

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **ABOUT QASMT**

### **Are you a state school?**

Yes. QASMT is a top-performing state high school for highly capable students seeking to complete the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in their senior years.

### **Is QASMT right for me?**

A bridge between high school and tertiary study, Queensland Academies are designed to maximize the potential of highly capable students and prepare them for university.

### **How are you different to other schools?**

Benefits of studying at Queensland Academies include:

- Selective entry: study alongside selected likeminded, high achieving, highly motivated students
- Students study the International Baccalaureate Diploma: an internationally recognized, pre-university level curriculum and qualification
- Students work towards achievements based on merit in a non-competitive environment
- A stimulating, technology-rich environment and access to world-class facilities
- Access to opportunities through our unique partnerships with Universities and industry
- Access to internationally-trained high achieving staff

### **How many students are at the school?**

1250 - 1350

### **How many students are in each year level?**

220 - 240

### **How many students are in each class?**

18 – 28 (subject dependent)

### **Is the school still growing?**

No

### **How much are the fees?**

Fees are revised annually.

As a guide, the fees for students in Years 7-9 at QASMT (the Middle Years Programme) was approximately \$2000 in 2022.

As a guide, the fees for students in Years 10-12 at QASMT (the International Baccalaureate Diploma

Programme) was approximately \$3900 in 2022.

Textbooks, uniforms, personal stationery, personal photocopying, instrumental music costs, costs of excursions, subject specific levies etc, are not provided for in the above fees, and must be provided for additionally.

International Students should refer to the International Student page on the website for International Student fee information (Years 10-12 only).

## **STUDY AT QASMT**

### **What will my child study at QASMT?**

#### **IB Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) Years 7-9**

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) is an educational framework that encourages students aged 11-16 to make practice connections between their studies and the real world. At a time when students are establishing their identity and building self-esteem, the MYP is uniquely designed to offer a well-rounded education and help students achieve success in school and in their life.

#### **STEM Futures Program – Years 9-10 Electives**

Our STEM Futures Program in Years 9 and 10 has been designed to provide a 'bridge' for our students in moving from the IB MYP to the IB DP. The curriculum is comprised of STEM Futures Electives, written in collaboration with university/industry partners including The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre, Queensland Virtual STEM Academy and SPARQ-ed. The vision of our STEM Futures Program is to deliver a future focused STEM curriculum that engages passionate, innovative learners capable of creating positive and sustainable change in the world. Students in Year 10 also complete an immersion International Baccalaureate Diploma Preparation Programme.

#### **IB Diploma Programme (IB DP) – Years 11-12**

The IB Diploma Programme (Years 11-12) is ideal preparation for university: a rigorous and academically challenging pre-university curriculum for students aged from 16 to 19 years. The IB Diploma Programme emphasises the importance of breadth and depth in academic study whilst

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maintaining a focus on the very way we understand knowledge through the Theory of Knowledge course. Students are encouraged to become active global citizens and understand the importance of care and compassion in an increasingly globalised world. The Diploma encourages students to develop their physical, emotional, intellectual and ethical selves and as such is well regarded and recognised by the world's leading universities.

## **Will my child get an ATAR when they graduate?**

Students graduate with an IB score, which is recognised and highly regarded by universities across in Australia and internationally. Students do not receive an ATAR, but a direct conversion from IB result to Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank (ATAR) equivalent is automatically applied for Diploma students as they apply for most university courses.

## **Do students at QASMT only study Science, Maths and Technology? What subjects will my child study?**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP – Years 7-9) comprises eight subject groups:

Language acquisition, Language and literature, Individuals and societies, Sciences, Mathematics, The Arts, Physical and health education, Design.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (Years 10-12) comprises six subject groups:

Language acquisition, Studies in language and literature, Individuals and societies, Sciences, Mathematics, The Arts. All students in the IBDP also study the IB Inner Core: Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay, Creativity-Activity-Service.

## **Do all students at QASMT study a second language?**

Yes. Language acquisition studies are a part of the International Baccalaureate Curriculum. Multilingualism and the development of multiliteracies (New London Group, 1996) are considered important factors in fostering international-mindedness, intercultural awareness and global citizenship.

Some universities offer two Adjustment Factors (previously 'Bonus Ranks') for passing IB second language study.

**What languages are on offer at QASMT?** At QASMT, you'll have the opportunity to develop proficiency in either French, German, Japanese or Latin (subject to enrolment numbers).

