

Young Achievers Program

Supporting the aspirations of deserving students



The journey so far

The Young Achievers Program (YAP) started in 2008 and, thanks to the unwavering support of our generous donors, it has grown to become one of UQ's flagship initiatives. Currently involving 55 schools across Queensland and Northern New South Wales, YAP aims at raising and supporting the long-term tertiary education aspirations of over 1000 Queensland state high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program celebrated its most significant milestone in 2014, when the first 30 YAP participants graduated from UQ.

The level of supporting initiatives provided to YAP students, as well as the positive impact on YAP families and communities, has grown with the program. Today, YAP participants receive financial support in the form of bursaries and accommodation scholarships, mentoring advice and the opportunity to participate in camps at the end of their year 11 and 12. As UQ looks to the future with great excitement, YAP provides students from disadvantaged background with an opportunity to play a crucial role in creating that change.

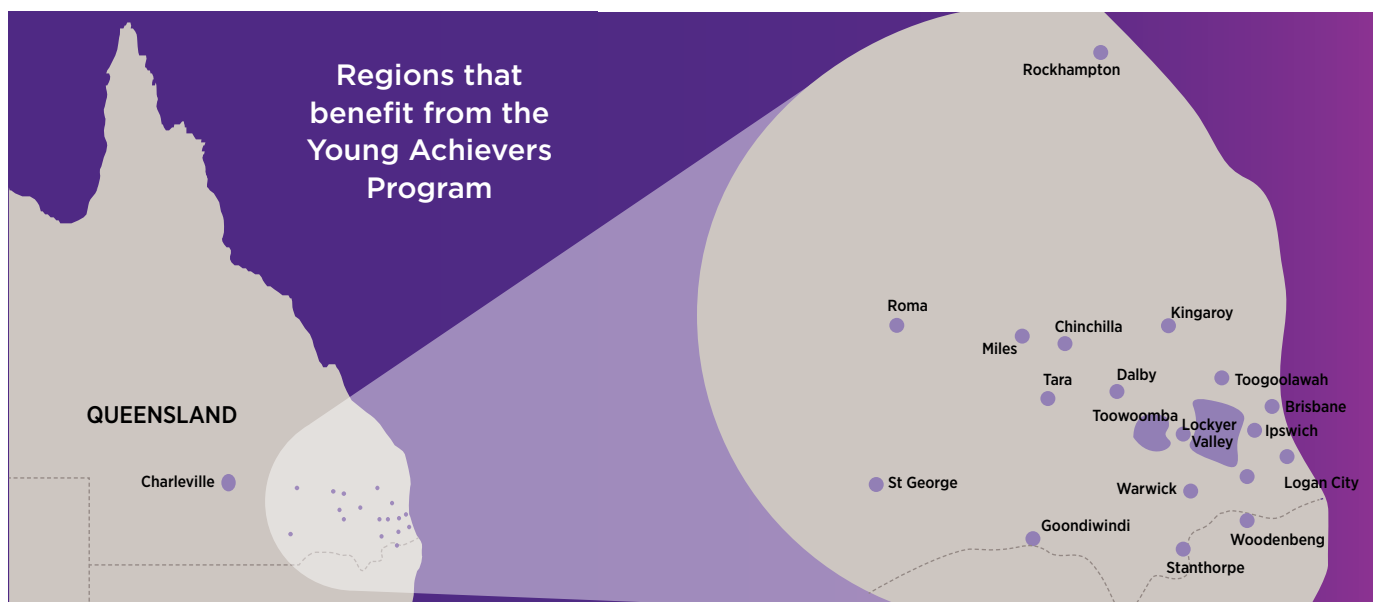
 **200+**
YAPpers at UQ

 **100+**
graduates

 **50+**
schools
across Qld

Statistics

Year commenced	Cohort number	Total no. applicants (Year 10)	No. successful applicants	Graduated year 12	Applied for QTAC	UQ placement offered
2009	1	95	86	81	77	61
2010	2	117	86	83	79	62
2011	3	126	110	98	95	93
2012	4	138	118	83	79	78
2013	5	152	129	93	90	86
2014	6	149	123	89	89	88
2015	7	132	106	101	96	93
2016	8	162	119	117	115	92
2017	9	155	114	110	93	
2018	10	179	120			
2019	11	171	120			



YAP today

YAP aims at developing community-minded role models who set a positive example for other students within their communities, families and schools. The stories of Louise, Elizabeth and Adam are those of inspiring young leaders who are shaping the future of this country thanks to the support and guidance received through the program.

