

Step into Teaching Scholarship

2012 Fact Sheet

clever • skilled • creative

**Are you passionate about science and maths?
Share your knowledge, skills and experience with secondary students.
Make a difference. Teach.**

The Department of Education and Training (DET) is offering scholarships to high-achieving science, mathematics and engineering graduates who would like to make a difference in the lives of young Queenslanders by becoming a state high school teacher.

As well as accessing generous financial benefits, scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to obtain valuable experience and consolidate their skills through teaching in a supportive rural, remote or regional environment after graduation.

The *Step into Teaching Scholarship* is open to individuals who hold relevant tertiary qualifications and who are prepared to undertake a one-year Graduate Diploma in Education, or an equivalent approved pre-service teacher education program, in at least one of the following high-demand, secondary curriculum areas:

- Mathematics B and C;
- Chemistry; or
- Physics.

Through this program, suitably-qualified individuals will be supported to obtain teaching qualifications and commence their careers in the rewarding and well-regarded teaching profession.

**Applications close
Friday, 23 December 2011**

Step into Teaching

There are many reasons why people choose to become teachers and most importantly teachers in Queensland state schools. These include:

- To make a difference in the lives of young people;
- To combine creativity and intellectual challenge;
- To make a worthwhile social contribution;
- To share their passion for learning, especially in a particular area;
- Personal fulfilment and a sense of achievement;
- To work as part of a collegial, collaborative and well connected team; and
- To work with the wider school community.

Teaching can be a lifelong career which is recognised worldwide, enabling teachers to work in a diverse range of settings and locations.

The Department of Education and Training

DET is one of the largest human resources organisation in the Southern Hemisphere and provides services to Queenslanders across early childhood education and care, education and training.

The Department is responsible for 1,340 state schools staffed by more than 39,000 teachers and attended by almost 490,000 students.

State schools are located from the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula to the borders with New South Wales and the Northern Territory and everywhere in between. They can range from a one-teacher school to one with more than 2000 students, from single or multi-age classes to teaching across a cluster of schools. All are co-educational and operate in partnership with their community.

Teachers in Queensland state schools have access to a broad range of employment conditions and benefits in addition to earning very competitive salaries (commencing at \$56,011 p.a. as at July 2011), including:

- generous superannuation schemes and leave benefits;
- work / life balance opportunities;
- professional development, induction and mentoring;
- career development;
- teacher exchange program;
- incentives for teaching in rural and regional areas; and
- provision of a laptop computer.

Scholarship Support

DET will provide *Step into Teaching Scholarship* recipients with a comprehensive support package including:

- \$10,000 to assist with study and other expenses during the recipient's year of study;
- an offer of permanent employment as a teacher in a Queensland state school from Semester 1, 2013, subject to meeting the scholarship conditions;
- assistance to secure professional experience placements in a Queensland state school;
- access to professional networks and support from mentors, principals and colleagues within Queensland state schools;



- access to a range of departmental resources, including the *Step into Teaching Scholarship* Project Room on the Learning Place; and
- access to relevant departmental professional development and induction programs.

Scholarship payments will be made in two equal instalments at the beginning of, and mid-way through the study program. Scholarship recipients may use the scholarship funds at their own discretion; however, this benefit is intended to assist with study-related expenses, including completing a professional experience in a rural, remote or regional location.

Eligibility Criteria

Applications for a 2012 *Step into Teaching Scholarship* are invited from individuals who:

- will undertake a Graduate Diploma in Education – Secondary (or equivalent) in the curriculum areas of **Mathematics, Chemistry or Physics** at a Queensland Higher Education Institution in 2012;
- have achieved high academic results in their previous tertiary studies;
- will be eligible for registration and employment as a teacher in Queensland for a minimum of two years from the commencement of Semester 1, 2013; and
- are an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia.

Study Programs - Applications and Offers

Applicants for a *Step into Teaching Scholarship* must apply to undertake an approved Graduate Diploma in Education – Secondary (or equivalent) at a Queensland Higher Education Institution in 2012.

A list of Queensland pre-service teacher education programs approved by the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) for the purposes of teacher registration is available at www.qct.edu.au

For further information about applying for particular study programs, including closing dates for applications, please visit the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) website at www.qtac.edu.au or contact the relevant Higher Education Institution.

