

Information sheet: Teaching Classroom Music and Instrumental Music

Professional learning for Classroom and Instrumental Music teachers in Queensland state schools

Queensland is recognised as a leader in music education, offering world-class Classroom and Instrumental Music programs that work together to provide students with a comprehensive and enriching musical experience. These programs are designed to foster creativity, develop technique and skills, support confidence in expression and encourage a lifelong connection to music.

This resource provides information for current and aspiring Classroom and Instrumental Music teachers in Queensland state schools. It includes details about the role of music teachers, curriculum requirements, professional development opportunities, and resources to support teaching. Additionally, it includes information on tertiary study options for those considering a career in music education.

Role of a Classroom Music teacher

Classroom Music teachers play a vital role in delivering high-quality music education to students in Queensland state schools. In Years P–10 Classroom Music teachers provide the Australian Curriculum, The Arts: Music to develop students' musical knowledge and skills through singing, playing instruments, composing, and developing aural skills and listening. In Years 11 and 12 teachers implement a range of Music syllabuses and recognised studies provided or endorsed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Role of an Instrumental Music teacher

Instrumental music teachers work with students in small group instruction and ensemble rehearsals and performances to build their instrument-specific performance skills and music literacy. They implement the Queensland Instrumental Music curriculum which outlines the broad range of dimensions of the learning, supporting students to realise their musical potential through creative expression on their instrument.

Curriculum

Classroom and Instrumental Music programs are specified in the K–12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework (K–12 Framework) which specifies the curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements for all Queensland state school principals and staff delivering the curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12.

View the [K–12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework from 2025 \(PDF, 1.6MB\)](#).

Qualifications and requirements

Qualifications for Classroom Music teachers

To be eligible for a position as a Specialist Classroom Music teacher, you must have:

- a degree in music or music education, and
- an initial teacher education degree that includes preparation for teaching the music curriculum, or
- a primary teaching/education degree or diploma, combined with a performance diploma (including theoretical requirements) and certificates in primary school music pedagogy; and
- teacher registration with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT).

Non-specialist Teachers teaching Music

In some cases, non-specialist teachers may be required to teach music, particularly in schools where specialist music teachers are not available. Non-specialist teachers are encouraged to:

- engage in professional development opportunities to build their confidence and skills in delivering the music curriculum;
- access resources and support provided by the Department of Education to ensure high-quality music education is delivered to students; and
- collaborate with specialist music teachers and/or [Regional Music Coordinators](#) for guidance and advice.

Non-specialist teachers must also hold registration with the QCT.

Information for aspiring Music teachers

If you are considering a career as a Specialist Classroom Music teacher, you may wish to explore the following pathways:

- Bachelor of Education or similar in the primary or secondary area with a specialisation in Music. These qualifications have a range of names across different institutions.
- Graduate Diploma or Master's qualification in education for those with a music-related undergraduate degree.
- Pedagogical certification through Music professional associations.
- Volunteering in schools, community music programs, or youth orchestras can provide valuable teaching experience.

For more information on tertiary study options in music education, visit:

- [Queensland University of Technology \(QUT\) – Music and Education](#)
- [Griffith University – Queensland Conservatorium](#)
- [University of Queensland – School of Music](#)
- [University of Southern Queensland – Creative Arts and Media](#)
- [Australian Catholic University \(ACU\) – ACU Music Teacher information](#)
- [University of the Sunshine Coast \(USC\) – USC Music studies](#)

Queensland Higher Education Institution offerings in Music Education

For those seeking information on tertiary entrance, the [Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre](#) is responsible for administering the processes for tertiary entrance in Queensland.

Many universities in Queensland offer suitable undergraduate Music and Arts degrees, undergraduate initial teacher education qualifications, dual degrees, as well as post-graduate qualifications for those who already hold an undergraduate qualification in Music or Arts.

Universities are responsible for determining their own offerings and entry requirements; the examples here are current at the time of writing, but individuals should seek further up-to-date information to assess their options more fully.

For those seeking an undergraduate degree in Music, a range of options exist, including:

- [Australian Catholic University \(ACU\)](#)
 - [ACU Music Teacher information](#)
- [Central Queensland University \(CQU\)](#)
 - [CQU Music studies](#)
- [Griffith University \(GU\) Conservatorium of Music](#)
 - [GU Conservatorium of Music, Education](#)
- [Queensland University of Technology \(QUT\)](#)
 - [Music Education information](#)
- [University of Queensland \(UQ\) School of Music](#)
 - [UQ Music Education information](#)
- [University of Southern Queensland \(USQ\)](#)
 - [USQ Music studies](#)
- [University of the Sunshine Coast \(USC\)](#)
 - [USC Music studies](#)

Initial teacher education degrees

As the organisation responsible for teacher registration in Queensland, the Queensland College of Teachers maintains a list of courses that are accredited for initial teacher education. That list is [available here](#).

Professional associations

Arts educators including music teachers are supported by several strong and active professional associations.

For Music, there are several professional associations that can offer support, including but not limited to:

- [Australian Society for Music Education \(ASME\) Queensland Chapter](#)
- [Kodaly Music Education Institute of Australia \(KMEIA\) Queensland Branch](#)
- [Queensland Orff Schulwerk Association](#)
- [Dalcroze Australia](#)
- [Suzuki Music Queensland](#)
- [Yamaha Music Education](#)
- [Australian National Association of Teachers of Singing \(ANATS\) Queensland Chapter](#)
- [Australian Band Directors Association \(ABODA\) Queensland](#)
- [Australian National Choral Association \(ANCA\) Queensland Chapter](#)
- [Australian Strings Association \(AUSTA\) Queensland Chapter](#)
- [Queensland Music Teachers Association \(QMTA\)](#)
- [Australian Music Examinations Board Queensland](#)

The [National Advocates for Arts Education](#) is a network of peak national professional arts and arts education associations who represent arts educators across Australia.

They advocate for 'The Arts', a key learning area in the Australian Curriculum, which contains the five discrete subjects: Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music and Visual Arts.

- [Ausdance](#)
- [Drama Queensland \(DQ\)](#)
- [Queensland Art Teachers Association \(QATA\)](#)
- [Australian Teachers of Media \(ATOM\) Queensland](#)