

## USQ GRADUATE QUALITIES AND SKILLS

### What are graduate qualities and skills?

As a student at USQ you will hear about ‘graduate qualities’, ‘graduate skills’ or, perhaps, ‘employability skills’. All Australian universities use terms like these to describe learning that goes beyond discipline or course content.



### Why they are important

When you complete your a degree employers will expect you to have relevant discipline knowledge. But today they also expect you to be able to communicate in different ways with a range of different people, work in teams, learn new knowledge and in a wide range of situations. If you look at job advertisements, you will see that they list some of these qualities and skills.

### USQ Graduate Qualities

Because these qualities are so important to employers, the qualities along with their accompanying skills are soon to be integrated into all of USQ programs. These qualities are:

1. *Discipline expertise*: The level of knowledge, skills and emerging expertise required to begin practicing in your chosen discipline.
2. *Professional practice*: A sound knowledge and understanding of the professional and contextual responsibilities appropriate for your practice.
3. *Global citizenship*: The ability, through your understanding and valuing of difference and diversity, to live and work in culturally diverse communities.
4. *Scholarship*: The capability to make a scholarly contribution in your workplace and in the wider community.
5. *Lifelong learning*: The information literacy and independent learning skills required for you to pursue personal and professional development throughout your life.

## Graduate Skills

Some skills will help you acquire and do specific things with knowledge, such as academic and professional literacy skills. Other skills will help you use and apply knowledge for example, teamwork and problem-solving. Written and oral communication will help you describe or share discipline knowledge.

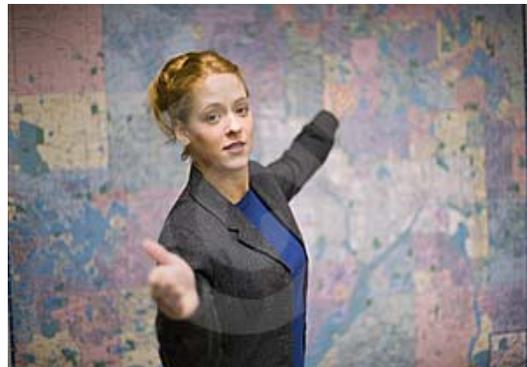
When studying a course, look out for the graduate skills in the learning objectives as well as in the linked assessment items. Here are two examples:

1. At the end of this course students can communicate in writing by planning and submitting a report that broadly conforms to professional business requirements.
2. At the end of this course students can demonstrate academic and professional literacy skills by choosing appropriate formulae to solve mathematic problems.

## Other ways you can develop graduate qualities and skills

As well as achieving graduates qualities and skills through studying a course you can achieve them yourself:

- enrol in elective, work-based learning courses as part of your degree
- volunteer, or work part-time
- join sporting and/or recreational clubs and societies
- enrol in Employability Skills workshops
- sign up for USQ Career Mentoring
- participate in the USQ Phoenix Award.



## Recording graduate qualities and skills

Your personal e-portfolio can be accessed through USQ Connect and the Current Students webpage. Here you will be able to record your assessment performance and other relevant experiences to build an evidence-based skills profile that demonstrates to prospective employers what you can do. Very useful when applying for your next job!

## More information on graduate qualities and skills at USQ

Policy: Qualities of a USQ Graduate: <http://www.usq.edu.au/resources/425.pdf>

Student Services: <http://www.usq.edu.au/student-services/careers/>

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