

Queensland Ballet
Academy



Prospectus

Front and Inside Cover:
Photography by David Kelly



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We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Elders of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations of Queensland on whose lands we work, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

ACADEMY DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

On behalf of Queensland Ballet, I warmly welcome your consideration of our elite training programs.

— **Queensland Ballet Academy takes great pride in nurturing the future custodians of our exquisite artform. Combined with world-class ballet training and an emphasis on student wellbeing, our Academy is a unique educational opportunity comparable to the finest international ballet schools.**

Our current training programs build on the extraordinary expertise of Queensland Ballet's (QB) founder, Charles Lisner obo. The establishment of the Lisner Ballet Academy in 1953 inspired QB's commitment to the nurturing and development of young dancers. QB Academy honours that legacy. As the official training provider for QB, our graduates have unparalleled access to the Company and its connection to the professional industry and wider dance community.

With the Senior Program being delivered in collaboration with Kelvin Grove State College, our school-aged students have an incredible opportunity to aspire to their goals. Supported by the Queensland Department of Education, the partnership provides students with an outstanding academic education guided by future-focused learning pathways.

QB Academy develops resilience, self-value and confidence in its dancers. We create a supportive learning environment that equips students with the skills to realise their full potential. Our students graduate with the kind of personal integrity, technical, and artistic maturity vital to the pursuit of careers throughout the world.

At the heart of our educational offering is an incredible team of teaching staff — each one an industry professional familiar with the challenge of pursuing an artistic career. Along with our experienced medical team who are committed to supporting the students' physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, our administrative team will effortlessly guide the student/family journey each year. This highly skilled faculty, combined with the benefits of a purpose-built learning and training facility, is the ideal environment in which young, academically engaged dancers will thrive.

QB Academy is a vital step on the pathway of emerging as a professional ballet artist. Let the journey begin!



Christian Tatchev

Queensland Ballet Academy Director

Level 3 student Hana Nonaka Aillon with
Academy Director Christian Tátchev
Photography Gabrielle Johnston

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ABOUT QUEENSLAND BALLET ACADEMY

We are the official training school of Queensland Ballet, established to nurture the skills of young dancers in a professional, world-class setting.

— Our Academy is a springboard from which students can develop lifelong creativity, curiosity and technical ballet proficiency. World-class teaching staff conduct focused, structured training programs under the guidance of in-house medical and wellbeing experts meaning our approach aligns with best industry practice. This commitment to the safe and progressive development of young dancers' minds and bodies is central to all that we do.

At QB Academy, students will:

Connect with QB

QB is one of only three full-time professional ballet companies in Australia, recognised for its world-class productions and the highly acclaimed skills of its dancers. Students at our Academy enjoy an enviable connection to QB, with opportunities to train and perform alongside Company artists, take classes with international guests and establish industry connections with professional choreographers and teachers.

Access high-profile performance opportunities


Throughout the year, our students participate in professional performance opportunities including standalone, full-scale productions and a wide range of corporate, cultural and collaborative events. Having the ability to perform allows students to showcase their high level of artistry, technique and professionalism learned through the Academy's elite training programs.

Attain professional pathways

QB Academy graduates are highly successful in receiving professional contracts within 12 months of graduation. The pathway to receiving a professional contract within QB is also very strong, with approximately one-third of QB artists having trained in our Academy.

Maintain wellbeing

Communication between students, teachers, parents/carers and allied staff is paramount to ensuring student wellbeing is prioritised. Ensuring there's an ongoing link between practical studio work and the treatment provided by the medical team, as well as open dialogue between families and Kelvin Grove State College (for Senior Program students) means each young dancer is placed in the centre of decision making.

A group of dancers in white, fringed dresses performing on a stage under two spotlights. The dancers are in various poses, some with arms raised and legs extended. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the dancers and their movements.

Being connected with the Company was so incredible and important to my development as a young dancer. Being able to watch the Company artists in rehearsal, and also how they manage their day, is really special. It's inspiring. It sets you up for what to expect in professional life.

