

Queensland Academies Creative Industries

Kelvin Grove, Brisbane, Australia



Brisbane's first vertical high school, embedded in QUT's creative industries precinct for selective-entry artists and designers.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	50/100
Academic outcomes	66/100
University placement	80/100
Prestige & heritage	11/100
Alumni network	42/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	28/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Queensland Academies Creative Industries occupies a rare niche in Brisbane: a selective-entry state school built for young people who want serious creative training without giving up academic credibility. Founded in ****2008****, it trades on two structural advantages. First, it is Brisbane’s first vertical high school, which gives it a denser, more urban feel than a conventional campus. Second, its position in Kelvin Grove, within QUT’s creative industries precinct, places students in an environment shaped by design, media and the arts rather than suburban school routines. The school delivers the Queensland Certificate of Education in English and sits under QCAA oversight. That matters. This is not an arts school asking families to take standards on trust; it is a public academic institution with a clear regulatory frame and a

distinct mission.

What sets it apart is focus. Queensland Academies Creative Industries is not trying to be all things to all teenagers. It is for students aged **14–18** who want school to feel *purposeful*, *adult* and *artistically serious*. Families looking for broad Saturday-sport culture, a sprawling campus or a conventional co-curricular menu will find stronger fits elsewhere. The appeal here lies in specialisation: a setting that rewards independent work, visual literacy, performance, design thinking and comfort with a more self-directed rhythm. The vertical campus and university-adjacent setting give the school a *hard-edged* identity that will energise the right student and unsettle the wrong one.

It belongs on a shortlist for parents whose child has clear creative ambition and wants peers with the same intensity. The strongest fit is a student who is *restless* in mainstream schooling, already producing serious work, and ready for a cohort selected for talent rather than convenience of postcode. That student will value a school that feels *fast-moving*, *unfussy* and closer to pre-professional culture than to a standard secondary experience. The trade-off is plain: specialisation narrows the audience. For the right teenager, that is the attraction. For everyone else, it is the warning label.

STRENGTHS

- Selective entry public school for Years 10-12 requiring both academic results and a creative audition or portfolio in the chosen specialism.
- Co-located with Queensland University of Technology's Kelvin Grove campus, giving students access to tertiary-level performance and production facilities.
- Offers structured strands in film, dance, drama, music and visual art alongside the standard Queensland Certificate of Education.
- As a Queensland state school, tuition is free for domestic students, with only minor incidental resource fees applying.
- One of only three Queensland Academies statewide, giving it a distinct profile among specialised public secondary schools.

TRADE - OFFS

- Entry is highly competitive, combining academic screening with audition or folio submission, restricting places to a limited cohort each year.
- Day school only, with no boarding provision, meaning relocating families must arrange local housing or homestay independently.
- Operates as a specialised academy within the broader Kelvin Grove State College system rather than as a fully independent standalone campus.
- Public school funding model means facilities and scholarship support are generally more modest than at fee-charging independent creative arts schools.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is typically at Year 10 through a competitive selection process combining Semester 1 academic reports with an audition, folio or interview specific to the chosen creative strand (film, dance, drama, music or visual art). Applications are made through Education Queensland's academy application system, usually in the year prior to entry, with places limited and demand exceeding supply in most strands. International students may apply via Education Queensland International, subject to separate tuition fees, visa requirements and English-language criteria.

WTS RATING 

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