## **Can students who graduate from QASMT only go into the Science, Mathematics and Technology fields?**

Our graduates are well prepared for university level study and careers in various fields including: Medicine; Science; Health; Engineering; Mathematics; Law; Psychology; Education; Business; The Arts. You can find inspiring stories from our Alumni by viewing the Alumni tab on our website.

## **What opportunities will my child have to work or engage with universities while they are a student at QASMT?**

The student experience at QASMT is greatly enhanced through valued Partnerships with University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University.

Depending on the program, how IB studies are structured and the results achieved during the IB course, students can gain academic credit, additional Adjustment Factors and complete specified university subjects for university entrance.

## **SPORTS**

### **What sports are offered at QASMT?**

The QASMT Sport Program caters for a variety of abilities, experience and levels of competition, such as inter-house, inter-school (including district and regional programs), and a professional coaching program. Within the school, inter-house competitions include the Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals. Students at these events also participate in a range of fun and inclusive house challenges which strengthen house ties and a positive school culture.

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

### **How many students are enrolled in Instrumental Music program?**

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Our Instrumental Music enrolments sit at approximately 350 students. Many students who aren't formally enrolled in this program participate in The Arts through regular and special events such as our annual Festival of Creativity held in June.

**When are rehearsals?** Rehearsals are held in the Auditorium, in the mornings and before school.

**Can my child rehearse at lunch time?**

Every lunchtime there are opportunities for rehearsals for large and small ensembles. We now have a jazz combo and rock band in addition to classical chamber music groups. These are 'student-driven', overseen by our teachers. Students have a lot of input into styles/repertoire to suit their goals and interests. Preparation is under way for a Symphony Orchestra and World Music Ensemble to be formed.

**How many music rooms do you have?**

We have Music Block practice rooms for students to use before and after school and at lunch, students often gain access to a large classroom nearby as well as our Auditorium stage and Lecture Theatre close by, for rehearsals and collaborations. Rooms are all airconditioned and away from the main teaching areas of the school, which encourages students to be creative.

We have an enthusiastic team of Arts Ambassadors who represent and champion The Arts in our community. We have a Festival of Creativity each year and an Arts Space that is opened during lunch times where students can create, draw and make to their heart's content.

## LEADERSHIP

**What leadership opportunities are available at the school?**

Leadership development is a key feature of all of our programs. Our Student Leadership team is composed of: Academy Captains, House Captains, Academy Representative Council, Social Justice Committee, IT Mentors, Science Ambassadors, Technology Ambassadors, Engineering Ambassadors, Mathematics Ambassadors and Academy Journalists.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**What extra-curricular activities can my child get involved in?**

Students in the Diploma Programme: Creativity, Activity and Service.

Students in the Middle Years Programme: Service as Action and Community Project for all students and Co-curricular activities. Students can participate in a wide range of activities, including: debating, robotics, astronomy club (the school has its own observatory), Duke of Edinburgh awards, theatre, music, arts, crafts, gardening, clubs, games, sports, leadership, environmental and community service activities. In 2022, over 55 activities are on offer. Students who have an interest are encouraged to approach the EOTC Coordinator to see if it can be added to the offerings.

## DAILY LIFE AT QASMT

**How do students achieve balance and thrive in the academically challenging environment at QASMT?**

As parents, we know you are seeking a school that provides a balance between supporting, challenging, learning and happiness.

Student wellbeing is fundamental to all that we do at QASMT. Our students are driven to reach their potential because they are fully supported at each and every step of their learning journey. Via our house structures and the Wellbeing Framework, we maintain an excellent balance between academic rigour, personal growth, community awareness, intercultural understanding, sporting and cultural distinction. We ask all students to give their personal best across all of these endeavours.

**Is there a uniform at QASMT?**

Yes. The Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology is a uniform school and all students are required to wear the school uniform. Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 section 360, a Principal may develop a dress code to apply when students are attending or representing the school. As per the Act, this dress code outlines the acceptable standard of clothing to be worn by students and personal presentation. Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics

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and Technology Uniform Policy reflects the community expectations and standards, as determined by the Principal, in consultation with school community representatives.

## **Is there a school bus?**

Please visit our website for further information regarding transport options.

## **ADMISSIONS FAQs**

**How can I enrol into QASMT?** All students seeking to enrol into QASMT must apply online and undertake a selective entry application process.

