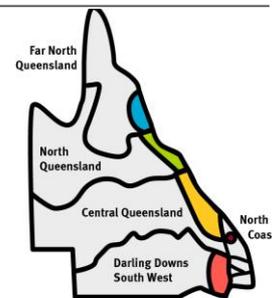


# Regional Professional Experience Grant

## Fact Sheet - Semester 2, 2023



### The grant

The Regional Professional Experience Grant (grant) provides financial support for eligible preservice teachers (candidates) to teach, live and explore a **regional community** while completing a professional experience placement (placement) in an eligible **Queensland (QLD) state school** (school) in semester 2, 2023.

### Who can apply?

Applications are encouraged from candidates who:

- are currently enrolled at an [Australian university](#) (university) and in their:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of an undergraduate [initial teacher education](#) (ITE) program, or
  - 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a postgraduate ITE program, and
- hold a valid [QLD Working with Children Blue Card](#) with currency during the placement (interstate candidates will need to apply for a blue card).

### Eligible locations/schools

The (minimum consecutive) 15-day placement must be undertaken in a school that has a **transfer rating (TR) of TR2-TR3** and is located:

- at least [2 hours travel](#) (each way) from the candidate's current residence and the school for the placement, and
- within a [priority region](#) - Central QLD, Darling Downs-South West<sup>1</sup>, Far North or North QLD. Select secondary schools in the North Coast region are also eligible.

Eligible schools are highlighted in blue in the regional maps provided on the Smart Jobs website (under 'documents').

Alternatively, the transfer ratings can be found through a search on the department's [school's directory](#). Type the school's name in the 'state schools' section and select the school from the options provided > select 'search' > select 'more details.' The school's details will show under the 'school profile.'

### Step 1 - Organise the placement

- Research the [priority regions](#) to determine the school for the placement.
- Ensure the school is highlighted on the regional maps on the Smart Jobs website. If the school isn't highlighted<sup>1</sup>, the Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant (BTR grant)<sup>2</sup> should be considered.
- The placement should be at least 2 hours (each way) from the current residence using the [RACQ trip planner](#).
- Liaise with the placement office/officer at the university to organise the placement.

**The fine print:** <sup>1</sup>TR1 schools in the Darling Downs-South West region are exempt. | <sup>2</sup>The BTR grant is for placements in state schools with a TR4-TR7 located in a priority region. | <sup>3</sup>The grant offering and its particulars can be subject to change at any time at the department's discretion. | <sup>4</sup>Candidates should regularly check their email's bin/junk/SPAM/trash folders as emails from the [scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au) address can be sent there. | <sup>5</sup>It's recommended that receipts for placement related expenses be retained until after the placement is completed. The ATO defines travel expenses as transport, accommodation, meals and incidental | <sup>6</sup>The grant – paid via EFT – may affect the annual income and/or benefits received. It's recommended that financial advice is sought from an advisor, the Australian Taxation Office and/or Centrelink | May 2023

### Step 2 - Apply for the grant

1. When the placement is confirmed in writing (i.e., Sonia Online or InPlace) apply for the grant on the Smart Jobs website.
2. Log into Smart Jobs (create an account if needed) and:
  - in the 'upload documents' section, upload the documents requested in the RPEG Doc Checklist (provided on the Smart Jobs website under 'documents'), and
  - respond to the questions in the online questionnaire.

Incomplete applications or applications submitted less than 6 weeks before the placement start date may result in a delayed payment including receiving the grant whilst on placement.

Experiencing trouble uploading the documents? Email them to [scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au)

The grants for semester 2, 2023<sup>3</sup> will close on the 8 December 2023 or when the semester's allocation is depleted.

The grants for semester 1, 2024<sup>3</sup> will open in mid-term 4. [Register here](#) to receive information when it's available.

### Step 3 - Grant offers

Candidates will receive an email within 3 weeks<sup>4</sup> of applying for the grant to either: (a) seek further information or (b) provide an offer letter, Conditions of Payment (CoP), and a personal details advice form to complete and return which will initiate payment of the grant (this can take up to 3 weeks).

### Conditions of the payment

Payment of the grant is based on the placement details provided in the online application. A CoP is to notify the department of any changes to the approved placement particulars (including a re-scheduled, cancelled or terminated placement) which may affect the grant amount paid or repaid<sup>5</sup>.

### Step 4 - Payment of the grant

The one-off grant<sup>6</sup> is to assist with placement-related travel expenses<sup>5</sup>. The grant is based on the duration of the placement not the TR of the school:

Duration of the placement / Grant amount			
15 days	20 days	25-35 days	40 days+
\$2,250	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$3,400

### Questions?

Contact the Scholarships and Grants team, People Branch, Department of Education by phone at (07) 3055 2969 or by email at [scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@qed.qld.gov.au)