Please note: Scholarship applicants should apply for entry to a Graduate Diploma in Education – Secondary (or equivalent) program prior to submitting their *Step into Teaching Scholarship* application.

Permanent Employment with DET

One of the key benefits for scholarship recipients is the opportunity to secure permanent employment as a state school teacher.

Opportunities for valuable experience and career advancement are available for teachers who are willing to work in rural, remote and regional areas. These settings provide beginning teachers with a supportive school community and a developmental environment in which to commence their careers.

Teachers employed in designated rural, remote and regional schools also have access to additional benefits including relocation assistance, locality allowances and incentive payments.

There is an expectation that scholarship recipients' first teaching appointment will be at a school outside south-east Queensland, although the exact location will depend on the specialist teaching vacancies that exist at the commencement of 2013.

Scholarship recipients must undertake the DET *Application for Teacher Employment* process during their final semester of study and also apply for teacher registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT). In some cases, the initial appointment with DET may be temporary until a suitable permanent vacancy arises.

For further information about the DET *Application For Teacher Employment* process, please visit www.teach.qld.gov.au

Teacher registration

To be eligible to be employed as a teacher in a Queensland school, teachers must obtain teacher registration from the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT).

Teacher registration recognises the significant role of teaching as a profession.

Teachers occupy positions of trust and responsibility within our communities and registration ensures that a high standard of preparation, conduct and practice is upheld. Registration also provides assurance to the public of the qualifications and suitability of people employed as teachers in our schools.

For further information about the requirements for teacher registration visit the QCT website at www.qct.edu.au

Scholarship Conditions

Scholarship recipients are required to sign a legally binding agreement that outlines the responsibilities of both parties and the conditions of the scholarship.

These conditions require recipients to:

- study on a full-time basis and successfully complete all academic and professional experience requirements of an approved study program within the 2012 Academic year;
- undertake a professional experience placement in a rural, remote or regional location;

- obtain teacher registration with the QCT and successfully complete the department's *Application for Teacher Employment* process at the completion of the study program;
- commit to permanent, full-time employment as a teacher with DET for a minimum of two years; and
- accept appointment to a Queensland state school at the discretion of DET, in a rural, remote or regional location.

Application and Selection Process

All applicants must complete and submit a 2012 *Step into Teaching Scholarship Application Form* and supply supporting documentation.

Detailed information about the application and selection process is provided in the *Step into Teaching Scholarship Guidelines* available on the DET website at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/teach-ed-scholarships.html>

Please note: Applicants should ensure that all required documents are provided by the closing date, as omissions may result in the application not being considered.

Scholarship Offers

A formal scholarship offer will be made in writing to successful applicants.

Applicants will be required to respond to the offer within a specified period and acceptance of offers cannot be deferred. Scholarship support is for the 2012 academic year only.

Offers are subject to scholarship recipients providing confirmation of enrolment in a Graduate Diploma in Education – Secondary (or equivalent) at a Queensland Higher Education Institution in 2012.

HECS- HELP Benefit

Eligible mathematics and science graduates (who graduate from second semester 2008 onwards) who take up employment in related occupations, including teaching of these subjects in secondary school and primary school teaching, may be able to apply for a HECS-HELP benefit

which will reduce their Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) repayments and/or debt.

To find out if your course is eligible for the benefit, follow the link below:

<http://www.goingtouni.gov.au/Main/Quickfind/PayingForYourStudiesHELPLoans/HECSHELPBenefit.htm>

Timelines

Key dates for the 2012 *Step into Teaching Scholarship* are as follows:

Date	Activity
23 December 2011	Scholarship applications close
w/c 30 Jan 2012	Scholarship offers made to successful applicants
17 February 2012	Final date for Scholarship offers to be accepted
End April 2012	First scholarship payment
August / Sept 2012	Final scholarship payment
Semester 1 2013	Commence employment with DET

More Information

For further information for the 2012 *Step into Teaching Scholarship* including the Application Form and Guidelines, refer to the Department's website at www.teach.qld.gov.au

For specific scholarship enquiries email

scholarships@deta.qld.gov.au

Completed applications must be submitted by **Friday, 23 December 2011** to:

Step into Teaching Scholarships
Workforce Initiatives, Human Resources
Department of Education and Training
PO Box 15033
City East QLD 4002