Renee Freeman

(QB Academy Senior Program Graduate 2016, Pre-Professional Program student 2017/18, Jette Parker Young Artist 2019)

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PPP 2018 students in Paul Boyd's Intimate Dialogue
Photography David Kelly

QUEENSLAND BALLET ACADEMY PROGRAMS

10 – 15 years old Associate Programs

INCLUDING GUEST ASSOCIATE PROGRAM
LOCATION: KELVIN GROVE

Level 6 – 3 sessions per week
Level 5 – 3 sessions per week
Level 4 – 4 sessions per week

*Guest Associate Program –
4 extended visits per year

School Year 10 / 11 / 12 Senior Program

LOCATION: KELVIN GROVE

Level 3 – Year 10
Level 2 – Year 11
Level 1 – Year 12

6 days per week

Post-secondary school Pre-Professional Program

LOCATION: WEST END

Full time finishing year

Post-secondary school Jette Parker Young Artists Program

LOCATION: WEST END

Full time Company
apprenticeship

QUEENSLAND BALLET ACADEMY PROGRAMS

FOR STUDENTS AGED 10–15 YEARS



Associate Programs

With three Associate Program levels, age is used as a guide to place students into the most suitable training context so that every child is given the best opportunity and support to achieve their goals. Ongoing assessment, feedback and coaching underpins the placement and progression of all students.

QB Academy Associates

— Designed with Brisbane metropolitan students in mind, Academy Associates may continue dance activities with their external dance studios, although must attend the specified minimum weekly attendance.

QB Academy Guest Associates

— Our associate-level programs also cater for elite students who live outside the Brisbane metropolitan area (including intra/interstate or international locations). Selected students for this program will be invited to join the classes of QB Academy Associates during a three–five day visit each term of the Queensland state school year.

FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL YEARS 10, 11 & 12



Senior Program

— This program offers initial preparation for a career in a professional ballet or dance company. It offers a rigorous training program combined with senior academic studies at Kelvin Grove State College.

Covering all aspects of classical ballet training (i.e. daily class, pas de deux, repertoire, pointe and male technique), the curriculum also incorporates training in classical character dance, contemporary dance, body conditioning and male fitness.

Students undertake up to 25 hours of dance training per week. Additional courses are offered across the three levels in subjects such as career preparation, ballet history and choreography and improvisation, safe dance practice, as well as sessions on nutrition and performance psychology.

All Senior Program students are enrolled at Kelvin Grove State College and simultaneously undertake face-to-face senior academic studies on campus in Years 10, 11 and 12.

Senior Program graduates (Year 12) receive a Queensland Certificate of Education and are eligible for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank).



QUEENSLAND BALLET ACADEMY PROGRAMS

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDIES

On completion of their senior studies at Kelvin Grove State College, dancers wishing to continue their training with QB Academy have the opportunity to audition for our post-secondary programs.

Pre-Professional Program

— This full-time finishing year offers outstanding young dancers the real-world preparation they need to join a professional company.

This program, based at the home of QB, provides students with studio to stage professional experience, with dancers performing alongside the Company as well as in standalone productions.

Workshops and collaborations with renowned guest creatives significantly enhance this rigorous, career-focused training year, enhancing the daily training provided by QB's world-class Artistic and Academy faculty.

Graduates receive a Professional Certificate in Dance endorsed by QB and are ready to seek employment with leading ballet and contemporary companies in Australia and internationally.

Jette Parker Young Artist Program

— The Jette Parker Young Artist Program is one of the leading ballet development programs in the Asia-Pacific.

Enabled by the generosity of Jette and Alan Parker through the Oak Foundation, this year-long trainee program provides a unique opportunity to refine technique and artistry while training. Recipients rehearse and perform as part of the Company, as well as premiering works created specifically for them.

Mentored by QB's Artistic team, dancers undertake a series of professional and personal development intensives to ready them for career opportunities with leading Australian and international dance companies.



QUEENSLAND BALLET ACADEMY PROGRAMS

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES



Elite Training Series

— A unique opportunity for students from 9 years of age to work with QB Academy's world-class faculty as they tour the Elite Training Series across the country.

This program is for children showing talent, who want to know more about life at the Academy. Students will experience classes in ballet, technique/pointe, contemporary and character dance, with all locations on the annual tour including a Q&A for parents/carers to learn more about auditions, safe dance practice, training pathways and QB Academy partnerships.

Summer and Winter Schools

— Held over one week in each of the Queensland school summer and winter holidays, up to 100 students aged 11 - 18 years old are invited to immerse themselves in the life of the QB Academy.

In a culture of collaboration and excellence, 100 students per week will join with likeminded aspiring dancers to learn from the QB Academy team and special guest coaches.



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Audition Experience Day

— This invaluable event provides dance students from 9 years of age with the opportunity to experience a simulated ballet audition.

The session covers an audition ballet class with a call-back component. Participants will also gain invaluable insight during an audition information forum with current QB Company artists and other industry experts.

Masterclasses

— At various times throughout the year, based on the Company's and Academy's artistic schedule, aspiring young dancers can take part in exclusive masterclasses with our talented faculty.

Classes are offered at various locations, with the aim of developing in as many aspiring dancers as possible a broad understanding and awareness of the Academy, its programs and partnership with Kelvin Grove State College.

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Artistic Director

Li Cunxin AO

— Li Cunxin AO has had a long and diverse career as an internationally acclaimed dancer. He was appointed as QB's fifth Artistic Director in July 2012.

At the age of 11, Li was selected by Madame Mao's cultural advisors to attend the Beijing Dance Academy. In 1979, he joined Houston Ballet as an exchange student and went on to achieve the rank of Principal in 1982. Among many awards and accolades, Li won two silver and one bronze medal at three international ballet competitions, and two Princess Grace Awards. He moved to Melbourne in 1995 to join The Australian Ballet as a Principal Artist. Li retired from dancing in 1999, but maintained his strong ties to the ballet community while working in the finance industry as a senior manager at Bell Potter, one of the largest stockbroking firms in Australia. In 2003, Li published his international best-selling autobiography, *Mao's Last Dancer*, which has received numerous awards and was adapted as a feature film in 2009. Li was Queensland's Australian of the Year 2014. In 2016, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University for his services to ballet, the arts and the wider community. Li was awarded an Order of Australia in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List for distinguished services to the performing arts.



Academy Director

Christian Tátchev

— QB Academy Director, Christian Tátchev, trained at the National School of Choreography in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Performing his first leading roles shortly after commencing his professional career at age 16, Christian was promoted to Principal Artist at 21. His repertoire includes principal roles in the major classical repertoire, as well as in numerous works by celebrated choreographers of modern times. During his dancing career, Christian worked with The Sofia National Opera and Ballet, Bulgarian contemporary dance company Ballet Arabesque, PACT Ballet (Johannesburg), Cape Town City Ballet and the South African Ballet Theatre, where in addition to being a Principal Artist, he was engaged as a Répétiteur. Christian joined QB after participating in the Company's 2008 International Gala. Following his retirement from the stage in 2011, he was appointed QB's Ballet Master. He took up the position of Director of Training in 2013 and became the QB Academy Director in 2016. Christian continues to perform with the Company as a character artist, and frequently adjudicates for various national and international ballet competitions.



Support Team

QB Academy students benefit from the exceptional quality of training provided by our internationally recognised teaching faculty. Our teaching staff hold extensive industry experience within Australia and internationally.

We prioritise the wellbeing of our students. A dedicated on-site physiotherapy, body conditioning and male fitness team assesses, instructs and guides students' individualised care as they progress through Academy levels. An extensive network of endorsed medical professionals are also engaged by QB to support the overall physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of our young dancers.

Looking after our families, is integral to looking after our students.

Our specialised business team is equipped to provide administration support for students and families, including enrolment advice, pastoral care and student wellbeing support.



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Photography Eduardo Vieira



Lucy Hogan and William Cheung, Pre-Professional Program
Photography David Kelly

In 2020 Queensland Ballet and Kelvin Grove State College will celebrate a 35-year long partnership, nurturing young dancers together; equipping them to embark on their dreams. Students enrolled in the QB Academy Senior Program attend the College for their academic studies, and complete their schooling in a streamlined, futures-focussed environment.

Kelvin Grove State College takes a holistic approach to developing young people's learning. The curriculum is progressive, inclusive, innovative and caring, incorporating the core elements of education that have traditionally been essential for success. The College has an outstanding history of students achieving great academic results and authentic connections to future pathways, while also demonstrating their ability and readiness to make a valuable contribution to the wider community.

The College has a long-established reputation for academic excellence.

Students are provided with opportunities to excel within academic, excellence and vocational areas, with a focus on collaborative ways to improve student engagement and optimise student potential. The importance of lifelong learning means individual student aspirations are accommodated and fostered.

At the senior level, specialised learning programs such as accelerated pathways to universities, particularly to Queensland University of Technology, a three-year senior curriculum, which caters for students' specific needs and vocational pathways, echo the idea that Kelvin Grove State College believes in providing students with multiple pathways that enhance learning and employability.

For further information about Kelvin Grove State College,
email enrolments@kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au



**Kelvin Grove
State College**

The Pursuit of Excellence With All Our Might

Queensland Ballet
Academy

KELVIN GROVE STATE COLLEGE

kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/curriculum/excellence-programs/queensland-ballet-academy

COLLEGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

From my first visit to Brisbane and QB Academy, I felt so welcomed and safe and knew this was a place I could give myself the best opportunity to excel in preparing for a career in ballet.

Miku Uda

Japan (Level 3 Senior Program 2019)

Interstate transfers

— It can be daunting to move to a secondary school where there are more teachers and peers to meet, new surroundings and a different approach to scheduling to get used to.

If your child has to move to Queensland from interstate, Kelvin Grove State College may request consent from you to obtain student data from the previous school. This system enables full support for all transferring students to ensure their educational and pastoral care needs are met.

International entry requirements

— International students wishing to apply for entry into QB Academy and Kelvin Grove State College are required to meet all Queensland Department of Education, Education Queensland International eligibility criteria, including the minimum English language proficiency levels.

Please visit eqi.com.au or www.kelvingrovesc.eq.edu.au/international for further information.

Homestay

— An established Australia and International Homestay Program is in place to assist school-aged students from regional, interstate and international locations find safe, suitable family accommodation in Brisbane.

Host families undergo a thorough household assessment, with successful registration being dependent on the implementation of a risk management strategy and meeting the Queensland Government's Working with Children Authority Blue Card requirements.

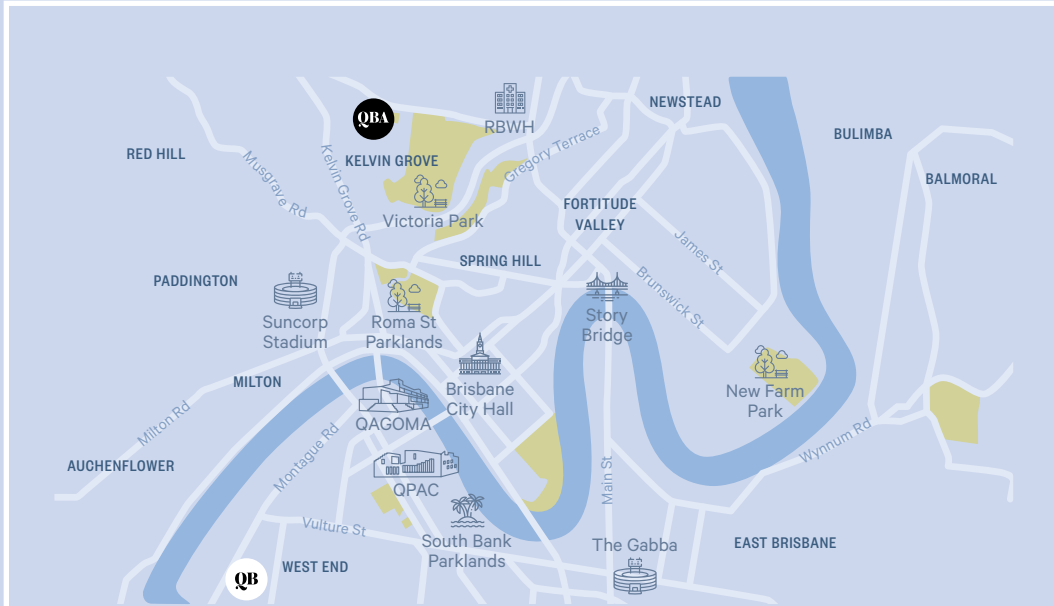
Kelvin Grove State College provides ongoing specialist support for the management of all homestay matters.

