

Information pack

Tweed Shire Council and Griffith University Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Town Planner Development Program

April 2022

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1 Background

Tweed Shire Council and Griffith University are offering the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Town Planner Development Program](#).

The program creates a pathway to support an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to become a town planner.

Through the program, the successful applicant will:

- study the [Bachelor of Urban Planning \(Honours\)](#) at Griffith University's Southport campus – with Griffith University providing a scholarship towards fees
- work one day a week (or equivalent) for Tweed Shire Council's Planning and Regulation Division for up to four years during their studies.

The program is supported by Griffith University's [GUMURRII Student Success Unit](#) and the [Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council](#) will deliver mentoring opportunities.

The education and work experience gained will equip the successful applicant with the knowledge, skills and experience to contribute to making the Tweed and Gold Coast a great place to live, work and play.

2 Details

Number awarded:	1
Duration:	Study full-time for 4 years or part-time for up to 8 years Work for Council for up to 4 years during your studies
Study mode:	On campus at Southport
Study load:	Full-time or part-time The scholarship for part-time study will be paid pro-rata
Work mode:	On site at Murwillumbah
Work load:	Part-time (one day a week or equivalent)
Course type:	Undergraduate (bachelor degree) including honours
Course discipline:	Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours)
New/continuing students:	New or continuing
New/existing Council staff:	New or existing

Australian citizenship requirement:	Yes
Residential requirement:	N/A
Geographic requirement:	N/A
Applications close:	12 noon sharp on 13 May 2022

3 Who can apply?

3.1 Australian citizen/permanent resident

The applicant must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident as defined by the Commonwealth.

3.2 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

The applicant must identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and provide confirming documentation such as a letter from a First Nations organisation or Community Elder, or a statutory declaration.

3.3 Degree/discipline

The successful applicant will enrol in the Griffith University Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours) at the Southport campus or is already enrolled in equivalent.

3.4 New or commencing students

The program is open to new/commencing or continuing students in their first, second, third or fourth year of a degree/course (including honours).

3.5 Academic requirement

The successful candidate will need to meet the entry requirement for the degree and perform at a level required to maintain enrolment.

3.6 New or existing Council staff

The program is open to new/existing staff of Tweed Shire Council.

4 Selection criteria

The program will be awarded on the basis of:

- your written introduction outlining:
 - your Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage and connections with First Nations people, community and culture
 - your interest in town planning and any previous experiences, work or study relevant to this field

- how you meet the admission requirements of the Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours), commencing in July 2022 or March 2023, attending Griffith University's Gold Coast campus
- your previous studies or experiences and how you will successfully complete the degree while working at Council
- the personal qualities you will bring to the Council job
- academic merit including the ability to meet the admission requirements of the Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours)
- interview merit list.

5 Supporting documents/required information

The listed documents are acceptable forms of evidence in each of the following criteria.

1. Documentation confirming your identification as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person such as a letter from a First Nations organisation or Community Elder, or a statutory declaration.
2. A minimum level of school completion to Year 12.
3. For existing tertiary students only, a record of academic achievement to date.
4. Two written personal or employer references.

6 How to apply

6.1 Stage 1 – Express your interest

Submit your [expression on interest](#) online no later than 12 noon sharp on Friday 13 May 2022. As part of your expression of interest, you will need to tell us about:

- your Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage and connections with First Nations people, community and culture
- your interest in town planning and any previous experiences, work or study relevant to this field
- how you meet the admission requirements of the Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours), commencing in July 2022 or March 2023, attending Griffith University's Gold Coast campus
- your previous studies or experiences and how you will successfully complete the degree while working at Council
- the personal qualities you will bring to the Council job.

6.2 Stage 2 – Participate in an interview

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview with representatives from Tweed Shire Council and Griffith University.

7 About the Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours)

A summary of the bachelor degree is provided below. [Full details are available](#) on Griffith University's website.

In this degree, you'll learn how to manage the social and spatial conditions of urban life, helping to create a more sustainable future.

With a strong focus on practical, hands-on teaching, you'll learn state-of-the-art drawing studios and work on real industry projects. You'll be taught by academics who have a strong footing in the industry and have the opportunity to network and connect with industry professionals throughout your degree.

What's more, you'll get the chance to undertake an industry placement, allowing you to put your skills into practice and make valuable industry contacts before you graduate.

In your final year you will complete an independent research project under the supervision of an academic staff member. The Honours program is a critical element for students seeking a direct pathway into research, academia and employment in many consulting and government organisations who prioritise the employment of honours graduates.

7.1 Campus

For the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Town Planner Development Program, the Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours) is offered on-campus at the Southport (Gold Coast) campus.

7.2 Duration

4 years full-time, 8 years part-time

7.3 Commencing in

July 2022 or March 2023

7.4 Entry requirements

ATAR/Rank: 65.00 *

* The ATAR/Rank from the 2022 admission cycle represents the minimum adjusted ATAR/Rank to which an offer was made. Minimum thresholds can change from year to year and should be used as a guide only for any future intakes.

7.4.1 QTAC application information

7.4.1.1 Prerequisites

- Any General or Applied English subject (Units 3 & 4, C)

7.4.1.2 Recommended knowledge

- General Mathematics or Mathematical Methods

7.4.2 UAC application information (for NSW and ACT applicants)

7.4.2.1 Prerequisites

- Any two units of English (Band 3) – NSW and ACT applicants

7.4.2.2 Recommended knowledge

- Mathematics Standard 2 or Mathematics Advanced – NSW and ACT applicants

Find out more about the [Bachelor of Urban Planning \(Honours\)](#) on Griffith University's website.

8 About the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainee Town Planner position

The primary objectives of the position are provided below. The [position description](#) is available through Council's website.

8.1.1 Primary objectives of the position

- To provide a developmental opportunity, via external supported study and on the job coaching, for the development of required skills and qualifications to become a Town Planner, with a specific focus on integrating Aboriginal Cultural Heritage knowledge and skills.
- To provide advice and guidance, commensurate with level of skill and experience, to residents and developers regarding the application of statutory codes and Council policies which regulate development processes within the Shire, under the supervision and direction of the Manager and Coordinators of relevant Units.
- To assist Town Planners across various Units to carry out assessments, determinations and inspections required to process development applications and new planning policies within the Shire, under the supervision and direction of the manager.



TWEED

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