our students. This partnership has led to an improved experience for both students and their communities, providing an emphasis on social entrepreneurship and community development. These initiatives provide our students with valuable experiences that will help them make a positive impact on the world and succeed in their future endeavours.



Shayne

Year 12 , Ipswich State High School

“The UQ Young Achievers Program was an opportunity I never knew I needed. Not only did YAP help financially support me, but the open arms and advice from all of the support team will stick with me throughout my University years! The senior years of high school and transitioning to University can be harsh, but I always felt a little less pressure off my shoulders knowing I had YAP helping me through every step. YAP to me was a home outside of home, and this means the most to me knowing when I move to UQ to study I will still receive help and have people to lean on in time of need!”

Future plans

In 2023, the Young Achievers Program is focussed on enhancing student support and the student experience.

Our goal is to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students by developing robust systems and structures that can respond to need and accommodate new initiatives that support the Queensland Commitment and respond to the Australian Universities Accord.

Our ongoing activities include:

- Expanding our mentoring program to ensure every first year student at UQ engage with a mentor to support their transition
- Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the challenges students face and why some students are exiting university early
- Tailoring our support services to address barriers students face and ultimately improve student retention rates
- Establishing a student advisory board – an avenue for students to give feedback on our initiatives, represent our program, and create opportunities for professional development
- Incorporating student input into our decision-making process, better meet the needs of our students and create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment
- Creating employment pathways for our students
- Ensuring our students receive the financial support they need when they need it most
- Securing more affordable housing options for our students

We recognise that we cannot do this alone, and aim to foster stronger collaborations with communities and stakeholders to reduce barriers and increase accessibility to higher education. To achieve this, we will partner with a diverse range of stakeholders and explore new opportunities to make higher education more accessible to all.



Grace

**Bachelor Business Management/Commerce
2nd year**

“Affording university always seemed like an endless battle. However, my life was fast-tracked when I received the Young Achievers Program scholarship, which allowed me to pursue my dream of attending university straight after high school. YAP not only provided me with financial support but also with mentors who encouraged me to pursue higher education. I am now in my second year of studying a Bachelor of Business Management and Commerce at the University of Queensland. Once I graduate, I hope to work in the finance sector and find an area that I am truly passionate about. I am forever thankful for YAP and its donors for making this opportunity possible.”

Social and community impact

Community Ventures Project

The Community Ventures Project is an integral component of the Young Achievers Program. Each year, Young Achievers undertake a project that has a significant positive impact on their school or local community. At the end of the project, they present their achievements in the form of a poster, showcasing their impact and the skills they have developed throughout the process.

Projects for the environment

Stanthorpe State High School

Megan teamed up with three other Yappers, along with students and families from a local primary school that had been severely affected by bushfires, to plant trees and plants. With the support of the school's principal and teachers, as well as local nurseries, they were able to plant a total of 41 plants. Their efforts aim to restore the school's surroundings, making it a more welcoming and sustainable place for everyone.

Projects at school

Sunnybank State High School

Lana aimed to alleviate stress around subject selection and provide insight into the different science subjects at school. To achieve this, she designed and painted murals to be installed during science week. The colourful murals offered students a glimpse into what they could expect from each subject and the types of things they would learn. By providing a visual representation of the subjects, Lana hoped to make the decision-making process less daunting and encourage more students to pursue science subjects.

Projects in the community

Dalby State High School

Lucius' Community Ventures project aimed to educate people aged 60 and over about scams, a growing concern in their community. He recognised that incorporating visual elements would keep the audience engaged and prepared a presentation that simplified the information for everyone to understand. Scams can be devastating, and unfortunately, many people are falling victim to them. Lucius hopes that his presentation helped educate some individuals to prevent them from being scammed out of their hard-earned money.



Darcy

Graduate, Bachelor of Environmental Management (Honours), major in Natural Systems and Wildlife

"YAP helped me realise what it is that makes me passionate. Coming from a rural area, I had not put much thought into life away from what I already knew...horses. YAP facilitated a development in my confidence to explore different pathways and in trusting my intuitive mind. After many constructive conversations with my mentors and a later 4.5 years of uni, I am now working in the field of wildlife conservation and ecosystem regeneration! I am grateful for all that I have received from the YAP program, for without its support, I may not be where I am today."





Your support ensures success – thank you

We're committed to providing our students with the tools and resources they need to succeed in their educational pursuits, and to flourish in their lives beyond university.

Through our new initiative, The Queensland Commitment, we're striving to attract even more of the brightest students, particularly those from a diverse range of backgrounds and lived experiences. Our goal is to break down personal, financial and geographical barriers facing Queensland students aspiring to study at UQ by 2032.

We can't do this alone. Your support can help ensure tertiary education is accessible to all Queenslanders.

Scholarships offer a critical bridge for many capable and talented students. They provide a vital lifeline, particularly in a student's first year as they navigate an unfamiliar environment, often far from home.

Philanthropic support can provide much-needed opportunities for students to access work-integrated learning, undergraduate research, and international study programs.

With the help of our community of donors, we can empower our students to become leaders who create positive change in our society. We believe that every student can make a difference and that by working together we can unleash their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support of UQ and our students.

Contact UQ Advancement for more information on how to support this life-changing work.

UQ Advancement
The University of Queensland
Email: advancement@uq.edu.au
Phone: + 61 7 3346 3900



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE