

Gateway to Industry Schools program

Funding guidelines 2025-28 – Automotive industry

Introduction

The Queensland Government is committed to creating pathways to support young people enter the workforce through skilling, educating, training and employment opportunities, aimed at meeting both current and future workforce needs in Queensland.

The Gateway to Industry Schools program (GISP) builds partnerships between schools and industry to enable young people to acquire the knowledge, skills and attributes to participate effectively in the Queensland economy.

Innovative and collaborative partnerships between schools and industry are essential to ensure students can investigate career options, make informed training decisions, prepare for the workforce, and identify local work opportunities. For industry, having a strong connection to schools provides an opportunity to promote local employment opportunities.

About the program

The GISP provides school students with opportunities to experience a range of industry and career options across targeted sectors. It works to develop Queensland's future workforce by connecting schools and industry – providing opportunities in the learning environment to nurture talent and grow and foster Queensland's future workforce.

The program currently services 12 priority industry sectors which underpin economic and employment growth across the state and offer long-term and rewarding career opportunities.

The 12 GISP industry sectors are:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Agribusiness
- Building and Construction
- Community Services
- Health
- Hydrogen
- Information and Communication Technology
- Minerals and Energy
- Renewable Energy
- Screen and Media
- Tourism and Hospitality

The GISP projects are led by industry organisations, which develop and implement tailored school and industry engagement activities in line with its industry's key skills and workforce priorities.

Funded organisations decide how the industry-specific projects operate, and the type and level of engagement with participating schools in consultation with the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (the Department).

School and industry engagement activities include the following:

- industry-related experiential learning opportunities
- offering work experience, trials, scholarships and paid work placement opportunities
- organising school-based apprenticeships and traineeships opportunities
- promoting accredited and non-accredited learning, including through vocational education and training in schools (VETiS) funding
- information to students and parents on career advice, career pathways and further training after school
- career events and job expos
- industry-related capability building activities and professional development activities for teachers, such as training days and conferences.

Funded organisations must meet the following key performance indicators under their services agreement:

- partnerships – create and sustain partnerships between participating schools and industries
- pathways – industry-focused experiential learning opportunities
- participation – employment and gateways to further training and education for students
- professional development – for school teachers to improve their industry-related capabilities
- promotion – promote and raise awareness of GISP.

The GISP is administered by the Department.

Automotive industry sector

The Department is seeking applications from organisations to deliver the new Automotive GISP.

The automotive industry has a significant impact on the Queensland economy as the industry drives economic activity in Queensland through investment, production and consumption.

The automotive industry is at the forefront of technological innovation, developing and implementing advanced technologies like electric vehicles, autonomous driving, and connected cars.

With influence on global mobility, the industry is one of the major players in international trade, with vehicle and parts being exported and imported across borders.

With commitment to sustainability efforts, the industry is facing growing pressure to reduce its environmental impact, leading to the development of cleaner technologies and sustainable practices.

The Department determines the application process for industry projects through a public or selective process, based on an analysis of suitable organisations in the market and emerging government priorities.

Eligible organisations

Queensland-based organisations may apply and must:

- have a registered and current Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST; and

- hold public liability insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million or provide evidence of plan to obtain insurance to the value of no less than \$10 million to cover the proposed project.

Organisations applying must be able to demonstrate:

- capability to manage the project and achieve the project deliverables and timelines;
- understanding of issues relevant to the vocational education and training (VET) sector, including but not limited to training and skills pathways, qualifications, and VET investment;
- skills, knowledge and experience in managing and delivering similar projects of varying size, risk and complexity, including a capacity to service the automotive industry sector;
- pre-existing strong industry knowledge and functional networks;
- skills, knowledge and experience in managing and developing relationships with the education sector to maximise outcomes for school staff, students and their influencers; and
- capacity to manage the statewide program, including staffing resources.

Delivery period

Successful organisations will deliver the activities between 1 October 2025 and 31 January 2028.

Delivery location

Funded organisations will service the state, working with schools across Queensland.

Priority may be given to schools in regions with a significant presence of the project's related industry when selecting schools.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Schools interested in joining a Gateway to Industry Schools project must establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the funded organisation.

To participate in the program, schools must be registered in the [Department of Education Schools Directory](#) and maintain an active status while the MOU is in place.

The Department provides each GISP service provider with a template MOU document which articulates the roles and contributions of the funded organisation and the school. The MOU serves as a declaration of intent to develop and sustain a cooperative relationship between the parties involved.

What outcomes are expected?

The following outcomes should be considered in proposals:

- improved post school destination outcomes for students that participated in project activities;
- improved student and teacher knowledge on career options and training pathways;
- sustainable partnerships between schools, registered training organisations and employers to create a future workforce pipeline;
- connections built for schools with industries to support successful transitions for school students into further training, education and/or employment; and

- participating teachers equipped with industry current knowledge and experience.

Funded organisations are required to submit regular reporting addressing project progress, challenges and issues, any changes made to the project, participant demographics, participation rates and feedback obtained by students and teachers participated in the program.

For more detail, please refer to the draft Services Agreement at www.desbt.qld.gov.au/gatewayschools.

What applications will not be considered?

- Applications submitted by ineligible organisations;
- Incomplete applications;
- Applications that fail to meet the program objectives and funding purpose;
- Applications that are unable to demonstrate knowledge and connections to Queensland-based schools;
- Applications that are unable to demonstrate their connection and expertise in the nominated industry sector; and
- Organisations that have received full funding from other funding sources to provide the same services.

Program funding

The successful applicant will be offered an Services Agreement with a financial value of \$595,000 (GST exclusive). The delivery period will be from 1 October 2025 to 31 January 2028.

Project funds can only be expended on costs directly associated with an approved project. Some of the items project funding can be used for include:

- staff wages
- equipment hire
- venue hire
- advertising and marketing of the project
- intrastate travel and transport costs associated with participants engaging in project activities
- cost of materials that are required for the project
- other administration required for the project

The following costs or use of funds are not permitted:

- capital expenditure e.g. purchase of buildings or vehicle, office equipment
- any recurrent costs e.g. ongoing staff costs, core function of the organisation

Funding from other sources must be disclosed to the Department. To avoid duplication of services, funding is not available for the same service being delivered through other initiatives or programs.

What are the funding conditions?

Successful applicants must enter into a formal Services Agreement with the Department, which will include standard key performance indicators.

All projects must be fully acquitted after completion and any unexpended or surplus funds returned to the Department.

A copy of the Services Agreement, which is performance based and outlines the standard terms and conditions of funding, is available on the Department's webpage at www.desbt.qld.gov.au/gatewayschools.

Application process

How to apply

Organisations should submit applications and supporting documents via JIRA online application.

Applications will open on Friday 18 July 2025 and close at 5pm Friday 15 August 2025.

Applicants must include the following supporting documents:

- Letter/s of commitment from industry organisation/s and peak bodies
- Letter/s of commitment from employer/s;
- Letter/s of commitment from school/s; and
- Annual work plan.

An acknowledgement email from the JIRA platform will be provided upon successful submission of an application and supporting documents.

The Department reserves the right to:

- extend the closing date and other dates specified in this document;
- decide funding process for industry projects;
- vary the funding requirements at any time, subject to the Department first giving each respondent the opportunity to respond to the submissions;
- exclude from consideration an application that has not been submitted by the due date;
- seek advice of external parties in the evaluation of proposals; and
- negotiate with applicants.

Without limitation, the Department may, in its sole discretion:

- apply such criteria and weightings as the Department sees fit; and
- not accept any application.