Having arrived from interstate, I was automatically made to feel at home within this nurturing and inspirational environment. Throughout my time I was given the prestigious opportunity to perform on stage with the Company as a student. The highlight of my journey was performing in 'Glass Concerto' at the world-class 'Prix de Lausanne' for the gala evening. This was an invaluable experience at a global level.

Georgia Swan

(Pre-Professional Program 2014, Jette Parker Young Artist 2015, Company Artist 2016, Soloist 2018 – 2019)

LIVING IN BRISBANE



— The QB Academy facilities at Kelvin Grove State College are just three kilometres from Brisbane’s central business district, and five kilometres from QB’s home in West End. Students will spend time at each location throughout the year, ensuring the strong connection between our sites, our staff and our students.

The vibrant culture of Brisbane makes it the perfect place to study, develop your skills and plan your career. What’s more, as the capital of the ‘Sunshine State’, we are blessed with idyllic subtropical weather all year round.

Brisbane is a great place to be — it’s a warm, safe and friendly city in easy reach of the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and hinterland national parks. It also has a low cost of living when compared to other Australian cities.

Brisbane is home to many of the country’s top arts companies and venues, including Queensland Ballet, Queensland Performing Arts Complex, Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art, Expressions Dance Company, Opera Queensland, Queensland Theatre and Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

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Image courtesy of arkLAB (architect)
and Paynters Pty Ltd (builder)

AUDITIONS

QB Academy auditions are held annually in August–September, in Brisbane and around Australia. Registrations open mid-year.

— **Auditions take the format of an open ballet class, which may be followed by a call-back and, in special circumstances, an interview. Applicants are not required to pre-prepare any material.**

While international auditions are occasionally held, usually in conjunction with Company international tours or ballet competitions, QB Academy accepts expressions of interest from international candidates year-round. Via the QB website, candidates will need to submit photographs, videos and a written application with associated support material.

FEES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

FEES

— **Annual tuition fees apply for all Academy programs and are subject to change from year to year.**

Fees also apply to registrations for all short-term workshops, masterclasses and holiday programs.

All other expenses relating to schooling, medical, excursions, uniforms, living and ancillary expenses are the responsibility of each enrolled student.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

— **At the discretion of the Academy Director, students may be offered part or full scholarships into the Academy in recognition of their talent.**

Students also have the opportunity to apply for a bursary to assist with financial hardship during the annual application process, subsequent to audition and acceptance.

At any point during the continuum of audition, enrolment and progression from year to year, parents/ carers should discuss with QB options for financial assistance, if available.

QB Academy was instrumental in my transition from a student dancer to professional artist. The world-class Academy environment encouraged me to continue working on technique and strength, and the incredible depth of experience in the faculty members opened my eyes to the art of performance. I treasure the varied choreography and wonderful performance experiences I was offered and know that I am well equipped to face life as a professional dancer.

Talia Fidra

(Level 1 Senior Program 2017, Pre-Professional Program 2018,
Jette Parker Young Artist 2018 – 2019, Company Artist 2019)



The QB Academy is a truly world-class facility that epitomises the 35-year strong partnership with Queensland Ballet and the Department of Education, attracting elite young dancers from across the globe to train under our vibrant and creative direction.

Li Cunxin
Artistic Director QB

Queensland Ballet **Academy**

For more information

Queensland Ballet Academy produces young dancers whose talents and abilities are in demand throughout Australia and internationally.

Developing the artists of the future is central to Queensland Ballet's strategic vision. Under the supervision of Artistic Director, Li Cunxin and Academy Director, Christian Tátchev, we offer industry-focused training programs for gifted students from 10 years of age through to career employment.

To discuss audition and enrolment requirements for Queensland Ballet Academy programs please email academy@queenslandballet.com.au or phone (07) 3013 6666.

queenslandballet.com.au/academy

