

# Study at UQ

## Australia Awards Indonesia



CREATE CHANGE



# Meet some of our Australia Awards scholars and alumni from Indonesia.

Australia Awards scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders to support development needs of their countries. Through study and research, scholars develop the skills and knowledge to drive change and help build enduring people-to-people links with Australia. UQ has welcomed over 2000 Australia Awards scholars and we are proud of our long-standing relationship with our alumni from Indonesia.

We have a dedicated Sponsored Students Unit as a central point to assist Australia Awards scholars through their study journey.

For more information visit our website at [global-partnerships.uq.edu.au/australia-awards](https://global-partnerships.uq.edu.au/australia-awards)



## Conferences

*“As a Master of Philosophy student, I want to share my research and findings through publications and conferences.”*

The University of Queensland and Australia Awards provide everything I need to accomplish the missions. So far, I have presented my research at three international conferences (MERGA-45, MERGA-46, and ICME-15), one national conference (AARE 2023), and three local conferences (UQ Postgraduate Research Conference 2022 and 2023, and Queensland Teacher Symposium 2022) within two years.

Attending the conferences helped broaden my networks and future collaborations with experts and researchers in my field. I also have written three papers, two of which have been published in reputable conference proceedings. These achievements are only possible with the invaluable support and guidance from an excellent advisory team with globally acknowledged expertise. Equally importantly, the support from Australia Awards through the Student Contact Officers is beyond expectations, making me feel appreciated and supported in my academic journey.”

**Soma Salim S**  
Master of Philosophy

## UQ 3MT

*“As an HDR student (MPhil), I want to communicate my research to wider audiences from different backgrounds.”*

Participating in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) helped me achieve this goal and improve my confidence and public speaking skills (Note: 3MT was founded by UQ in 2008). After winning the 3MT to represent the School of Education, I attended a mentoring session with a UQ expert in communication. This brought me to win “People’s Choice” in the 3MT HASS Final. Although I could not proceed to Wildcard and UQ Final (MPhil students are not eligible), I could not be prouder of myself for making it through to this stage.

Indeed, studying at The University of Queensland has allowed me to participate in many academic and non-academic activities to develop the skills I need as an early career researcher.”

**Soma Salim S**  
Master of Philosophy



## Angklung Brisbane

*“Being part of the Indo Angklung Brisbane has been a remarkable experience.”*

Surprisingly, I never had the chance to learn about this instrument when I was in Indonesia, given its origins differ from the region where I grew up. Yet, who knows? I’m really getting into it now and deeply realising how beautiful our culture is.

Additionally, thanks to this Angklung community, I’ve had the opportunity to participate in various agendas, from local to even international events. Let’s take the IndOz Conference as an example. We were honoured with invitations to perform our musical culture at the Brisbane City Hall for two consecutive years, 2022 and 2023. It was an incredible opportunity and stands out as one of the most memorable experiences of my time in Australia.”

**Andi Nur Ildha Arfanita (pictured left)**  
Master of Development Economics

## UQ Employability Awards

*“As a master student studying at UQ for 2 years, it would be wasting time if we just spent our time by only attending lectures and practicals. A wide range of opportunities that we can participate in for our hobbies, entrepreneurship and also career development.*”

UQ has provided an opportunity to motivate their students to improve their career capability by giving an employability award program. I joined a volunteering opportunity at UQ and then heard about this program. Then I looked into the program just to know the program further. I felt that what UQ has designed for the employability award gave me well-structured steps for my self-growth with the many supports that UQ provided.

Because of this opportunity, I experienced working in a diverse environment where I met globalized colleagues and became a part of an inclusive society to grow myself for my career journey after graduation.”

**Abdullah Hasib**  
Master of Animal Science



## Cultural and tutoring experience

*“During my studies, I had the privilege of gaining exposure to Australian culture and academic life, which has been an amazing experience.*”

I became involved in traditional dance as a Likok Pulo dancer, performing at numerous cultural and major events in Brisbane. Additionally, I joined the School of Civil Engineering as a tutor for undergraduate courses, where I guided laboratory experiments to help students integrate theoretical concepts with practical laboratory investigations and real-world field conditions.

In my role as a tutor, I worked collaboratively with students to achieve optimal learning outcomes, ensuring that both student and lecturer expectations were met. I also took on the responsibility of

evaluating students' examinations with a commitment to fairness and impartiality.

Beyond my academic involvement, I actively participated in social communities such as UQISA (University of Queensland Indonesian Student Association) and IISB (Indonesian Islamic Society of Brisbane). Through these organisations, I helped gather hundreds of students for cultural and religious events, fostering a sense of community and cultural exchange.”

**Rian Mantasa Salve Prastica**  
Doctor of Philosophy

## UQ Calling Crew/UQ Giving Day

*“My experience studying for a Master of Economics with a field of study in health economics at the University of Queensland (UQ) has been transformative, largely thanks to the Australia Awards scholarship.*”

Despite my 18 years of working experience in public health advocacy, I had no formal economics background. However, the School of Economics at UQ allowed me to immerse myself in economics, enriching my understanding and broadening my horizons on economic theories and their application to health and healthcare, which is very important as in many countries, health is one of the sectors which has a significant allocation in the national budget.

UQ not only provided me with an exceptional academic experience but also the opportunity to work as a calling crew member at their alumni centre.

This paid casual work, with its competitive salary, has been instrumental in helping me overcome financial challenges. The comprehensive support system at UQ has genuinely made my study experience holistic and fulfilling.

As a proud student, I am willing and eager to give back to the community that supported me. Participating in UQ Giving Day allows me to provide opportunities for future UQ students to also benefit from this environment, as I have been experiencing.”

**Alautiah Rahmunanda**  
Master of Economics



## UQ Winter/Summer Research Program

*“UQ winter research program is such a valuable experience for me.*”

This experience has given me a glimpse into PhD research. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in weekly lab meetings where PhD students, research assistants, and professors discuss ideas. Academically, I have learned essential tools for ecological research, particularly modelling with RStudio. This experience has boosted my confidence in the direction I want to take after my Master's program, allowing me to maximize my final year at UQ. Professionally, I learned to improve my communication effectively through email, this is important for me as an International student.

The most important thing I learned is that research involves diving deep into the unknown, and survival

depends on having sufficient skills and support. It is a long and sometimes dark journey toward discovering new knowledge. Along the way, I learned to push myself to move forward while overcoming self-doubt and being comfortable with uncertainty.

The program is offered during the summer and winter semester breaks, outside of regular academic courses. My advice to students considering the Winter Research program is to be clear about your expectations and goals. Communicate effectively with your potential supervisor, and enjoy the experience while it lasts.”

**Yuli Riadi**  
Master of Environmental Management



## UQ Ventures

*"I made a team consisting of UQ students and we collaborate in UQ Venture to promote Indonesian local products that I have developed with the women in rural area several years ago.*

We change banana waste into foods and now we have a new product of floss for vegan. We won an award of "The most changemaking idea" on UQ Venture Sustainability. Then, we won \$1,000 for business development on UQ Venture Validity. I really appreciate the support of Australia Awards that has introduced UQ Venture during the IAP session."

**Diah Fitria Widhiningsih**  
Doctor of Philosophy

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