

Young Achievers Program Nomination Guidelines 2022

Program overview

The Young Achievers Program (YAP) supports the tertiary study and career aspirations of senior secondary school students who might not otherwise have access to university as a post-school option. The focus of the program is on nurturing and developing the educational ambitions of participants through mentoring, financial assistance and opportunities for personal growth and leadership development. Creating positive and community-minded role models is also an important goal of the program.

Eligibility of Young Achievers

To be considered for the program, nominated students must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Australian citizen or Australian permanent humanitarian visa holder
- Be ATAR eligible
- Low-income financial status (see explanatory notes below)
- Motivated, with demonstrated academic potential to succeed at university on completion of Year 12
- Supportive family environment
- School attendance rate of at least 85%

Application process

The University of Queensland invites Principals from YAP Senior Secondary Schools to nominate up to six eligible students for the program in 2022 (Maximum six from senior secondary schools, maximum two from P-10 schools. Schools are to rank order of nominations).

Nominations must be completed and endorsed by the School Principal in consultation with the student and the student's parents/guardians.

For each nomination, students are to provide the following:

- Copy of Semester One, Year 10 school report
- Evidence of financial circumstances
- Personal statement from the student
- Personal statement from the parent

Student Nominations (including all supporting documentation) must be received online by UQ by **5pm Friday, 13 August 2021**.

Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Schools and students will be notified of the outcome of nominations in September.

Explanatory notes

Low-income financial status:

The YAP aims to support the tertiary study aspirations of students from low-income families. It is therefore essential that applications include sufficient information and documentation to enable the selection panel to undertake a full assessment of the family's financial circumstances.

As a guideline, students whose families have a combined annual taxable income of approximately \$85,000* or less will be considered for the program.

*Threshold based on one dependent child. Higher taxable income will be considered based on number of dependent children.

Parents/guardians are required to provide a copy of two most recent financial years Australian Taxation Office Notice of Assessments as a part of the student nomination along with any additional documentation outlining evidence of the family's financial status.

Students and/or their families who are in receipt of one or more means-tested Commonwealth income support payments, pensions or allowances from the Department of Human Services (e.g. Youth Allowance, Newstart Allowance, ABSTUDY, Family Tax Benefit Part A and/or B or Disability Support Pension) or Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986, must provide evidence of such as part of the nomination.

Supportive family environment:

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring the student's full and active participation in all aspects of the program, including mandatory attendance at on and off-campus events.

Selection of Young Achievers

Selection of Young Achievers is carried out by a panel comprising University staff and program donors. In addition to the program's eligibility criteria, the student's leadership potential and/or demonstrated school and community involvement may also be taken into consideration in the selection process. A nomination for the program is not a guarantee of a place. If successful in being selected, students and their parents/guardians will be required to formally accept a place in the program by agreeing to the Young Achievers Program Terms and Conditions, available at www.young-achievers.uq.edu.au.

Program benefits

The Young Achievers Program provides a valuable support framework to enable participating students to realise their potential.

The major benefits include:

- Mentoring by current university students
- On-campus experiences, including two residential camps at UQ's St Lucia campus
- Financial assistance of \$1000 per year in Years 11 and 12
- Scholarship support of \$7000 per year for up to four years for participants enrolling full-time in a UQ undergraduate program after completing Year 12
- Information and personalised assistance with study
- Five ATAR adjustment factors towards entry at UQ
- Advice on university pathways and application procedures
- Opportunities for personal growth and leadership development
- Tailored transition advice and student support services

Program activities and time commitment

Young Achievers require the full support of their parents/guardians and school and it is important that all parties are aware of the time commitment and expectations associated with participation in the program.

Welcome event

Students who are successful in gaining entry to the program (along with their families), will be invited to attend a Welcome Event in October 2021. These events will be held in Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba and at YAP schools in regional Queensland.

During these events, students will have the opportunity to meet other Young Achievers and receive a certificate to acknowledge their selection for the program. Welcome Events also represent a valuable opportunity to learn more about the program and have any questions answered.