The skills YAP builds into its participants are:

Being committed to learning

Being culturally aware

Being community-minded

Have a confident outlook



Louise Butler

Currently working as Outreach Program Officer at UQ

Bachelor of Health, Sports & Physical Education (Hons) graduate

There are no words to describe the positive impact the Young Achievers Program has had on my life. Growing up in a low income household from Stanthorpe it was hard for me to even give University a thought. After being accepted into the program I had no idea how much my life was about to change.

The YAP camps were a great introduction to University life. I gained confidence and could picture myself studying and living at UQ. The staff and mentors who involved were amazing! They were a familiar face I could turn to making it feel like a home away from home. With their help and the scholarship I was brave and made the decision to relocate to Brisbane and start my Bachelor's degree. Throughout my degree I was excited to become a mentor for the program. I loved helping others and sharing my knowledge to make a positive impact on their lives.

Now working as a UQ Outreach Program Officer allows me to go back and work in schools to help raise student's tertiary aspirations. I love my job and am forever grateful to the Young Achievers Program for the support, knowledge and guidance I needed to kick start my career.



Elizabeth Hawsworth

Currently working in the health field in Brisbane

Bachelor of Health Sciences graduate (2018)

The Young Achievers Program gave me the knowledge, skills and confidence I needed to transition from high school to university.

Since joining the program, I have always found a sense of belonging within the UQ community. There was always a friendly face around campus, which made living away from home and studying for exams less daunting.

Stepping out of my comfort zone and volunteering as a student mentor has also inspired me to continue striving for bigger and better things after university, no matter how scary they may seem.



Adam Bonner

Currently working as an auditor in Brisbane

Bachelor of Business Management / Commerce graduate (2018)

No experience has had a greater impact on my life so far than my time spent in the Young Achievers Program (YAP). I started YAP at a time in my life when I didn't really know what I wanted for my future.

The mentors and my peers inspired me to get back to school and let nothing stand in the way of what I wanted to achieve. I've been incredibly lucky to be a student, a mentor, a staff member and now part of the UQ YAP Advisory Board. I've seen from all angles the incredible impact the Young Achievers Program has had and continues to have on hundreds of students. I'm excited to see so many YAP students from my home town, Stanthorpe, come through the program. There's now a strong group of current and past students who are great ambassadors for YAP, and our school and town have taken note of the knock-on effect these students have brought to their cohorts and the wider community.

The Future of YAP

YAP has been incredibly successful at creating a path to University for its participants, though we acknowledge the need to provide an extra layer of support once the students enrol at UQ. Our goals for 2024 set a clear path forth in terms of participation, retention and support throughout the entire YAP journey, from year 10 to graduation and beyond:

- Expand the geographic reach of Queensland state schools engaged, and increase its number to 100.
- Increase the number of students accepted into the program to 250.
- Enhance the levels of academic and social support to YAP Scholars (undergraduate students) through dedicated student support initiatives, with a view to
- Increase YAP students' completion rate to 70%. This is the current average completion rate among the 39 Australian universities*.
- Facilitate opportunities to enhance parental awareness and level of engagement prior to University.
- Provide career development, global experiences and employment opportunities before, during and after their studies at UQ.
- Establish a YAP Alumni (UQ graduates) network and promote opportunities for alumni to engage with current YAP participants throughout their journey.

* Australian Government – Department of Education, 2019.



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

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