Places of enrolment are offered to candidates successful in this process. Applications are accessible through our online applications portal via the Queensland Academies website

<https://qa.eq.edu.au>

## **How are candidates selected?**

Vacancies are filled through a merit process. A successful candidate will have demonstrated strong performance in each of the components of the applications process - entrance test, academic reports, NAPLAN (where available), interview - and been assessed as the most suitable candidate for a vacancy, according to a global analysis of all enrolment eligibility data.

**How many candidates usually apply?** With exceptional student and graduate outcomes, places at QASMT are in increasingly high demand. We cannot predict how many candidates will apply, however, we recommend that highly capable candidates with a record of strong academic performance who are seeking the opportunity to be considered for a place, should apply at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **When should I apply?**

The earliest possible opportunity to apply is at the commencement of Year 5, for entry into Year 7 at QASMT. *Wherever possible, students should apply at this time, through the Standard application process.* For Standard application open and close dates, and to apply, please visit the Queensland Academies website admissions page at: <https://qa.eq.edu.au>

## **I missed the Year 5 Standard applications period. Can I still apply?**

If a student is in Year 6 and missed the Standard applications close date, a late application may be submitted through the Principal's discretionary process. Late applicants must still undergo the selective entry process to be considered for vacancies as they arise.

## **My child is already in high school (Years 7-12). Can I still apply?**

If a student has already commenced high school, they may be eligible to apply for Midcourse entry, through the Principal's discretionary process. Please call the Queensland Academies Admissions team on (07) 3377 9366, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm during school terms or email [admissions@qa.eq.edu.au](mailto:admissions@qa.eq.edu.au) for advice on eligibility and suitable entry points.

## **Who can I talk to about enrolling into QASMT? Should I meet the Principal to discuss my child's application?**

All enquiries about applying and enrolling into QASMT, including advice around late application, midcourse entry, vacancies, adjustments, exceptional circumstances and the Principal's discretionary process, should be directed to the Queensland Academies Admissions team on (07) 3377 9366, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm during school terms or email [admissions@qa.eq.edu.au](mailto:admissions@qa.eq.edu.au) for advice.

## **Where can I find out about the Entrance Test? The Interview?**

Information about the Entrance Test and Interview is available on the Queensland Academies website at <https://qa.eq.edu.au>

## **Can reasonable adjustments be made in the Entrance Test for students with disability?**

Students requesting adjustments in the Entrance Test should contact Queensland Academies Admissions for support on (07) 3377 9366, 8:00am-4:00pm weekdays during school terms, **prior** to application.

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## **When will I know if my child has been offered a place?**

The Standard applications process timeline is published on the Queensland Academies website. The Principal's discretionary process has no timeline, but provides additional opportunities for notified students who have not been offered an interview or a place in the first instance to be considered further for vacancies, should they arise, through to the end of the following academic year. Candidate selection for vacancies will continue to be based on merit through the selective entry process. We cannot guarantee if or when a suitable vacancy will arise, however, it should be noted that at all previous intakes, selected highly capable candidates with a record of strong academic performance have been offered places through this process.

## **Will I receive my child's Entrance Test results?**

No. We do not review Entrance Test results in isolation, but consider them alongside the other evidence provided in the application to form a holistic assessment of a student's academic ability and suitability for a place relative to other candidates (we cannot provide information around other candidates). If you are seeking information to better understand your child's current areas of strength and potential growth in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy, we encourage you to work with your child's current school, where strategies and interventions to support them can be put in place; the Entrance Test is not designed for this purpose.

## **Do you give feedback?**

Given the detailed analysis that is undertaken in reviewing each application and the number of applications we receive, we are, unfortunately, unable to give individual feedback to each candidate.

## **Do you offer automatic enrolment to siblings of children who are currently studying at or have graduated from the school?**

No, enrolment is not automatically offered to siblings of current students or graduates. All candidates undertake the selective entry application process; an offer of a place will be made to the most suitable candidate.

**Does living close to the school increase my chance of receiving an offer of enrolment?** No, enrolment into a Queensland Academy is through a selective entry application process only. Enrolments are not based on catchment.

## **My child is an International Student. Can I still apply?**

Queensland Academies cannot enrol international students in Years 7, 8 or 9.

International students can apply to enter Queensland Academies for commencement of Year 10.