Residential camps

On-campus experiences are an important means of building educational aspirations, establishing mentoring relationships and delivering activities that foster social, academic and personal growth.

Held at a university residential college on UQ's St Lucia campus (Brisbane), the camps are closely supervised by UQ staff and student mentors. During residential camps, Young Achievers gain confidence, make new friends, learn about university life and have fun. All costs associated with meals, accommodation, transport and program activities during the camps are met by The University of Queensland.

Attendance at residential camps in Years 11 and 12 is a mandatory requirement. Students who fail to attend either of the camps will forfeit their place in the program.

Camp dates are outlined below:

- Monday, 17 January - Thursday, 20 January 2022
Year 11 four-day residential camp, UQ St Lucia
- Monday, 26 June - Thursday, 29 June 2023
Year 12 four-day residential camp, UQ St Lucia

Note: regional and remote students will travel to camp on the Monday as the program will not commence until later that afternoon. These students will have a dedicated travel day on the Friday following each residential camp.

Open Days

Young Achievers and their families are strongly encouraged to attend UQ Open Days held annually in August. These events present a valuable opportunity to explore all that UQ has to offer, including study and accommodation options and student support services.

School reports

As well as active participation in all YAP events and activities, students are expected to maintain sound academic progress and school attendance throughout their time in the program. It is a requirement that participants provide UQ with a copy of their school report each semester throughout Years 11 and 12 within four weeks of the end of each semester.

Student mentoring

Mentoring by UQ students is a critical component of the program, providing support and motivation to students. Each Young Achiever will be allocated three mentors, one of whom will contact each student on a monthly basis, primarily by telephone. Communication with students will also be via email and the Young Achievers Program Facebook private group. Active participation in mentoring is expected and closely monitored by YAP staff.

Community service and leadership

Instilling a strong sense of civic responsibility in students is an important goal of the program and Young Achievers are expected to undertake a school or community volunteer project in Years 11 and 12. These projects are designed to complement a student's existing study commitments.

Young Achievers who successfully transition to UQ at the end of Year 12 will be expected to uphold the values of the program and are encouraged to use their leadership skills to contribute, as a volunteer, to the ongoing success of the program and/or other worthy community projects.

Requirements and expectations of students

To retain their place in the program, it is a requirement for all Young Achievers to:

- Be enrolled and attending a YAP secondary school as a full-time student in years 11 and 12
- Be ATAR eligible
- Consistently demonstrate a high level of commitment to their school studies, as evidenced through attendance, academic progress and behaviour
- Provide UQ with their school report card within four weeks of the end of each semester
- Attend both residential camps and events associated with the program
- Serve as a role model by volunteering time to complete a school or community project in Years 11 and 12
- Actively participate in all scheduled mentoring activities and YAP events

Students who do not meet the requirements and expectations outlined above will forfeit their place in the program.

Required documentation checklist for student nominations

The following section summarises the documentation and information required for each student nomination.

Student to provide:

- Student statement (max 500 words) outlining the following:
 - 1) Overview of your background and family situation
 - 2) Potential career aspirations/interest in future studies at university
 - 3) What you hope to gain from participation in the Young Achievers Program

- Copy of Semester One, Year 10 school report

Parents/Guardians to provide:

Evidence of financial position, including:

- Copy of most recent two financial years Australian Taxation Office Notice of Assessments for parents/guardians
- Current Department of Human Services or Veteran's Entitlements statements (e.g. Newstart Allowance, Disability Support Pension, Family Tax Benefit Part A and/or Part B etc.)

- Parent/Guardian statement (max 500 words) outlining the following:

- 1) Overview of your background and family situation
- 2) How will your child benefit from program

Student nominations (including all supporting documentation) must be received online by UQ by **5pm Friday, 13 August 2021**.

Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Details of how to apply online will be provided by your school representative.

Please note: A confirmation email will be issued on receipt of nominations and must be received for nominations to be considered as accepted. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us.

Further information

For more information, please contact:
The Manager, Young Achievers Program

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